

Third Grade Reading Bill

The Conference Committee on HB 4822 has come up with a report with a hearing scheduled for 5:30 today. The AAUW of Michigan supported the Senate version of the bill. Here is a story about it from Gongwer News Service today.

Third Grade Reading Deal Keeps Parent Appeal Option

House and Senate negotiators have reached an agreement on legislation designed to improve the number of students reading at grade level by the end of the third grade with a conference committee scheduled for today to take up the deal.

Sources familiar with the agreement, speaking on condition they not be named, said the new version of HB 4822 will look similar to the Senate-passed version with its various potential exemptions enabling a student to advance to the fourth grade even if they were not at third grade reading level – but with one big change.

The compromise drops the exemption that would have allowed a student's principal and reading teacher to advance the student if they agree other evaluations of the pupil's skills demonstrate he or she is academically prepared.

A provision allowing a parent to apply for a "good cause" exemption to the school district's superintendent will remain in the bill as would another mechanism allowing the student to show third grade reading level on an alternative assessment approved by the superintendent of public instruction or demonstrating that reading level through a portfolio.

The conference committee is scheduled to meet at 5:30 p.m.

The House and Senate had been divided on how tough a line to take on retaining students in the third grade with the Senate bill creating more exemptions with the House taking a stricter approach.

Mary Pollock
Government Relations Coordinator
American Association of University Women of Michigan
www.aauwmi.org

1200 Prescott Drive
East Lansing, MI 48823
[517-351-7292](tel:517-351-7292) office/home/cell