

HB 4192 Highlights

Repeal & Replace Common Core in Michigan, HB 4192, was developed with the assistance of national education experts with the awareness of other states' efforts to repeal Common Core (CC). The bill is drafted based on:

- The purpose of a public education system is to provide the opportunity for all children to learn & flourish.
- The Common Core standards are fundamentally flawed, developmentally inappropriate, not yet proven.
- Common Core standards allow for unprecedented intrusive data collection on our children at a macro & micro level.
- The transition from CC to the new MA standards can be managed by local districts.
- Massachusetts standards (pre-CC) are proven effective over time as a basis for educating all children.
- The state assessment must align to the standards to be effective, fair and to provide value.
- The state assessment should be reliable, validated and proven to evaluate learning accurately.
- Paper & pencil assessments cost less than computer-based. And for K-6, more "kid friendly", thus more accurate.
- Michigan law recognizes the fundamental right of parents to direct the education of their children.
- Michigan is a local control state, local communities electing local school boards, with the power to govern.

The History of Common Core in Michigan

In 2010, Michigan Department of Education committed to adopt Common Core Standards as part of the application for Federal Race to the Top Grants. The standards were not yet finished or public, so no one knew what they were. Later in 2010, just after the standards were published, the Michigan State Board of Education voted to adopt. The standards were never field tested. The formal review process exposed serious flaws in the content and structure of the standards, yet they moved forward.

By 2011, it was clear Common Core Standards were developmentally inappropriate and not worthy of the description of "more rigorous" or "college & career ready". Grassroots efforts grew in Michigan as more and more people, especially parents, came to understand Common Core and its effect on students in the classroom. Organizations across the state developed Resolutions opposing CC.

In 2013, extended hearings, 30 hours, were held to attempt to repeal the standards. Many grassroots parents, grandparents & teachers showed up for all three hearings. The effort failed, as the legislature confirmed the standards in a resolution with unenforceable (and unenforced) caveats.

http://www.mlive.com/education/index.ssf/2013/10/common_core_approval_sails_thr.html

<http://www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/2013-2014/concurrentresolutionintroduced/Senate/pdf/2013-SICR-0012.pdf>

In 2014, the legislature held hearings to ban SBAC, the national Common Core aligned assessment, from Michigan. Although SBAC was banned, MDE replaced it with M-Step, developed using SBAC questions and is CC aligned.

In 2015-16, another bill to Repeal & Replace Common Core was developed. The Senate Education Committee held hearings which were attended by overflow numbers of people. Professor Sandra Stotsky again testified. The bill passed as written from committee, but stalled in the Senate when amendments began to appear that offered "compromises" that had proven in other states to make the repeal effort totally ineffective. The bill never got a hearing in the House Education Committee.

In 2016, as political campaigns ramped up, repealing Common Core was a popular candidate pledge. No Republican ran in support of Common Core except Jeb Bush, who was roundly defeated in the primaries. According to Education Next 2016 public opinion surveys, by 2016 50% of American opposed Common Core with a party split of Democrats at 40% and Republicans at 61% opposed. *Teachers went from 13% opposed in 2013 to 56% opposed in 2016.*

<http://educationnext.org/ten-year-trends-in-public-opinion-from-ednext-poll-2016-survey/>

In 2017, HB 4192 was submitted, co-sponsored by 29 bi-partisan Michigan legislators. It has had 2 hearings in the Michigan Competitiveness Committee as of April.

Experts Who Testified in Support of Michigan's Proposed Approach to Repeal & Replace Common Core

Sandra Stotsky - is credited with developing one of the country's strongest sets of academic standards for K-12 students as well as the strongest academic standards and licensure tests for prospective teachers while serving as Senior Associate Commissioner in the Massachusetts Department of Education from 1999-2003. She is also known nation-wide for her in-depth analyses of the problems in Common Core's English language arts standards. Professor Stotsky testified in 2013 to both the Michigan House & Senate Education committees and again in 2016. The last page of this paper has excerpts of her testimony.

<http://www.uaedreform.org/sandra-stotsky/>

Ze'ev Wurman - was a U.S. Department of Education official under George W. Bush, is currently an executive with Monolith3D Inc. In 2010 Wurman served on the California Academic Content Standards Commission that evaluated the suitability of Common Core's standards for California. Professor Wurman testified to the Michigan House & Senate Education committees in 2013.

Wurman & Stotsky coauthored [Common Core Standards Still Don't Make the Grade](#), a detailed analysis comparing Common Core math & ELA standards to California and Massachusetts pre-Common Core standards, both considered models of excellence. They both continue to fight against Common Core.

Lindsey Burke – Heritage Foundation - researches and writes on federal and state education issues as the Will Skillman fellow in education policy at The Heritage Foundation. Burke devotes her time and research to two critical areas of education policy: reducing federal intervention in education at all levels, and empowering families with education choice. Heritage continues to oppose Common Core. <http://www.heritage.org/staff/lindsey-burke>

Williamson Evers – a research fellow at the Hoover Institution and a member of the Institution's Koret Task Force on K-12 Education, specializes in research on education policy especially as it pertains to curriculum, teaching, testing, accountability, and school finance from kindergarten through high school.

Evers proclaimed that Common Core “[violated the traditions of open debate and citizen control that are supposed to undergird public schooling](#)” and said that “Common Core's national uniformity runs counter to competitive federalism”.

Burke, Bill Evers and William Estrada of HSLDA were contributors to an assembly of critiques of Common Core in 2016, reflecting their continued belief that Common Core is not good for education.

<http://www.heritage.org/education/report/common-core-and-the-centralization-american-education>

Joy Pullman –Managing editor of The Federalist and author of "The Education Invasion: How Common Core Fights Parents for Control of American Kids," out from Encounter Books this month. She previously was managing editor of School Reform News at The Heartland Institute and the assistant editor for American Magazine at the American Enterprise Institute.

<https://www.heartland.org/about-us/who-we-are/joy-pullmann>

[Joy Pullmann on the Connection Between Common Core & Data Mining](#) – a video interview

Conservative & Liberal Education Activists testified against Common Core

Diane Ravitch – Research Professor of Education at New York <http://dianeravitch.com/about-diane/>

I have thought long and hard about the Common Core standards. I have decided that I cannot support them. In this post, I will explain why.

*In fact, it was well understood by states that they would not be eligible for Race to the Top funding (\$4.35 billion) unless they adopted the Common Core standards. Federal law prohibits the U.S. Department of Education from prescribing any curriculum, but in this case the Department figured out a clever way to evade the letter of the law. Forty-six states and the District of Columbia signed on, not because the Common Core standards were better than their own, but because they wanted a share of the federal cash. In some cases, the Common Core standards really were better than the state standards, **but in Massachusetts, for example, the state standards were superior and well tested but were ditched anyway and replaced with the Common Core.***

<https://dianeravitch.net/2013/02/26/why-i-cannot-support-the-common-core-standards/>

Donna Hearn – Assistant chair Department of Psychology University of Virginia

<http://psychology.as.virginia.edu/people/profile/dlh6f>

Author, teacher and former Reagan appointee to the U.S. Department of Education, Donna Hearne in her new book, *The Long War and Common Core* **warns about the subversive Trojan horse of Common Core and the current federal educational proposals.** Hearne documents the eighty-year old plan to change American exceptionalism, using the schools, into American servitude by destroying the independent, analytical thinking of individuals and replacing it with doctrinaire, programmed group thought. She points out how in texts and the Common Core standards America is being portrayed as the bad guy and capitalism destructive. Progressive, social justice is good and Christianity predatory. The individual should not control his own money but be forced to “share it.”

<http://www.theconservativepundit.net/2015/10/anti-common-core-book-author-testifies-on-common-core-and-standardized-student-tests/>

Emmett McGroarty – American Principles Project

Education director at American Principles Project. He is a co-author, along with his colleague Jane Robbins, of the groundbreaking report *Controlling Education from the Top: Why Common Core Is Bad for America* and a co-founder of truthinamericaneducation.com, a nationwide network of individuals and organizations that sheds light on the Common Core system. Mr. McGroarty is a graduate of Fordham School of Law and Georgetown University.

[Controlling Education From the Top: Why Common Core is Bad for America](#)

Dr. Larry Arnn – President Hillsdale College

Professor Terrence Moore – Hillsdale College, Headmaster, Hillsdale’s Public Classical Charter Academy in Atlanta, GA

http://www.mlive.com/education/index.ssf/2013/07/common_core_hearing_sidetrack.html#incart_river_default

Link here to see HSLDA’s report on the February 2014 testimony to Michigan’s Joint Education and Appropriations Subcommittee on Common Core as they reconsidered use of SBAC.

[Review of Feb 2014 Testimony on Common Core](#)

Michael Donnelly – HSLDA - serves HSLDA as Director of Global Outreach and as Staff Attorney for members in the states of Colorado, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New Hampshire, Ohio, West Virginia, and Tennessee. As Director of Global Outreach he coordinates HSLDA’s support of homeschooling freedom all over the world. Mike is also an adjunct professor of government at Patrick Henry College where he teaches constitutional law.

<https://www.hslda.org/about/staff/attorneys/donnelly.asp>

Excerpt from Sandra Stotsky’s testimony to Senate Education Committee 2016:

Why Michigan Should Repeal Common Core Standards and Replace Them with the Massachusetts Pre-Common Core Standards in Mathematics, ELA, and Science by Professor Sandra Stotsky

The most important reasons for Michigan to repeal its Common Core standards are:

- 1. Common Core's standards are not rigorous and do not make students ready for a high school diploma, never mind authentic college coursework.*
- 2. Common Core's standards lack a research base and international benchmarking. The "lead" standards' writers lacked background experience and competence for writing K-12 standards (David Coleman and Susan Pimentel in ELA, and Jason Zimba and William McCallum in mathematics). None had teaching experience in K-12, and there is no record that they used appropriately the feedback they received from hundreds of reviewers.*
- 3. A K-12 mathematics curriculum tailored to Common Core's mathematics standards and tests does not support the strong K-12 science curriculum developed by the state's science teachers to address the state's pre-NGSS science and pre-engineering standards.*

Michigan should replace Common Core's standards with the Massachusetts pre-Common Core standards because:

- 1. Massachusetts pre-Common Core standards in ELA, mathematics, science, and history/social science are the only sets of K-12 state standards in the country with empirical evidence to support their effectiveness. They are also among the few sets of K-12 standards thoroughly vetted by high school teachers and academic experts in the subject areas they address.*
- 2. A statewide organization of parents, legislators, and others (www.endcommoncorema.com) has gathered enough signatures to place a question on the November election ballot that would repeal the state's adoption of Common Core's standards, restore its pre-Common Core standards, and provide guidelines for revising them in the future.*
- 3. The costs for switching are minimal. The standards are free, and most of the original test items from 1998 to 2007 are free and available, requiring a company only to assemble them and handle logistics and reporting. Moreover, no extra professional development was needed by the state's teachers to teach to them. The lists of recommended authors by educational level in Appendix A and Appendix B in the ELA curriculum framework were approved by a large majority of the state's English teachers, and all test items were vetted by them.*
- 4. State tests based on the Bay State's pre-Common Core standards evoked no complaints from parents or students, and took up much less preparation and testing time than Common Core-based tests seem to need. All used test items (except "anchor" items) were released annually and used by teachers for instructional purposes.*
- 5. The content of all the Massachusetts pre-Common Core standards and tests was vetted by a number of academic experts, and standards were placed by the state's teachers at appropriate grade levels. They also participated in setting passing scores and performance levels, along with parents and legislators.*