

## Michigan Merit Curriculum

### A Bad Idea

Governor Granholm and the Michigan Legislature proved once again that they are out of touch with reality when they passed the Michigan Merit Curriculum.

The Michigan Merit Curriculum is designed to prepare **every student** for college regardless of their strengths, weaknesses or interests. Students are now required to meet college preparatory standards before graduation from High School. Among the requirements are that all students must complete four years of math through Algebra II, three years of science ending with physics or chemistry, four years of English, three years of social studies, health and physical education among other requirements.

These standards sound good on their face. Michigan has among the highest standards in the country for graduation from High School, but this alone is an example of short sightedness. Not all students are meant to go to college. Some students don't have the abilities to do Algebra, chemistry or physics. Some do not have any desire to go to college. This is just the facts of life. Our leaders ignore the practical facts of life and this is tragic.

The outcome of this Michigan Merit Curriculum are still yet unfolding but you can count on the adage that government makes everything worse and here is how it will unfold.

1. Students who cannot do the work will flunk out.
2. Students who refuse to do the work because they do not want to go to college will flunk out.
3. Schools afraid that a higher flunk out rate will tarnish their image as educators will be forced to dumb down the courses so that the flunk out rate does not increase.
4. Students who do want to go to college will not get the preparation they need to compete in college because the course work is dumbed down to hold down the flunk out rate.
5. Michigan will be embarrassed by lower ACT and SAT scores and will blame the teachers.
6. Government will take action against the teachers including breaking the Unions and lowering wages.
7. Gimmicks like merit pay will be implemented which will reward flashy nothingness and give favoritism in pay for teachers a priority.

8. Qualified teachers will go to other States or not go to college in Michigan to teach as teaching will not pay for the cost of the education.
9. Michigan education will get worse and worse.
10. Michigan business will leave the State in the search for qualified workers and a better environment.