

Mandate Review Request #2012110002

Note: All information below was provided by the local government/Mandate Relief Council Member requesting that a mandate be reviewed. Neither the Council nor its staff has verified the accuracy of the information provided or made any other edits.

Name of Local Government: Palmyra-Macedon Central School District
Type of Local Government: School District
County: Wayne & Ontario

Name of Mandate: Units of Study requirements

Type of Mandate: Regulation/Rule/Order

Citation for Mandate: §§100.4 & §§100.5 of the Commissioner of Education's regulations

Description of Mandate: Commissioner's regulations mandate units of study, a minimum number of minutes per week (seat time), by grade level and subject area.

Recommended Change: Public education must be results-driven. Seat time (units of study) does not promote this model. Flexibility in seat time will allow students to demonstrate competence in an area of study regardless of time requirements. A process must be adopted to allow districts to grant academic credit where students can challenge assessments. For students who have gaps in learning skills, the ability to spend more time in a given area would benefit further development of readiness skills. Minimum required minutes for courses of study must be abolished thereby giving local Boards of Education the flexibility to address the learning needs of every student.

Estimated Savings from the Recommended Change to the Local Government: Possible staff savings; primary reason for change not fiscal; unsound, unduly burdensome, and not in best interest of students

Estimated Statewide Savings from the Recommended Change: Possible staff savings; primary reason for change not fiscal; unsound, unduly burdensome, and not in best interest of students

Description of Methodology Used in Estimating Savings: Elimination of seat time requirements may allow some school districts to realize savings in staffing costs based on students needs. However, primary reason for the recommended change is not fiscal; the mandates are unsound, unduly burdensome, and do not serve the best interests of students.