

HOUSE BILL NO. 4159

February 26, 2025, Introduced by Reps. Linting, Kuhn, Steele, Schuette, DeBoyer, Thompson, Schmaltz, Tisdell, Cavitt, Greene and Kelly and referred to Committee on Education and Workforce.

A bill to amend 1976 PA 451, entitled
"The revised school code,"
by amending section 1278 (MCL 380.1278), as amended by 2016 PA 170.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 1278. (1) In addition to the requirements for
2 accreditation under section 1280, ~~specified in that section,~~ if the
3 board of a school district wants all of the schools of the school
4 district to be accredited under section 1280, the board shall
5 provide to all pupils attending public school in the district a
6 core academic curriculum in compliance with subsection (3) in each

1 of the curricular areas specified in the state board recommended
2 model core academic curriculum content standards developed under
3 subsection (2). The state board model core academic curriculum
4 content standards ~~shall~~**must** encompass academic and cognitive
5 instruction only. For purposes of this section, the state board
6 model core academic curriculum content standards ~~shall~~**must** not
7 include attitudes, beliefs, or value systems that are not essential
8 in the legal, economic, and social structure of our society and to
9 the personal and social responsibility of citizens of our society.

10 (2) Recommended model core academic curriculum content
11 standards ~~shall~~**must** be developed and periodically updated by the
12 state board, ~~shall~~**must** be in the form of knowledge and skill
13 content standards that are recommended as state standards for
14 adoption by public schools in local curriculum formulation and
15 adoption, and ~~shall~~**must** be distributed to each school district in
16 ~~the~~**this** state. The recommended model core academic curriculum
17 content standards ~~shall~~**must** set forth desired learning objectives
18 in math, science, reading, history, geography, economics, American
19 government, and writing for all children at each stage of schooling
20 and be based ~~upon~~**on** the "Michigan K-12 Program Standards of
21 Quality" to ensure that high academic standards, academic skills,
22 and academic subject matters are built into the instructional goals
23 of all school districts for all children. The state board shall
24 ~~ensure~~**do all of the following with regard to the recommended model**
25 **core academic curriculum content standards described in this**
26 **section:**

27 (a) **Ensure** that the recommended model core academic curriculum
28 content standards for history for grades 8 to 12 include learning
29 objectives concerning genocide, including, but not limited to, the

1 Holocaust and the Armenian Genocide. ~~The state board also shall~~
2 ~~ensure~~

3 **(b) Ensure** that the state assessment program and the Michigan
4 merit examination are based on the state recommended model core
5 curriculum content standards, are testing only for proficiency in
6 basic and advanced academic skills and academic subject matter, and
7 are not used to measure ~~pupils'~~ **a pupil's** values or attitudes.

8 **(c) Ensure that the recommended model core academic curriculum**
9 **content standards for reading and writing for grades K to 6 are**
10 **based on the science of reading and include the use of**
11 **instructional methods and curriculum resources that use a code**
12 **emphasis approach to address decoding, phonics, vocabulary**
13 **development, reading fluency, oral language skills, reading**
14 **comprehension and word recognition, and that utilize evidence-based**
15 **instructional methods that include features of evidence-based**
16 **interventions that are grounded in the science of reading and the**
17 **principles of structured literacy.**

18 **(d) Ensure that the recommended model core academic curriculum**
19 **content standards for math for grades K to 5 include updated**
20 **standards as recommended by a committee of individuals composed of**
21 **at least 2 faculty members from the mathematics departments of 2**
22 **separate public universities in this state, and at least 2**
23 **elementary school mathematics teachers in this state whose average**
24 **classroom student academic proficiency level in math is at least**
25 **70% based on the most recent available state assessment results and**
26 **whose classroom student population is composed of at least 25%**
27 **students who meet the income eligibility standards for federal free**
28 **and reduced-price lunch programs. The standards developed by the**
29 **committee under this subdivision must include problem-based and**

1 feedback-response learning methods that incorporate age-appropriate
2 technology as much as possible. The committee shall also recommend
3 standards for evidence-based intervention methods for students who
4 exhibit math deficiencies or characteristics of dyscalculia. The
5 department shall establish the committee described in this
6 subdivision by not later than January 1, 2026. The committee shall
7 provide the updated recommended model core academic curriculum
8 content standards to the state board by not later than June 30,
9 2026.

10 (3) The board of each school district, considering academic
11 curricular objectives ~~defined and recommended pursuant to~~ **under**
12 subsection (2), shall do both of the following:

13 (a) Establish a core academic curriculum for its pupils at the
14 elementary, middle, and secondary school levels. The core academic
15 curriculum ~~shall~~ **must** define academic objectives to be achieved by
16 all pupils and ~~shall~~ **must** be based ~~upon~~ **on** the school district's
17 educational mission, long-range pupil goals, and pupil performance
18 objectives. ~~The~~ **Except as otherwise provided in this subdivision, a**
19 core academic curriculum may vary from the model core academic
20 curriculum content standards recommended by the state board
21 ~~pursuant to~~ **under** subsection (2). **Beginning with the 2026-2027**
22 **school year, a core academic curriculum for reading and writing for**
23 **grades K to 6 must adhere to the standards recommended by the state**
24 **board under subsection (2) (c). Beginning with the 2027-2028 school**
25 **year, a core academic curriculum for mathematics for grades K to 5**
26 **must adhere to the updated standards recommended by the committee**
27 **created in subsection (2) (d).**

28 (b) After consulting with teachers and school building
29 administrators, determine the aligned instructional program for

1 delivering the core academic curriculum and identify the courses
2 and programs in which the core academic curriculum will be taught.

3 (4) The board may supplement the core academic curriculum by
4 providing instruction through additional classes and programs.

5 (5) For all pupils, the subjects or courses, and the delivery
6 of those **subjects or courses**, including special assistance, that
7 constitute the curriculum the pupils engage in ~~shall assure~~ **must**
8 **ensure** the pupils have a realistic opportunity to learn all
9 subjects and courses required by the district's core academic
10 curriculum. A subject or course required by the core academic
11 curriculum pursuant to subsection (3) ~~shall~~ **must** be provided to all
12 pupils in the school district by a school district, a consortium of
13 school districts, or a consortium of 1 or more school districts and
14 1 or more intermediate school districts.

15 (6) To the extent practicable, the state board may adopt or
16 develop academic objective-oriented high standards for knowledge
17 and life skills, and a recommended core academic curriculum, for
18 special education pupils for whom it may not be realistic or
19 desirable to expect achievement of initial mastery of the state
20 board recommended model core academic content standards objectives
21 or of a high school diploma.

22 (7) The state board shall make available to all nonpublic
23 schools in this state, as a resource for their consideration, the
24 model core academic curriculum content standards developed for
25 public schools ~~pursuant to~~ **under** subsection (2) for the purpose of
26 assisting the governing body of a nonpublic school in developing
27 its core academic curriculum.

28 (8) Excluding special education pupils, pupils having a
29 learning disability, and pupils with extenuating circumstances as

determined by school officials, a pupil who does not score satisfactorily on the fourth or seventh grade state assessment program reading test ~~shall~~**must** be provided special assistance reasonably expected to enable the pupil to bring ~~his or her~~**the pupil's** reading skills to grade level within 12 months.

(9) Any course that would have been considered a nonessential elective course under ~~Snyder v Charlotte School Dist,~~**Snyder v Charlotte School Dist**, 421 Mich 517 (1984), on April 13, 1990 ~~shall~~**must** continue to be offered to resident pupils of nonpublic schools on a shared time basis.

(10) As used in this section: 7

(a) "Armenian Genocide", "genocide", and "Holocaust" mean those terms as defined in section 1168.

(b) "Science of reading" means 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.