



Whereas; finding ways to maintain academic rigor while still making the high school curriculum relevant to the academic and career interests of every student; and, building positive relationships between school, students and families are all essential parts of high school reform.

Whereas; the U. S. Department of Labor projects that the overwhelming majority of living wage, entry level jobs of the future are going to require a level of specialized training beyond high school that is *less than a 4-year college degree*.

Whereas; the Michigan Merit Curriculum (MMC) is primarily focused on preparing students with the skills they will need to successfully pursue a 4-year college degree.

Whereas; many of the skills required for success in a 4-year college degree program are irrelevant to the academic and career interests of students who will not be seeking entry to a career that requires a 4-year college degree.

Whereas; Career\Technical Education (CTE) programs currently offer rigorous and relevant high school curriculums that do provide the skills necessary to successfully pursue the level of post-secondary training necessary for successful entry into those careers.

Whereas; collaboration between home and school should be an essential part of curriculum planning for every student because parents are the best experts on their own children's academic and career interests.

Whereas; the MMC currently limits opportunities for meaningful collaborative planning between home and school for students who have interests in pursuing careers that do NOT require a 4-year college degree.

Whereas; this lack of opportunity for collaborative curriculum planning limits access to a rigorous and relevant high school curriculum for these students; and often creates a level of friction between home and school that interferes with the positive relationships necessary to promote student success.

Whereas; the dynamics outlined above currently place many teens at risk of not finishing high school with the skills they will need to successfully pursue their post-secondary career training needs (or not finishing high school at all.)

Be it resolved by the Michigan Alternative Education Organization (MAEO) on July 14, 2009, that:

- It is fair and necessary for Michigan to provide increased opportunities for collaborative curriculum planning between home and school *beyond those currently provided by the MMC*.
- House Bill 4410 broadens opportunities for collaborative curriculum planning between home and school and provides families and students with a rigorous and relevant Career\Technical Education (CTE) pathway to a Michigan high school diploma.
- **MAEO fully supports House Bill 4410** as an essential next step in the process of high school reform in Michigan