

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, MURT, GROVE, KORTZ, HAHN, GILLEN AND LAWRENCE, MAY 30, 2013

AS AMENDED, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, JUNE 18, 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

1 Technology, History, Health/Safety and Physical Education,
2 Geography, Family and Consumer Science, Environment and Ecology,
3 Economics, Civics and Government, Career Education and Work and
4 Arts and Humanities; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

29 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of Education and the State Board
30 of Education be urged not to adopt future academic standards

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1 that do not meet or exceed the rigor AND EFFECTIVENESS of
2 Pennsylvania's current academic standards; and be it further

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

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

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

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

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

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

30 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of Education and the State Board

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

5 RESOLVED, THAT THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION AND THE STATE BOARD <--
6 OF EDUCATION BE URGED TO COMMIT TO CLOSE CONSULTATIONS WITH THE
7 EDUCATION COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES BEFORE
8 TAKING ANY FURTHER ACTION RESULTING IN THE DEVELOPMENT AND
9 IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW ACADEMIC STANDARDS; AND BE IT FURTHER

10 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of Education and the State Board
11 of Education be urged to amend any regulations necessary to
12 effectuate the sentiment of the House of Representatives as
13 expressed in this resolution.