

**House Resolution 338 Proposed Response**

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| <p>RESOLVED, That the Secretary of Education and the State Board of Education be urged to ensure that Pennsylvania's academic standards are thoroughly rigorous and effective for all Pennsylvania students; and be it further</p> <p>RESOLVED, That the Secretary of Education and the State Board of Education be urged not to adopt future academic standards that do not meet or exceed the rigor of Pennsylvania's current academic standards;</p> | <p>Prior to adopting the Common Core State Standards in 2010, the State Board commissioned an alignment study conducted by the University of Pittsburgh that found the academic standards currently undergoing regulatory review by the Board, which were developed by teams of Pennsylvania educators convened by Capital Area Intermediate Unit, were highly correlated with Common Core.</p> <p>In addition, teams of other Pennsylvania educators were engaged in the development of Pennsylvania's Core Standards to ensure that the standards reflect an increased level of rigor for students and that the standards would meet the unique needs of the Commonwealth.</p>                   |
| <p>RESOLVED, That the Secretary of Education and the State Board of Education be urged to ensure that Pennsylvania's academic standards are adapted to the specific needs of Pennsylvania;</p>  | <p>The current rulemaking proposes to adopt state-specific academic standards.</p> <p>Further, the Board will consider amending Chapter 4 to make it clear that the academic standards included in the Chapter do not apply to private, religious or home education students. Section 4.2, which addresses the purpose of the Chapter, would be amended to state:</p> <p>(4.2) The purpose of this Chapter is to establish rigorous academic standards and assessments, <b>APPLICABLE ONLY TO THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF THE COMMONWEALTH</b>, to facilitate the improvement of student achievement and to provide parents and communities a measure by which school performance can be determined.</p> |
| <p>RESOLVED, That the Secretary of Education and the State Board of Education be urged to consult with Pennsylvania parents, students, teachers, school administrators, school board members, representatives of institutions of higher education and business and community leaders before adopting any new academic standards;</p>  | <p>The State Board of Education offered an opportunity for public comment on Pennsylvania's Core Standards prior to adopting the standards as part of its final-form rulemaking approved in March 2013.</p> <p>Further, the Pennsylvania Core Standards were developed with input from Pennsylvania educators. Names and affiliations of the educators involved with the standards' development were published publicly in October 2012 when the proposed rulemaking was offered for public comment.</p>   |

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| <p>RESOLVED, That the Secretary of Education and the State Board of Education be urged to ensure that public schools continue to maintain absolute flexibility in the curriculum that they provide under Pennsylvania's proud tradition of local control; and be it further</p> <p>RESOLVED, That the Secretary of Education and the State Board of Education be urged not to establish required reading lists or in any other way adopt, or attempt to impose, a Statewide curriculum;</p> | <p>Chapter 4 already expresses the Board's intention that public schools maintain absolute flexibility in designing curriculum. Section 4.4(a) (General Provisions) clearly states that, "It is the policy of the Board that local curriculum be designed by school entities to achieve the academic standards under § 4.12."</p> <p>Additional provisions that provide local school districts flexibility in curriculum planning are found in sections § 4.21 (elementary education), §4.22 (middle level education) and § 4.23 (high school education). These sections each reiterate that school districts shall determine the most appropriate way to operate their programs.</p> <p>In light of H.R. 338, the Board will consider further reinforcing its long-standing intention that curriculum remain a local decision by adding a new subsection to § 4.4 that specifically states:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>(F) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL NOT, AND THE BOARD WILL NOT, REQUIRE SCHOOL ENTITIES TO UTILIZE A STATEWIDE CURRICULUM OR STATEWIDE READING LISTS.</b></p> |
| <p>RESOLVED, That the Secretary of Education and the State Board of Education be urged to reject completely and unilaterally any attempts to subject Pennsylvania students to a national standardized assessment;</p>   | <p>The Board will consider amending § 4.51(h) of the current rulemaking to include the language below.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>(H)(1) THE BOARD WILL NOT INCLUDE NATIONAL ASSESSMENTS AS PART OF THE STATE ASSESSMENT SYSTEM UNLESS, UPON CONSULTATION WITH TEACHERS, COUNSELORS AND PARENTS REPRESENTING STUDENTS WHO HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED UNDER CHAPTER 14, THE BOARD DETERMINES THE ASSESSMENT IS AN APPROPRIATE MEANS OF ASSESSING THE ACADEMIC PROGRESS OF STUDENTS IDENTIFIED UNDER CHAPTER 14, OR UNLESS THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AUTHORIZES THE USE OF A NATIONAL ASSESSMENT.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>(H)(2) SUBJECT TO PARAGRAPH (3), THE BOARD WILL NOT, AND THE DEPARTMENT SHALL NOT, BE A GOVERNING STATE IN ANY CONSORTIUM FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NATIONAL ASSESSMENT FOR THE PURPOSE OF UTILIZATION AS PART OF THE STATE</b></p>   |

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|  | <p><b>ASSESSMENT SYSTEM.</b></p> <p><b>(H)(3) THE DEPARTMENT MAY CONTINUE TO PARTICIPATE IN A CONSORTIUM TO DEVELOP AN ALTERNATE ASSESSMENT TO MEASURE THE PROGRESS OF STUDENTS IDENTIFIED UNDER CHAPTER 14.</b></p>  |
| <p>RESOLVED, That the Secretary of Education and the State Board of Education be urged to ensure that Pennsylvania academic standards are not burdensome and costly to public schools;</p>   | <p>The Board provided a multi-year implementation period to give districts time to appropriately plan for the utilization of current resources to support any necessary adjustments in curriculum and instructional materials to align with the revised academic standards.</p> <p>Further, the overwhelming majority of districts responding to a survey on the progress of aligning curriculum and instructional programming with the standards indicated that they either have already completed or are midway through the alignment process.</p>  |
| <p>RESOLVED, That the Secretary of Education and the State Board of Education be urged to ensure that Pennsylvania academic standards do not result in intrusion into student and family privacy or in the collection or reporting of additional data to the Federal Government;</p> | <p>Chapter 4 already includes limitations on the collection and use of individual student assessment data (<i>see § 4.51(c) of Title 22, which is carried over in § 4.51(f) and § 4.51(g) of the Board's current rulemaking</i>).</p> <p>This current Board policy prohibits state government from collecting individual student test scores and permits only the collection of aggregate test score data by school and district. Current policy also prohibits individual student test scores from being used by anyone other than parents, teachers, administrators and guidance counselors for the purpose of planning student instruction.</p> <p>The Board will consider addressing concerns related to the collection and use of other, non-assessment related student data by adding the following language to §4.13(j):</p> <p><b>(J) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL NOT EXPAND THE COLLECTION OF STUDENT DATA, AND, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE FAMILY EDUCATIONAL RIGHTS AND PRIVACY ACT (20 U.S.C. § 1232G (RELATING TO FAMILY EDUCATIONAL AND PRIVACY RIGHTS)), SHALL NOT COLLECT PERSONAL FAMILY DATA DUE TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PENNSYLVANIA CORE STANDARDS CONTAINED IN APPENDIX A-2.</b></p> |

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| <p>RESOLVED, That the Secretary of Education and the State Board of Education be urged to commit to close consultation with the Education Committee of the House of Representatives before taking any further action resulting in the development and implementation of new academic standards.</p> | <p>The State Board of Education will submit final-form revisions to the Commonwealth's academic standards to the House and Senate Education Committees for review and comment prior to implementation of the revised standards.</p> |
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**Other**

- The Board will consider revising the effective date for Pennsylvania Core Standards. The current July 1, 2013 date would be modified to state that the standards will take effect upon publication in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*.
- The Board will consider a technical revision to the numbering of the appendix containing Pennsylvania Core Standards to refer to Appendix A-2.