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Executive Director

David Powers
President

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State Representative Tom McMillin
124 N. Capitol
N-894 House Office Building
Lansing, MI 48933

Dear Representative McMillin,

I am the Executive Director of the Michigan Association of Secondary School Principals and also a constituent in your District. Before coming to MASSP I was the Principal at Rochester High School for seven years and am still actively engaged in the community. I am very concerned about the legislation you have introduced that would essentially ban the implementation of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS).

It appears that your legislation is proposed on a key misconception and I would like to emphasize the fact that the CCSS do not eliminate or reduce local control. The CCSS are not curriculum standards as are Michigan's Grade Level and High School Content Expectations. The CCSS will not look the same in every classroom in Michigan. What the CCSS will do is to promote critical thinking along with an increase in both literacy and numeracy skills.

Another misconception is that this is a Federal initiative that is being forced upon the state without input – this is not the case. The Common Core State Standards were developed in collaboration with input from Michigan along with the majority of the States who have adopted the standards. Michigan school districts have been working diligently to create their own assessments and units that follow the standards – this is the most essential aspect of local control and it allows every teacher and every school to meet the needs of their individual student populations.

By implementing the CCSS statewide, Michigan also helps to leverage the collective brainpower of the educators in our state as they can now share units and assessments collaboratively. Furthermore, it ensures that we are following standards that will actually be assessed, which is not something we could count on in the past.

Schools across the state have been working diligently to implement a vast array of changes from teacher evaluation to curriculum. There has been significant public outcry for schools to increase rigor as well as to improve results. We are fortunate in Rochester to have an excellent school district that takes a proactive approach toward success for all students. We are also part of a top-notch support system in Oakland Schools. Both RCS and Oakland Schools are known leaders in implementation of the Common Core State Standards. If the legislation you have proposed were to be successful it would essentially thwart two years of progress toward raising the bar of student achievement.

Please listen to your key constituents on this issue – YOUR local public school educators. This is an issue that your community does not support.

I would be more than willing to meet with you to further discuss my concerns on this topic should you be interested in gathering additional information.

Sincerely,

The Michigan Association of Secondary School Principals advances learning through educational leadership.
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