




Third Grade Reading Legislation Committee Vote: TAKE ACTION NOW- YOUR HELP NEEDED!

The House Committee on Education has concluded their first hearing on legislation mandating school reading intervention and retention policies and is expected to vote on the bill in the coming days. House Bill 4822, as written, is still too prescriptive and includes many implementation problems that need to be addressed. This legislation also mandates retention, a concept that is not supported by evidence or research.

We need you to help us by **contacting your Representative** and urging him/her to get the legislation right before it passes. Please **TAKE ACTION NOW**. To find out who your representative is, go to <http://www.house.mi.gov/mhrpublic/> and enter your home address. We recommend calling the Representative where you live, and **rather than identifying yourself as a school administrator, identify yourself as a constituent in his/her district**. There are multiple ways to contact your legislator: phone, email, or Twitter are just a few.

 <p>Sample Script for Calling Your Rep (Leave a message if you have to!)</p>	<p>"I am a constituent in Representative _____'s District. I am calling to tell <u>him/her</u> to oppose House Bill 4822, because it has the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retention is not an evidence-based practice, and the threat of retention is not a motivator; it is a punitive punishment. Over 207 studies over the last 30 years have demonstrated that there are substantial negative effects when students are retained in the same grade, which doubling the dropout risk, lowering subsequent academic achievement, and ongoing stigmatization from peers, to name a few. Additionally, this measure will reverse the progress that our school systems have made in the last decade in implementing strong multi-tiered systems of support. • HB 4822 is a series of unfunded mandates, which include significantly more screening, evaluation, data collection and reporting, professional learning, and additional instructional supports. It stipulates that schools should pay for the new mandated services using <u>existing</u> resources from State and Federal government. Not only is this language in violation of Michigan's required Headlee obligation, it may also be in violation of Federal IDEA laws for students with disabilities. • HB 4822 does not belong in legislation, as it is an attempt to codify many best practices (in addition to many practices that are <u>not</u> backed by research, such as retention). Much of the evidence-based content in HB 4822 should be put into a statewide guidelines document that is jointly developed by the Michigan Department of Education, educators in the field, parents, universities, legislators, and more. <p>As a taxpayer in _____'s District, I am urging <u>him/her</u> to vote no on House Bill 4822."</p>
 <p>Sample Email Script (Go to Rep's home page and look for email link. Copy and paste this message there.)</p>	<p>Representative _____, I am urging you to oppose House Bill 4822, because it has the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retention is not an evidence-based practice, and the threat of retention is not a motivator; it is a punitive punishment. Over 207 studies over the last 30 years have demonstrated that there are substantial negative effects when students are retained in the same grade, which doubling the dropout risk, lowering subsequent academic achievement, and ongoing stigmatization from peers, to name a few. Additionally, this measure will reverse the progress that our school systems have made in the last decade in implementing strong multi-tiered systems of support. • HB 4822 is a series of unfunded mandates, which include significantly more screening, evaluation, data collection and reporting, professional learning, and additional instructional supports. It stipulates that schools should pay for the new mandated services using <u>existing</u> resources from State and Federal government. Not only is this language in violation of Michigan's required Headlee obligation, it may also be in violation of Federal IDEA laws for students with disabilities. • HB 4822 does not belong in legislation, as it is an attempt to codify many best practices (in addition to many practices that are not backed by research, such as retention). As written, it is too prescriptive and includes many implementation problems that need to be addressed. Much of the evidence-based content in HB 4822 should be put into a statewide guidelines document that is jointly developed by the Michigan Department of Education, educators in the field, parents, universities, legislators, and more. <p>This bill is bad for students. As a taxpayer in your District, I am urging you to vote no on House Bill 4822. Signed, <u>Your Name</u></p>
 <p>Sample Tweet</p>	<p>@<u>insert rep handle here</u> Oppose HB4822- No retention, no unfunded mandates, too restrictive. Rely on evidence based practice #badforkids #badforfamilies</p>