

1 HB264
2 173853-1
3 By Representatives Fincher, Mooney, Whorton (I), Holmes (M),
4 Hanes, Martin, Hurst, Millican, Johnson (R), Whorton (R),
5 Ledbetter, Harbison, Fridy, Wingo, Polizos, Drake, Ainsworth,
6 Williams (JW), Moore (B) and Beckman
7 RFD: Education Policy
8 First Read: 18-FEB-16

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

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

15 This bill would direct the State Board of
16 Education to replace the Common Core Standards for
17 Math and English Language Arts with the courses of
18 study for Math and English Language Arts in place
19 immediately prior to adoption of the Common Core
20 Standards and use these transition standards in
21 K-12 public schools for the 2016-2017 school year.

22 This bill would require the State Board of
23 Education to revise the pre-Common Core transition
24 standards into new curriculum standards, to be
25 known as the Alabama Ahead Standards, to be used in
26 all K-12 public schools starting with the 2017-2018
27 school year.

1 This bill would create the Alabama
2 Excellence Standards Commission to provide
3 consulting services to the State Board of Education
4 while it creates the Alabama Ahead Standards and
5 provide a report of the new curriculum standards to
6 certain members of the legislature and the public.

7 This bill would prohibit the State Board of
8 Education from adopting or implementing any other
9 national standards from any source or requiring the
10 use of any assessments aligned with them.

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12 A BILL
13 TO BE ENTITLED
14 AN ACT

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16 Relating to public education; to terminate the use
17 of the standards commonly known as the Common Core Standards,
18 also known as the Alabama College and Career Ready Standards,
19 in K-12 public schools; to direct the State Board of Education
20 to replace the Common Core Standards for Math and English
21 Language Arts with the courses of study for Math and English
22 Language Arts in place immediately prior to adoption of the
23 Common Core Standards and use these transition standards in
24 public schools for the 2016-2017 school year; to require the
25 State Board of Education to revise the pre-Common Core
26 transition standards into new curriculum standards, to be
27 known as the Alabama Ahead Standards, to be used in all K-12

1 public schools starting with the 2017-2018 school year; to
2 create the Alabama Excellence Standards Commission to provide
3 consulting services to the State Board of Education while it
4 creates the Alabama Ahead Standards and provide a report of
5 the new curriculum standards to certain members of the
6 legislature and the public; and to prohibit the State Board of
7 Education from adopting or implementing any other national
8 standards from any source or requiring the use of any
9 assessments aligned with them.

10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

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

19 (b) In order to codify the intent of the board, the
20 State of Alabama hereby terminates all plans, programs,
21 activities, efforts, and expenditures relative to the
22 implementation of the educational initiative commonly referred
23 to as the Common Core State Standards, or any derivative or
24 permutation thereof, including, but not limited to, the
25 Alabama College- and Career-Ready Standards that have been
26 adopted or may be adopted by the board or its employees,

1 including any assessments, data collection, and instructions
2 based on or involving any such standard or protocol.

3 (c) As part of the transition, the board shall
4 replace the current Common Core Standards, also known as the
5 Alabama College- and Career-Ready Standards, with the courses
6 of study for Math in place until May 2011, and for English
7 Language Arts in place until May 2012, both of which were used
8 in classrooms immediately prior to implementation of the
9 Common Core Standards. These standards shall be known as the
10 Transition Standards and shall remain in effect for the
11 2016-2017 school year.

12 (d) Following existing state law regarding the
13 process for revision of the Alabama courses of study, the
14 State Board of Education shall proceed with revising the
15 Transition Standards, based upon the pre-Common Core Standards
16 of the state whose national scores ranked no less than the top
17 10 percent in the nation. The resulting curriculum standards
18 for Math and English Language Arts shall begin in the
19 2017-2018 school year and shall be known as the Alabama Ahead
20 Standards.

21 (e) There is created the Alabama Excellence
22 Standards Commission, to be comprised of internationally
23 recognized experts of curriculum standards who have not
24 advocated the Common Core Standards. Members of the commission
25 shall be jointly appointed by the Chair of the Senate
26 Education and Youth Affairs Committee and the Chair of the
27 House Education Policy Committee. Members of the commission

1 shall be available throughout the process by which the
2 Transition Standards are revised into new curriculum standards
3 pursuant to subsection (d), and shall produce a report
4 reviewing the final draft of the Alabama Ahead Standards. At
5 least 30 days prior to action by the State Board of Education
6 to adopt the Alabama Ahead Standards, the report shall be
7 provided to the Chair of the Senate Education and Youth
8 Affairs Committee and the Chair of the House Education Policy
9 Committee and shall be made available to the public.

10 (f) The Legislature further prohibits the adoption
11 or implementation of any national standards from any source,
12 or the use of any assessments aligned with them, that cede
13 control of Alabama educational standards in any manner,
14 including, but not limited to, the Next Generation Science
15 Standards, History Standards, Social Studies Standards, or
16 Sexuality Standards.

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

20 (h) No education entity or any state official shall
21 join any consortium or any other organization when
22 participation in that consortium or organization would cede
23 any measure of control over any aspect of Alabama public
24 education to any such entity.

25 Section 2. Any citizen of the State of Alabama shall
26 have standing in the courts of Alabama to bring suit to ensure
27 the enforcement of this act.

1 Section 3. This act shall be known and may be cited
2 as the Alabama Excellence in Education Act.

3 Section 4. This act shall become effective
4 immediately following its passage and approval by the
5 Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.