

PRESS RELEASE

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For answers to technical questions or the latest draft of the bill (not available online):
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Agenda:

3:30 p.m. Walking Press Conference at Muskegon Area Career Tech Center
6:30 p.m. Town Hall Meeting at the Muskegon Area Intermediate School District

Lawmakers seek public opinion on adding career-tech option

Walking press conference prior to public meeting

On Monday, June 22, 2009, at **3:30 p.m.**, Representative Joel Sheltroun (D-West Branch) and other state lawmakers will offer a **walking press conference** while touring the Muskegon Area Career Tech Center located at 200 Harvey Street in Muskegon. The conference precedes a **Town Hall Meeting** set to begin at **6:30 p.m.** at the Muskegon Area Intermediate School District one mile south of the Career Tech Center. The event is one of four in the state planned to help lawmakers gather public input on House Bill 4410 which provides an added career and technical education (CTE) option that would lead to a high school diploma. The option would be in addition to the current Michigan Merit Curriculum (MMC) requirements for high school graduation effective for the Class of 2011.

The MMC requirements include English, mathematics, science, social studies, health/physical education, the arts (visual, performing, or applied), world languages, and an online learning experience. According to Sheltroun these requirements are threatening the opportunity for students to participate in career-skills courses when these classes do not count toward graduation. This means fewer students will have the chance to develop job skills and earn certifications in CTE programs that lead to good-paying jobs or continued training. The CTE option would require credits in the same MMC areas with the exception of the arts. It would also allow a "Career and Technical Prep Sequence" of courses to replace a few of the required credits, including the Algebra II requirement.

This is the second meeting of its kind to be hosted by the MAISD since the graduation requirements were enacted in March 2006. Dr. Susan Meston, MAISD Superintendent, said, "This meeting offers an important and unique opportunity right here in Muskegon County. We encourage parents, students, business leaders, educators, and others to come and speak about their personal experiences, opinions, and ideas regarding the career-technical graduation option." Representative Robert Dean (D-Grand Rapids) and Representative Mary Valentine (D-Norton Shores) will also participate in the tour and meeting. Other meetings, to gather public input about House Bill 4410, will be held at the Tri Cities Michigan Carpenters Apprenticeship and Training Facility in Saginaw on June 8, 2009, at the Associated Builders and Contractors Facility in Madison Heights on June 15, 2009, and at Kirtland Community College in Roscommon on June 29, 2009.

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