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BILL: Senate Bill 961
TITLE: Education – Public Schools – Instruction in Print and Cursive Handwriting
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POSITION: OPPOSE
COMMITTEE: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs
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Senate Bill 961 requires, beginning in the 2020-2021 school year, each county board of education to require each public elementary school in the county to provide handwriting instruction that enables students to develop legible print handwriting by the end of the third grade and legible cursive handwriting by the end of the fifth grade.

PSSAM **opposes** Senate Bill 961.

Superintendents understand the intent of this bill. It is important to note that there are local school systems that currently are focused on the development of legible print and cursive handwriting in the elementary grades.

However, as local superintendents, we must 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 stated above, PSSAM **opposes** House Bill 961 and urges an unfavorable committee report.