

# HOUSE BILL No. 4729

June 9, 2011, Introduced by Reps. Genetski, McBroom, Franz, Wayne Schmidt, O'Brien, Agema, Nesbitt, Barnett, Lori, Pettalia, Tyler, MacGregor, Jacobsen and Heise and referred to the Committee on Education.

A bill to amend 1976 PA 451, entitled  
"The revised school code,"  
by amending section 1278a (MCL 380.1278a), as amended by 2009 PA 205.

## THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1       Sec. 1278a. (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section  
2 or section 1278b, beginning with pupils entering grade 8 in 2006,  
3 the board of a school district or board of directors of a public  
4 school academy shall not award a high school diploma to a pupil  
5 unless the pupil meets all of the following:

6       (a) Has successfully completed all of the following credit  
7 requirements of the Michigan merit standard before graduating from  
8 high school:

9       (i) At least 4 credits in mathematics that are aligned with

1 subject area content expectations developed by the department and  
2 approved by the state board under section 1278b, including  
3 completion of at least algebra I, geometry, and algebra II, or an  
4 integrated sequence of this course content that consists of 3  
5 credits, and an additional mathematics credit, such as  
6 trigonometry, statistics, precalculus, calculus, applied math,  
7 accounting, business math, a retake of algebra II, a course in  
8 financial literacy as described in section 1165. A pupil may  
9 complete algebra II over 2 years with 2 credits awarded or over 1.5  
10 years with 1.5 credits awarded for the purposes of this section and  
11 section 1278b. A pupil also may partially or fully fulfill the  
12 algebra II requirement by completing a department-approved formal  
13 career and technical education program or curriculum that has  
14 appropriate embedded mathematics content, such as a program or  
15 curriculum in electronics, machining, construction, welding,  
16 engineering, or renewable energy. Not later than 30 days after the  
17 effective date of the amendatory act that added the immediately  
18 preceding sentence, the department shall post on its website and  
19 submit to the senate and house standing committees on education  
20 guidelines for implementation of the immediately preceding  
21 sentence. Each pupil must successfully complete at least 1  
22 mathematics course during his or her final year of high school  
23 enrollment. This subparagraph does not require completion of  
24 mathematics courses in any particular sequence.

25 (ii) At least 3 credits in social science that are aligned with  
26 subject area content expectations developed by the department and  
27 approved by the state board under section 1278b, including

1 completion of at least 1 credit in United States history and  
2 geography, 1 credit in world history and geography, 1/2 credit in  
3 economics, and the civics course described in section 1166(2).

4 (iii) ~~At~~ **EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED IN THIS SUBPARAGRAPH, AT**  
5 least 1 credit in subject matter that includes both health and  
6 physical education aligned with guidelines developed by the  
7 department and approved by the state board under section 1278b. **A**  
8 **BOARD OR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MAY ADOPT A LOCAL POLICY THAT CREDITS A**  
9 **PUPIL'S PARTICIPATION IN AN INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ACTIVITY AS**  
10 **MEETING THIS REQUIREMENT, WHETHER OR NOT THE BOARD OR BOARD OF**  
11 **DIRECTORS GRANTS ACADEMIC CREDIT FOR THAT ACTIVITY.**

12 (iv) At least 1 credit in visual arts, performing arts, or  
13 applied arts, as defined by the department, that is aligned with  
14 guidelines developed by the department and approved by the state  
15 board under section 1278b.

16 (v) The credit requirements specified in section 1278b(1).

17 (b) Meets the online course or learning experience requirement  
18 of this subsection. A school district or public school academy  
19 shall provide the basic level of technology and internet access  
20 required by the state board to complete the online course or  
21 learning experience. For a pupil to meet this requirement, the  
22 pupil shall meet either of the following, as determined by the  
23 school district or public school academy:

24 (i) Has successfully completed at least 1 course or learning  
25 experience that is presented online, as defined by the department.

26 (ii) The pupil's school district or public school academy has  
27 integrated an online experience throughout the high school

1 curriculum by ensuring that each teacher of each course that  
2 provides the required credits of the Michigan merit curriculum has  
3 integrated an online experience into the course.

4 (2) In addition to the requirements under subsection (1),  
5 beginning with pupils entering grade 3 in 2006, the board of a  
6 school district or board of directors of a public school academy  
7 shall not award a high school diploma to a pupil unless the pupil  
8 has successfully completed during grades 9 to 12 at least 2  
9 credits, as determined by the department, in a language other than  
10 English, or the pupil has successfully completed at any time during  
11 grades K to 12 course work or other learning experiences that are  
12 substantially equivalent to 2 credits in a language other than  
13 English, based on guidelines developed by the department. For the  
14 purposes of this subsection, all of the following apply:

15 (a) American sign language is considered to be a language  
16 other than English.

17 (b) The pupil may meet all or part of this requirement with  
18 online course work.

19 (3) The requirements under this section and section 1278b for  
20 a high school diploma are in addition to any local requirements  
21 imposed by the board of a school district or board of directors of  
22 a public school academy. The board of a school district or board of  
23 directors of a public school academy, as a local requirement for a  
24 high school diploma, may require a pupil to complete the Michigan  
25 merit examination under section 1279g or may require a pupil to  
26 participate in the MIAccess assessments if appropriate for the  
27 pupil.

1           (4) For the purposes of this section and section 1278b, all of  
2 the following apply:

3           (a) A pupil is considered to have completed a credit if the  
4 pupil successfully completes the subject area content expectations  
5 or guidelines developed by the department that apply to the credit.

6           (b) A school district or public school academy shall base its  
7 determination of whether a pupil has successfully completed the  
8 subject area content expectations or guidelines developed by the  
9 department that apply to a credit at least in part on the pupil's  
10 performance on the assessments developed or selected by the  
11 department under section 1278b or on 1 or more assessments  
12 developed or selected by the school district or public school  
13 academy that measure a pupil's understanding of the subject area  
14 content expectations or guidelines that apply to the credit.

15           (c) A school district or public school academy shall also  
16 grant a pupil a credit if the pupil earns a qualifying score, as  
17 determined by the department, on the assessments developed or  
18 selected for the subject area by the department under section 1278b  
19 or the pupil earns a qualifying score, as determined by the school  
20 district or public school academy, on 1 or more assessments  
21 developed or selected by the school district or public school  
22 academy that measure a pupil's understanding of the subject area  
23 content expectations or guidelines that apply to the credit.

24           (5) If a high school is designated by the superintendent of  
25 public instruction as a specialty school and the high school meets  
26 the requirements of subsection (6), then the pupils of the high  
27 school are not required to successfully complete the 4 credits in

English language arts required under section 1278b(1)(a) or the 3 credits in social science required under subsection (1)(a)(ii) and the school district or public school academy is not required to ensure that each pupil is offered the curriculum necessary for meeting those English language arts or social science credit requirements. The superintendent of public instruction may designate up to 15 high schools that meet the requirements of this subsection as specialty schools. Subject to this maximum number, the superintendent of public instruction shall designate a high school as a specialty school if the superintendent of public instruction finds that the high school meets all of the following criteria:

(a) The high school incorporates a significant reading and writing component throughout its curriculum.

(b) The high school uses a specialized, innovative, and rigorous curriculum in such areas as performing arts, foreign language, extensive use of internships, or other learning innovations that conform to pioneering innovations among other leading national or international high schools.

(6) A high school that is designated by the superintendent of public instruction as a specialty school under subsection (5) is only exempt from requirements as described under subsection (5) as long as the superintendent of public instruction finds that the high school continues to meet all of the following requirements:

(a) The high school clearly states to prospective pupils and their parents that it does not meet the requirements of the Michigan merit standard under this section and section 1278b but is

1 a designated specialty school that is exempt from some of those  
2 requirements and that a pupil who enrolls in the high school and  
3 subsequently transfers to a high school that is not a specialty  
4 school meeting the requirements of this subsection will be required  
5 to comply with the requirements of the Michigan merit standard  
6 under this section and section 1278b.

7 (b) For the most recent year for which the data are available,  
8 the mean scores on both the mathematics and science portions of the  
9 ACT examination for the pupils of the high school exceed by at  
10 least 10% the mean scores on the mathematics and science portions  
11 of the ACT examination for the pupils of the school district in  
12 which the greatest number of the pupils of the high school reside.

13 (c) For the most recent year for which the data are available,  
14 the high school had a graduation rate of at least 85%, as  
15 determined by the department.

16 (d) For the most recent year for which the data are available,  
17 at least 75% of the pupils who graduated from the high school the  
18 preceding year are enrolled in a postsecondary institution.

19 (e) All pupils of the high school are required to meet the  
20 mathematics credit requirements of subsection (1)(a)(i), with no  
21 modification of these requirements under section 1278b(5), and each  
22 pupil is offered the curriculum necessary to meet this requirement.

23 (f) All pupils of the high school are required to meet the  
24 science credit requirements of section 1278b(1)(b) and are also  
25 required to successfully complete at least 1 additional science  
26 credit, for a total of at least 4 science credits, with no  
27 modification of these requirements under section 1278b(5), and each

1 pupil is offered the curriculum necessary to meet this requirement.