

**SUBSTITUTE FOR  
HOUSE BILL NO. 4159**

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 **school**  
6 district a core academic curriculum in compliance with subsection  
7 (3) in each of the curricular areas specified in the state board  
8 recommended model core academic curriculum content standards  
9 developed under subsection (2). The state board model core academic



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

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

25 (a) **Ensure** that the recommended model core academic curriculum  
 26 content standards for history for grades 8 to 12 include learning  
 27 objectives concerning genocide, including, but not limited to, the  
 28 Holocaust and the Armenian Genocide. ~~The state board also shall~~  
 29 ~~ensure~~



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

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

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

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

1 **board under subsection (2) (c) .**

2 (b) After consulting with teachers and school building  
3 administrators, determine the aligned instructional program for  
4 delivering the core academic curriculum and identify the courses  
5 and programs in which the core academic curriculum will be taught.

6 (4) The board **of a school district** may supplement the core  
7 academic curriculum by providing instruction through additional  
8 classes and programs.

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

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

26 (7) The state board shall make available to all nonpublic  
27 schools in this state, as a resource for ~~their~~ **the nonpublic**  
28 **schools'** consideration, the model core academic curriculum content  
29 standards developed for public schools ~~pursuant to~~ **under** subsection



1 (2) for the purpose of assisting the governing body of a nonpublic  
2 school in developing its core academic curriculum.

3 (8) Excluding special education pupils, pupils having a  
4 learning disability, and pupils with extenuating circumstances as  
5 determined by school officials, a pupil who does not score  
6 satisfactorily on the fourth or seventh grade state assessment  
7 program reading test ~~shall~~**must** be provided special assistance  
8 reasonably expected to enable the pupil to bring ~~his or her~~**the**  
9 **pupil's** reading skills to grade level within 12 months.

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

15 (10) As used in this section: 7

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

18 (b) **"Science of reading" means a cumulative and evolving body**  
19 **of evidence whose research studies follow a scientific process of**  
20 **inquiry and use scientific methods to help answer questions related**  
21 **to reading development and issues related to reading and writing**  
22 **derived from research from multiple fields of cognitive psychology,**  
23 **communication sciences, developmental psychology, education,**  
24 **special education, implementation science, linguistics, and**  
25 **neuroscience.**

