
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 338 Session of
2013

INTRODUCED BY ENGLISH, MUSTIO, READSHAW, BLOOM, BARRAR, GIBBONS,
BROOKS, CLYMER, STERN, COX, KAUFFMAN, DENLINGER, SAYLOR, ROCK
AND MURT, MAY 30, 2013

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, MAY 30, 2013

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Secretary of Education and the State Board of
2 Education to ensure that Pennsylvania's academic standards
3 are thoroughly rigorous for all Pennsylvania students.

4 WHEREAS, Academic standards are statements of what students
5 are expected to know and to be able to do at specific grade
6 levels; and

7 WHEREAS, The establishment of academic standards is within
8 the jurisdiction of each state; and

9 WHEREAS, Prior to the mid-1990s, Pennsylvania had no
10 Statewide academic standards for its students; and

11 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania began to implement standards-based
12 education in the mid-1990s; and

13 WHEREAS, The State Board of Education adopted Pennsylvania's
14 first State Standards in Mathematics and in Reading, Writing,
15 Speaking and Listening in January 1999; and

16 WHEREAS, During the years 2002 through 2006, the State Board
17 of Education adopted additional standards in Science and
18 Technology, History, Health/Safety and Physical Education,

1 Geography, Family and Consumer Science, Environment and Ecology,
2 Economics, Civics and Government, Career Education and Work and
3 Arts and Humanities; and

4 WHEREAS, In 2004, several states began collaborating on the
5 development of common state standards in Mathematics and English
6 Language Arts; and

7 WHEREAS, During the late 2000s, the National Governors
8 Association, representing all states' chief executives, and the
9 Council of Chief State School Officers, representing each
10 state's top government official overseeing education, began to
11 coordinate the effort to develop common state standards which
12 effort culminated in the development of the Common Core State
13 Standards; and

14 WHEREAS, The State Board of Education adopted the Common Core
15 State Standards in Mathematics and English Language Arts on July
16 1, 2010, replacing the original standards that the State Board
17 of Education adopted in 1999; and

18 WHEREAS, The State Board of Education has proposed
19 Pennsylvania-specific Common Core State Standards; and

20 WHEREAS, Members of the General Assembly are cognizant that
21 many concerns have been raised by individual Pennsylvanians as
22 well as various organizations within Pennsylvania about the
23 adoption of the Common Core State Standards; therefore be it

24 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of Education and the State Board
25 of Education be urged to ensure that Pennsylvania's academic
26 standards are thoroughly rigorous for all Pennsylvania students;
27 and be it further

28 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of Education and the State Board
29 of Education be urged not to adopt future academic standards
30 that do not meet or exceed the rigor of Pennsylvania's current

1 academic standards; and be it further

2 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of Education and the State Board
3 of Education be urged to ensure that Pennsylvania's academic
4 standards are adapted to the specific needs of Pennsylvania; and
5 be it further

6 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of Education and the State Board
7 of Education be urged to consult with Pennsylvania parents,
8 students, teachers, school administrators, school board members,
9 representatives of institutions of higher education and business
10 and community leaders before adopting any new academic
11 standards; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of Education and the State Board
13 of Education be urged to ensure that public schools continue to
14 maintain absolute flexibility in the curriculum that they
15 provide under Pennsylvania's proud tradition of local control;
16 and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of Education and the State Board
18 of Education be urged not to establish required reading lists or
19 in any other way adopt, or attempt to impose, a Statewide
20 curriculum; and be it further

21 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of Education and the State Board
22 of Education be urged to reject completely and unilaterally any
23 attempts to subject Pennsylvania students to a national
24 standardized assessment; and be it further

25 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of Education and the State Board
26 of Education be urged to ensure that Pennsylvania academic
27 standards are not burdensome and costly to public schools; and
28 be it further

29 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of Education and the State Board
30 of Education be urged to ensure that Pennsylvania academic

1 standards do not result in intrusion into student and family
2 privacy or in the collection or reporting of additional data to
3 the Federal Government; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of Education and the State Board
5 of Education be urged to amend any regulations necessary to
6 effectuate the sentiment of the House of Representatives as
7 expressed in this resolution.