

RECOMMENDED MODEL CORE ACADEMIC CURRICULUM CONTENT STANDARDS

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House Bill 4159 as introduced
Sponsor: Rep. Rylee Linting
Committee: Education and Workforce
Complete to 3-19-25

Analysis available at
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SUMMARY:

House Bill 4159 would amend the Revised School Code to revise provisions relating to the recommended model core academic curriculum content standards that are approved by the State Board of Education.

The bill would require the board to do both of the following for any recommended model core academic curriculum content standards:

- Ensure that, for grades K to 6, the content standards for reading and writing are based on the *science of reading* and include the use of instructional methods and curriculum resources that use a code emphasis approach to address decoding, phonics, vocabulary development, reading fluency, oral language skills, reading comprehension and word recognition, and that utilize evidence-based instructional methods that include features of evidence-based interventions that are grounded in the science of reading and the principles of structured literacy.
- Ensure that, for grades K to 5, the content standards for math include updated standards as recommended by a committee of individuals composed of both of the following:
 - At least two faculty members from the mathematics departments of two separate public universities in Michigan.
 - At least two elementary school mathematics teachers in Michigan whose average classroom student academic proficiency level in math is at least 70%, based on the most recent available state assessment results, and whose classroom student population is composed of at least 25% students who meet the income eligibility standards for federal free and reduced-price lunch programs.

The *science of reading* would be defined as a cumulative and evolving body of evidence whose research studies follow a scientific process of inquiry and utilize scientific methods to help answer questions related to reading development and issues related to reading and writing derived from research from multiple fields of cognitive psychology, communication sciences, developmental psychology, education, special education, implementation science, linguistics, and neuroscience.

The standards developed by the committee described above would have to include problem-based and feedback-response learning methods that incorporate age-appropriate technology as much as possible. The committee also would have to recommend standards for evidence-based intervention methods for students who exhibit math deficiencies or characteristics of dyscalculia. The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) would have to create the

committee by January 1, 2026, and the committee would have to provide the updated standards to the State Board of Education by June 30, 2026.

Starting with the 2026-27 school year, a core academic curriculum for reading and writing for grades K to 6 would have to adhere to the standards based on the science of reading and include the aspects described above. A core academic curriculum for math for grades K to 5 would have to adhere to the updated standards made by the committee starting with the 2027-28 school year.

MCL 380.1278

FISCAL IMPACT:

House Bill 4159 could create new costs for the state and could create new costs for certain local school districts, public school academies (PSAs), and intermediate school districts (ISDs).

Under the bill, MDE would be required to revise the recommended model core curriculum content standards for reading, writing, and math. In addition, the recommendations for math must include updated standards as recommended by a committee. The cost of implementation would depend on the extent to which the current content standards meet these requirements. In addition, MDE has noted that there would be costs associated with time and effort, travel, and lodging to convene a math committee.

Districts, PSAs, and ISDs could realize increased costs if their current reading, writing, and math curriculum do not meet the new standards.

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