



Michigan Council of Teachers of English

Statement on MELAF

As a leader in the Michigan language arts community, the Michigan Council of Teachers of English endorses the ten English Language Arts Standards prepared by the Michigan English Language Arts Frameworks (MELAF) Task Forces. (June 1995) These standards were arrived at through the consensus model by members of MELAF, several of whom are members of the Executive Board of MCTE. The standards, based on extensive research of current practice and revised after comprehensive field reviews and public hearings, lead the nation integrated language arts curriculum standard development.

MCTE does not endorse the changes made to these original content standards at the July, 1995 Michigan State Board of Education meeting. These changes were made with no participation by the public and the educational community. The MCTE members who worked long and hard hours on the standards were not consulted at all. There was no time or opportunity for reflection or revision by our members. The addition of two new standards by the Michigan State Board of Education and its revisions of the original standards remain both confusing and unexplained to our membership. We are concerned and dismayed by the undemocratic methods used by the State Board of Education in curriculum development.

The MCTE will continue to support the work of the MELAF Project in its third year, based on its endorsement of the original content standards of June, 1995.