



# Brandon School District

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## House Bill 4162

Dear Chair Hornberger and members of the committee,

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important bill. I would especially like to thank the sponsor of this bill, Representative John Reilly and its co-sponsors Chair Hornberger, Vice Chair Paquette, Minority Vice Chair Camilleri, and Representatives Koleszar, Carter, Crawford and Vaupel.

My name is Matt Outlaw and I am in my 5<sup>th</sup> year as the superintendent for the Brandon School District in Northwest Oakland County. Prior to my time as superintendent, I worked for 18 years at the high school level as a principal, building administrator and teacher. In each of these roles, I have had the opportunity to be part of the many changes in State testing and their impact on students. With this in mind, I would like to raise a few points on this topic:

- 1) At the district level, one of the top requests of our parents is to reduce the amount of time spent on high stakes testing such as the ACT Work Keys. Also, I know that reducing the amount of testing time has been a priority for the legislature in the past, so please know how much those efforts have been appreciated.
- 2) As was discussed during testimony last year, the ACT Work Keys test has little to no value to students or to schools yet it cost the State millions of dollars to administer and takes away a half day of student instruction each year. As was also reported during testimony last year, few if any businesses across the State are using the results of this test.
- 3) As such, our district strongly supports this bill and would highlight the following as key benefits of its approval:
  - Eliminates a test that has almost no value to schools or its students
  - It gives a half day of teaching and learning back to schools
  - It saves schools money by eliminating additional test administration costs such as proctors, table rentals and test coordination.
  - It also frees millions of dollars in the State budget each year that could potentially be used to support improved programming for career technical education.
  - Finally, this responds to the wishes of school families across the State that seek to reduce the heavy burden of State testing on Michigan's students.

In the end, this bill just makes sense which is why it is overwhelmingly supported by my colleagues, by building administrators, by teachers and by our families. While our district strongly supports the legislature's efforts to improve CTE education, the time for the Work Keys test has long since passed.

Thank you for this opportunity to share and for your consideration of this bill. Thank you all for your service.

Sincerely,

*Matthew S. Outlaw*

Matthew S. Outlaw  
Superintendent for the Brandon School District