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BILL: House Bill 255
TITLE: Public Schools – Agricultural Education Program
DATE: February 14, 2019
POSITION: OPPOSE
COMMITTEE: Ways and Means
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House Bill 255 encourages each county board of education to implement an agricultural education program that prepares students for successful careers and informed choices relating to certain systems and for opportunities in agriculture-related employment and higher education by providing instruction and developing skills in certain areas through certain integrated classroom and laboratory instruction, supervised agricultural experiences, and leadership experiences and involvement in student organizations.

PSSAM **opposes** House Bill 255.

Local superintendents understand the intent of House Bill 255. We appreciate the value of an agriculture science curriculum and currently 21 local school systems offer this course. However, local superintendents continue to advocate for local board of education governance of teaching and learning. We strongly believe that it is critical that locally governed education policies and procedures remain under the authority of local boards of education. Each local school board must have the flexibility to develop individual curriculum policies and practices that reflect the specific and diverse needs of their system.

PSSAM again reiterates that we will continue to oppose all attempts to legislate curriculum, courses of study, or graduation requirements. We firmly believe that this role belongs to local boards of education working together with the State Board of Education.

For the reasons noted above, PSSAM **opposes** House Bill 255 and requests an unfavorable committee report.