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**Position:** Calhoun ISD on behalf of Calhoun ISD, Barry ISD and Branch ISD and constituent school districts – **Oppose HB 4496**

Date: 12/1/2011

**Re: HB 4496 would allow Community Colleges** in Michigan to create and implement **four year degree programs** in: Nursing, Cement Technology, Maritime Technology, Energy Production Technology and Culinary Arts

**Rationale:**

- Many of these degree programs would **duplicate programs** already created, implemented and funded through Michigan Institutions of Higher Education and/or existing M-Tech Centers throughout Michigan
- Community Colleges in Michigan leave **many areas, and students**, in Michigan **outside a community college district** thus creating unequal educational opportunities across Michigan
- Proposed **programs do not match Michigan's High Wage High Demand Occupations**; in addition, most of these programs do not require a four year degree in order to begin a occupational career ladder
- If Michigan does not have a high demand for these job skills, **taxpayers will be funding** the creation of duplicative programs to train individuals for **out-of-state employment**
- Creation of such **programs will cost taxpayers:**
  - Funding duplicative curriculum development
  - Funding 50% of necessary capital costs to house such programs
  - Anticipation of local tax millage increases to support ongoing program costs
- Current community college **millage** – as used for operational costs – is **voted geographically for a specific community college "district"**; concern about using that previously voter-authorized funding for out-of-district students
- **MDE** does not have the capacity to provide **oversight** to additional four-year degree programs at Michigan's community colleges; there should also be a requirement for MDE **approval** of community college accreditation, curriculum and implementation plan

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