



Testimony at the 12/11/14 Michigan Joint Council of Administrative Rules (JCAR) Hearing

Distinguished Senators and State Representatives,

This testimony is on behalf of the Michigan Association of Administrators of Special Education, or MAASE. MAASE is a statewide professional organization affiliated with the National Council of Administrators of Special Education and the Council for Exceptional Children.

The mission of MAASE is to provide leadership for the development and implementation of high-quality programs and services for students with disabilities within the total education community. To that end, our 610 members have dedicated their lives to students who are differently-abled.

On behalf of the Michigan Association of Administrators of Special Education, I want to thank you for your time and your service.

This proposed rules package is one that, despite a few voices that would lead you to believe otherwise, will not substantially change how we support students with disabilities in our schools. Other than providing our evaluation teams with additional time to evaluate a student to determine eligibility for special education services, this rules package will not change parental rights or limit their meaningful participation in the special education process. To the contrary, it will ensure continued educational benefit for students with IEPs in Michigan.

It is clear to our association that the Michigan Department of Education, Office of Special Education, followed the Administrative Rules Process. Over the last 1½ years, the Office of Special Education has engaged with a variety of stakeholders, many of whom are parents of students with disabilities.

After reviewing comment from 1,622 individuals and organizations, the Office of Special Education thoughtfully prepared the required Agency Report to JCAR, and submitted the revised rules, which clearly reflected the comments received from stakeholders across Michigan. Given this, MAASE respectfully requests that you waive the 15-day session requirement and adopt these rule revisions.

Thank you for your time today and for your service.