

1 HB440
2 209878-2
3 By Representatives Fincher, Mooney, Hanes, Whorton, Holmes and
4 Farley
5 RFD: Education Policy
6 First Read: 23-FEB-21

8 SYNOPSIS: Under existing law, the State Board of
9 Education is required to establish curriculum
10 standards for all K-12 public schools in Alabama.

11 This bill would terminate the use of the
12 curriculum standards commonly known as the Common
13 Core State Standards, the Alabama College- and
14 Career-Ready Standards, and any variant of the
15 Common Core State Standards.

16 This bill would require the State Board of
17 Education to replace the Common Core State
18 Standards for Math and English Language Arts with
19 the courses of study for Math and English Language
20 Arts in place immediately prior to implementation
21 of the Common Core State Standards.

22 This bill would require the State Board of
23 Education to update the pre-Common Core State
24 Standards, to be known as the Alabama Course of
25 Study Standards, to be used in all K-12 public
26 schools starting with the 2022-2023 school year.

1 This bill would also prohibit the State
2 Board of Education from adopting or implementing
3 any other national standards from any source or
4 requiring the use of any assessments aligned with
5 national standards and would prohibit schools and
6 school counselors from using programs that steer
7 students toward a career track or use the American
8 School Counselor Association Competencies and
9 Indicators to construct or design guidance programs
10 relating to students' social and emotional
11 development.

12
13 A BILL
14 TO BE ENTITLED
15 AN ACT

16
17 Relating to public education; to terminate the use
18 of the Common Core State Standards and the Alabama College and
19 Career Ready Standards in K-12 public schools; to require the
20 State Board of Education to replace the Common Core State
21 Standards for Math and English Language Arts with the courses
22 of study for Math and English Language Arts in place
23 immediately prior to implementation of the Common Core State
24 Standards and update these standards in public schools for the
25 2022-2023 school year; to prohibit the State Board of
26 Education from adopting or implementing any other national
27 standards from any source or requiring the use of any

1 assessments aligned with national standards; and to prohibit
2 schools and school counselors from using programs that steer
3 students toward a career track or to use certain standards to
4 construct guidance programs relating to students' social and
5 emotional development.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

7 Section 1. (a) The Legislature finds that the State
8 Board of Education, in the fall of 2013, voted to rescind the
9 Memorandum of Agreement that involved the State of Alabama in
10 adopting the Common Core State Standards, which ceded control
11 of Alabama's standards to entities other than the state and
12 local educational agencies, and declared that the collection
13 of personal data concerning students of Alabama public schools
14 would not be collected or compiled.

15 (b) In order to codify the intent of the board, the
16 State of Alabama hereby terminates all plans, programs,
17 activities, efforts, and expenditures relative to the
18 implementation of the educational initiative commonly referred
19 to as the Common Core State Standards, or any derivative or
20 permutation thereof, including, but not limited to, the
21 Alabama College- and Career-Ready Standards that have been
22 implemented or may be implemented by the board, the Alabama
23 State Department of Education, or its employees, including any
24 assessments, data collection, and instructions based on or
25 involving any such standard or protocol.

26 (c) As part of the termination process, the
27 Legislature directs the State Superintendent of Education, the

1 State Board of Education, and any other public education
2 authority to terminate the flexibility waiver agreement with
3 the United State Department of Education pertaining to the
4 federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act, which includes
5 the adoption of the Common Core State Standards which were
6 incorporated into the Alabama College- and Career-Ready
7 Standards, and pertaining to other areas of federal control of
8 Alabama's educational process.

9 (d) As part of the transition process to updated
10 Alabama curriculum standards, the board shall immediately
11 begin to replace the current Common Core State Standards
12 included in the Alabama College- and Career-Ready Standards
13 and the New Math Standards, known as the Alabama Courses of
14 Study in Math and English Language Arts, with the courses of
15 study for Math in place until May 2011, and for English
16 Language Arts in place until May 2012, both of which were used
17 in classrooms immediately prior to implementation of the
18 Common Core State Standards. These standards shall be known as
19 the Alabama Course of Study Standards and shall remain in
20 effect pending the adoption of new or updated standards by the
21 board pursuant to subsection (e).

22 (e) The Alabama Course of Study Standards or updated
23 standards for Math and English Language Arts shall be
24 implemented at the start of the 2022-2023 school year.

25 (f) The Legislature further prohibits the adoption
26 or implementation of any national standards or variations of
27 national standards from any source, or the use of any

1 assessments aligned with them, that cede control of Alabama
2 educational standards in any manner, including, but not
3 limited to, the Next Generation Science Standards, History
4 Standards, Social Studies Standards, or Sexuality Standards.

5 (g) The state shall retain sole control over the
6 development, establishment, and revision of K-12 course of
7 study standards.

8 (h) No education entity or any state official shall
9 join any consortium or any other organization when
10 participation in that consortium or organization would cede
11 any measure of control over any aspect of Alabama public
12 education to any such entity.

13 (i) No public school official, including a school
14 counselor, may implement or maintain any program that steers
15 students on a career track or use American School Counselor
16 Association Competencies and Indicators, or any variation
17 thereof, to construct or design any social or emotional
18 development programs for students in public K-12 schools.

19 (j) Any resident of the State of Alabama shall have
20 standing in the courts of Alabama to bring suit to ensure the
21 enforcement of this act.

22 Section 2. This act shall become effective
23 immediately following its passage and approval by the
24 Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.