

OAKLAND COUNTY SUPERINTENDENTS ASSOCIATION

Avondale School District
Dr. James Schwarz

Berkley School District
Mr. Dennis McDavid

Birmingham Public Schools
Dr. George Heitsch (Interim)

Bloomfield Hills School District
Mr. Patrick Watson

Brandon School District
Mr. Ben Kirby

Clarenceville School District
Mr. Paul Shepich

Clarkston Community Schools
Mr. Shawn Ryan

Clawson Public Schools
Mr. Tim Wilson

Farmington Public School District
Dr. Bobbie Goodrum (Interim)

Ferndale Public Schools
Dr. Dania Bazzi

Hazel Park School District
Dr. Amy Kruppe

Holly Area School District
Mr. Scott Roper

Huron Valley School District
Dr. Paul Salah

Lake Orion Community School District
Dr. Karl Heidrich

The Lamphere Schools
Mr. Dale Steen

Madison District Public Schools
Mr. Angel Abdulahad

Novi Community School District
Dr. Steve Matthews

Oak Park School District
Dr. Jamii Hitchcock

Oakland Schools
Dr. Wanda Cook-Robinson

Oxford Community Schools
Mr. Tim Throne

Pontiac School District
Mrs. Kelley Williams

Rochester Community Schools
Dr. Robert Shaner

Royal Oak Schools
Mrs. Mary Beth Fitzpatrick

South Lyon Community Schools
Mr. Steve Archibald

Southfield Public Schools
Dr. Jennifer Green

Troy School District
Dr. Rich Machesky

Walled Lake Consolidated School District
Mr. Kenneth Gutman

Waterford School District
Mr. Scott Lindberg

West Bloomfield School District
Dr. Gerald Hill

February 25, 2021

State Representative Pamela Hornberger, Chair
House Education Committee
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Dear Chairwoman Hornberger:

I am writing on behalf of the 28 local school superintendents in Oakland County regarding House Bills 4037 and 4038. These bills were assigned to your committee. I am writing in support of the legislation and to ask for you to hold a hearing and move the bills.

House Bills 4037 and 4038 would eliminate the WorkKeys portion of the high school Michigan Merit Exam. There are several reasons to support such an action. First, it is imperative to reduce the assessment burden placed upon students and schools. The current Michigan Merit Exam covers a breadth of subjects and takes at least 8.5 hours to administer. Eliminating the WorkKeys portion would reduce testing time to 6 hours, providing more time for instruction.

Second, Oakland County businesses with which we work tell us that fewer and fewer employers are using the results from the WorkKeys when considering job applicants. For businesses that do use these results, a more efficient practice would be to embed WorkKeys assessments into the Career and Technical Education program in which a student is learning.

Lastly and most importantly, by eliminating this state requirement, we leave the use of the WorkKeys to the local districts. In those communities where businesses use these results, the local district can be responsive by administering the test. But for communities like ours where the results are used with much less frequency, the added instruction time would be beneficial to our students.

For these reasons, Oakland Schools and our local superintendents, representing 28 communities in Oakland County, support House Bills 4037 and 4038 and respectfully request that you hold a hearing and support the legislation. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Dennis McDavid, Superintendent of Berkley Schools
President of the Oakland County Superintendents Association

CC: The 28 local superintendents in Oakland County
Dr. Wanda Cook-Robinson, Superintendent of Oakland Schools