



The Michigan Science Teachers Associations' Position on House Bill 4192

The Michigan Science Teachers Association firmly opposes Michigan House Bill 4192.

House Bill 4192 calls for replacing the current Michigan Science Standards that have been written, reviewed, and discussed in public meetings across our state by Michigan educators, parents, and citizens. The replacement standards would be the Massachusetts science standards that were developed in 2000-2001 and are no longer in use in Massachusetts.

The Michigan Science Standards are based upon current science content and practice as expressed in the vision of A Framework for K-12 Science Education. The Michigan Science Standards reflect the current research on how students best learn science. They were benchmarked against international STEM powerhouses such as Canada, China, England, Finland, Hungary, Ireland, Singapore and South Korea. Several of these Michigan science standards are specific to our state and the Great Lakes Basin, reflecting our unique and important role in the country and the world. In keeping with the mission statement of the Michigan Science Teachers Association “to stimulate, support and provide leadership for the improvement of science education throughout Michigan”, we played a key role in the writing and review process for the current Michigan Science Standards adopted November 10, 2015. The proposed new standards have had none of the rigorous discussion with interested parents, professional educational organizations and community and business stakeholders that were so important to the informed adoption of the Michigan Science Standards less than eighteen months ago.

The Michigan Science Teachers Association actively encouraged parents, community members, and Michigan leaders in business and industry to provide input on the Michigan Science Standards, both in online surveys and in town hall meetings held across our state. Finally, the public comments gathered, representing the ideas of Michigan citizens, were used to create the final state science standards that were adopted by the State Board of Education.

The Michigan Science Teachers Association's goal is to continually support and promote the effective, systematic, and sustained implementation of the Michigan Science Standards. Science education based upon the Michigan Science Standards will increase scientific literacy levels of all students in our state. We contend that these standards will provide the skills required by Michigan students as they enter the increasingly complex business and industry workforce that is needed to promote Michigan's economy. The Michigan Science Standards will equip Michigan students for college, careers, and citizenship.