

Comprehensive Education Bills Introduced

Representative Margaret O'Brien today introduced legislation to address the current lack of comprehensive guidelines and tools for educator and student growth tool evaluations resulting from the teacher tenure reforms of 2011.

House Bill 5223 is part of a comprehensive, bipartisan package, and it provides clarity on how teachers across the state will be evaluated. It further includes flexibility for individual school districts to find a method that works best in light of local needs. The teacher tenure reforms mandated annual evaluations for teachers and administrators and a state assessment that measures student growth.

"In 2011, the legislature enacted changes that kept the focus on what is best for kids," said O'Brien, R-Portage. "These bills continue that commitment to student learning while ensuring that teachers and administrators have the tools they need to best serve their students."

House Bill 5223 was introduced after receiving formal recommendations from the Michigan Council for Educator Effectiveness in July 2013. The council was created as part of the Teacher Tenure reforms to provide research-based approaches to conducting teacher and administrator evaluations and a recommendation for a student growth tool.

"I have listened to many teachers, parents and stakeholders from across the state. Their message was clear: we must promote best practices that are proven to help kids learn. These bills support students and their teachers using research-based practices," O'Brien said.

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