

HOUSE BILL NO. 5815

June 12, 2024, Introduced by Reps. Schmaltz, Roth, Harris, Aragona, Thompson, BeGole, Kunse, DeBoyer, Johnsen, Bollin, Tisdell, DeBoer, Steele, Zorn, Alexander, Posthumus, Rigas, Kuhn and VanderWall and referred to the Committee on Education.

A bill to amend 1976 PA 451, entitled
"The revised school code,"
by amending sections 1278a and 1278b (MCL 380.1278a and 380.1278b),
as amended by 2022 PA 105.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

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

5 (a) Has successfully completed all of the following credit
6 requirements of the Michigan merit standard before graduating from

1 high school:

2 (i) At least 4 credits in mathematics that are aligned with
 3 subject area content expectations developed by the department and
 4 approved by the state board under section 1278b, including
 5 completion of at least algebra I, geometry, and algebra II, or an
 6 integrated sequence of this course content that consists of 3
 7 credits, and an additional mathematics credit, such as
 8 trigonometry, statistics, precalculus, calculus, applied math,
 9 accounting, business math, a retake of algebra II, or, for only
 10 pupils entering grade 8 before 2023, a course in financial literacy
 11 as described in section 1165. A pupil may complete algebra II over
 12 2 years with 2 credits awarded or over 1.5 years with 1.5 credits
 13 awarded for the purposes of this section and section 1278b. A pupil
 14 also may partially or fully fulfill the algebra II requirement by
 15 completing a department-approved formal career and technical
 16 education program or curriculum, such as a program or curriculum in
 17 electronics, machining, construction, welding, engineering,
 18 computer science, or renewable energy, and in that program or
 19 curriculum successfully completing the same content as the algebra
 20 II benchmarks assessed on the department-prescribed state high
 21 school assessment, as determined by the department. The department
 22 shall post on its website guidelines for implementation of the
 23 immediately preceding sentence. Each pupil must successfully
 24 complete at least 1 mathematics course during ~~his or her~~ **the**
 25 **pupil's** final year of high school enrollment. This subparagraph
 26 does not require completion of mathematics courses in any
 27 particular sequence.

28 (ii) At least 3 credits in social science that are aligned with
 29 subject area content expectations developed by the department and

1 approved by the state board under section 1278b, including
2 completion of at least 1 credit in United States history and
3 geography, 1 credit in world history and geography, 1/2 credit in
4 economics, and the civics course described in section 1166(2). For
5 only pupils entering grade 8 before 2023, the 1/2-credit economics
6 requirement may be satisfied by completion of at least a 1/2-credit
7 course in personal economics that includes a financial literacy
8 component as described in section 1165, if that course covers the
9 subject area content expectations for economics developed by the
10 department and approved by the state board under section 1278b. The
11 1/2 credit in economics required under this subparagraph cannot be
12 fulfilled by completion of the 1/2 credit course in personal
13 finance described in subsection (3).

14 (iii) At least 1 credit in subject matter that includes both
15 health and physical education aligned with guidelines developed by
16 the department and approved by the state board under section 1278b,
17 or at least 1/2 credit in health aligned with guidelines developed
18 by the department and approved by the state board under section
19 1278b and at least 1/2 credit awarded by the school district or
20 public school academy for approved participation in extracurricular
21 athletics or other extracurricular activities involving physical
22 activity.

23 (iv) At least 1 credit in visual arts, performing arts, or
24 applied arts, as defined by the department, that is aligned with
25 guidelines developed by the department and approved by the state
26 board under section 1278b. A school district or public school
27 academy is strongly encouraged to offer visual arts and performing
28 arts courses.

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

1 (b) Meets the online course or learning experience requirement
2 of this subsection. A school district or public school academy
3 shall provide the basic level of technology and internet access
4 required by the state board to complete the online course or
5 learning experience. For a pupil to meet this requirement, the
6 pupil must meet either of the following, as determined by the
7 school district or public school academy:

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

10 (ii) The pupil's school district or public school academy has
11 integrated an online experience throughout the high school
12 curriculum by ensuring that each teacher of each course that
13 provides the required credits of the Michigan merit curriculum has
14 integrated an online experience into the course.

15 (2) Except as otherwise provided in this section, and in
16 addition to the requirements under subsection (1), the board of a
17 school district or board of directors of a public school academy
18 shall not award a high school diploma to a pupil unless the pupil
19 has successfully completed during grades K to 12 at least 2 credits
20 that are grade-appropriate in a language other than English or
21 course work or other learning experiences that are substantially
22 equivalent to 2 credits in a language other than English, based on
23 guidelines developed by the department. A pupil may partially or
24 fully fulfill 1 credit of this requirement by completing a
25 department-approved formal career and technical education program
26 or curriculum or by completing visual or performing arts
27 instruction that is in addition to the requirements under
28 subsection (1) (a) (iv). The board of a school district or board of
29 directors of a public school academy is strongly encouraged to

1 ensure that all pupils complete at least 1 credit in a language
 2 other than English in grades K to 6. For the purposes of this
 3 subsection, both of the following apply:

4 (a) American Sign Language is considered to be a language
 5 other than English.

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

8 (3) ~~Beginning~~ **Subject to subsection (8), beginning** with pupils
 9 entering grade 8 in 2023, the board of a school district or board
 10 of directors of a public school academy shall not award a high
 11 school diploma to a pupil unless the pupil completes a 1/2 credit
 12 course in personal finance. ~~that aligns with subject area content~~
 13 ~~expectations developed by the department and approved by the state~~
 14 ~~board under section 1278b.~~ The 1/2 credit course in personal
 15 finance must fulfill 1/2 credit of mathematics required under
 16 subsection (1) (a) (i), 1/2 credit of visual arts, performing arts, or
 17 applied arts required under subsection (1) (a) (iv), or 1/2 credit of
 18 a language other than English required under subsection (2), as
 19 determined by the board of the school district or board of
 20 directors of the public school academy in which the pupil is
 21 enrolled. The 1/2 credit course in personal finance required under
 22 this subsection may be fulfilled through a department-approved
 23 formal career and technical education program or curriculum. ~~that~~
 24 ~~aligns with the subject area content expectations developed by the~~
 25 ~~department and approved by the state board for the credit under~~
 26 ~~section 1278b.~~ **The 1/2 credit course in personal finance and the**
 27 **department-approved formal career and technical education program**
 28 **or curriculum must include all of the following:**

29 (a) **A definition of personal finance and consideration of how**

1 personal finance concepts fit into key life events or stages, and
2 an explanation of the importance of personal financial planning
3 using information sources including, but not limited to,
4 instructional materials, news articles, blogs from reputable
5 sources, personal narratives, and industry publications.

6 (b) The writing of short-term, mid-term, and long-term
7 personal financial goals. The personal financial goals must define
8 the pupil's desired education, career, and earning milestones, and
9 saving and spending plans, and must involve the pupil evaluating
10 factors that may influence the pupil's personal financial goals,
11 including, but not limited to, family responsibilities, individual
12 values, financial factors, and economic conditions. As used in this
13 subdivision:

14 (i) "Short-term" means less than 1 year from the time of
15 writing.

16 (ii) "Mid-term" means 1 to 5 years from the time of writing.

17 (iii) "Long-term" means greater than 5 years from the time of
18 writing.

19 (c) The completion of 1 or more career aptitude surveys, and
20 an analysis of the career aptitude survey results and how the
21 survey results align with the pupil's strengths and interests. The
22 analysis must evaluate education and training path options to
23 prepare the pupil for the identified jobs or careers of interest.

24 (d) The creation of an annotated chart, table, or graphic
25 based on the career of interest identified in subdivision (c), that
26 evaluates all of the following:

27 (i) Education and training, including, but not limited to,
28 admission requirements and tuition requirements.

29 (ii) Available positions.

1 (iii) Salaries.

2 (iv) Costs and benefits of education and training.

3 (v) Potential lifetime earnings.

4 (vi) Employer benefits.

5 (vii) Possible need for relocation to advance.

6 (e) An exploration and evaluation of the options for financing
7 postsecondary education, including, but not limited to, an
8 evaluation of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
9 requirements to apply for postsecondary financial aid, and
10 identification of strategies for reducing the overall cost of
11 postsecondary education. The evaluation described under this
12 subdivision must also discuss the impact of scholarships, grants,
13 work study, and other forms of assistance and the application
14 processes for each.

15 (f) An explanation of the impact that borrowing money to
16 finance postsecondary education could have on future financial
17 stability and security. The explanation described under this
18 subdivision must include an assessment of research from multiple
19 viewpoints that either support or question the use of student loan
20 debt in paying for postsecondary education.

21 (g) A requirement that the pupil craft an argumentative essay,
22 citing specific textual evidence, that either supports or opposes
23 the use of student loan debt to finance postsecondary education and
24 develops both sides of the argument.

25 (h) A description of factors that affect take-home pay,
26 including, but not limited to, insurance benefits, retirement
27 options, tax withholdings, and other payroll deductions. As part of
28 the instruction on factors that affect take-home pay, the pupil
29 must analyze how to complete a 1040 and a W-4 employee's

1 withholding allowance paperwork, and review a W-2 wage and tax
2 statement.

3 (i) Instruction on the use of money management tools,
4 including, but not limited to, online and paper budgeting tools and
5 cost-of-living calculators. As part of the instruction on the use
6 of money management tools, the pupil must create a personal balance
7 sheet, determine assets and liabilities, and calculate net worth
8 for an identified career.

9 (j) The creation, using research from local sources including,
10 but not limited to, newspapers, chambers of commerce, local
11 governments, and company websites, of a monthly personal budget
12 that reflects hypothetical household living expenses, taxes,
13 potential savings, and an emergency fund.

14 (k) Development, by the pupil, of a saving and spending plan
15 for a week. The pupil must compare the plan to the pupil's actual
16 spending for the week.

17 (l) Instruction on the availability and reliability of consumer
18 protection laws, agencies, and resources that assist consumers in
19 making buying decisions, including national, state, and local
20 resources, as appropriate.

21 (m) Information on a variety of financial institutions,
22 including digital financial services and how to reconcile an
23 account, write a check, and verify account accuracy. As part of the
24 instruction on financial institutions, the pupil must compare and
25 contrast services and products, including, but not limited to,
26 checking accounts, savings accounts, and certificates of deposit.

27 (n) An evaluation of the various sources and types of consumer
28 credit, including, but not limited to, student loans, auto loans,
29 store credit cards, flex loans, consumer installment loans, title

1 loans, payday loans, and instruction on the impact that taking on
2 debt early in life will have on financial stability later in life.

3 (o) An overview of credit reporting agencies, including, but
4 not limited to, Equifax, Experion, TransAmerica, and federal
5 organizations, that describes credit reports and credit scores. The
6 overview provided under this subdivision must do all of the
7 following:

8 (i) Describe the relationship between consumers, credit
9 reports, and credit scores, and discuss the importance of this
10 relationship using specific textual evidence from research.

11 (ii) Analyze a sample credit report and interpret how the
12 contents may affect the credit score.

13 (iii) Explain how a credit score may impact borrowing
14 opportunities and the cost of credit.

15 (iv) Summarize specific activities used to maintain a good
16 credit score.

17 (p) A comparison and contrast of the various types of credit
18 and a calculation of the real cost of borrowing, and an explanation
19 of factors that can affect the approval process associated with
20 each type of credit and identification of the typical information
21 and procedures required as part of the credit application process.

22 (q) An analysis of factors associated with the purchase of an
23 automobile. This analysis must include:

24 (i) A definition and understanding of factors most often
25 included in negotiations, such as cash payment compared to
26 financing and inclusion of a trade-in.

27 (ii) An evaluation of costs and benefits of different service
28 contracts and warranty options.

29 (iii) A comparison and contrast of available financing options

1 based on consumer characteristics and the amount of the down
2 payment.

3 (iv) A discussion of the differences between owning and leasing
4 a car, including, but not limited to, down payment, terms, and
5 contracts.

6 (r) An analysis of the benefits and costs associated with
7 various types of insurance, including, but not limited to, health,
8 life, property, and automobile insurance, and a description of the
9 risks associated with a lack of appropriate coverage in specific
10 situations. This analysis must also discuss the role of insurance
11 in personal financial planning to preserve and build wealth with
12 financial stability and security.

13 (s) Assessment of various types of identity theft situations
14 and scams, and strategies and plans to safeguard and protect
15 against identity theft, and discussion of steps that should be
16 taken by a victim of identity theft to report the incident and
17 reestablish the victim's identity.

18 (t) An explanation of how saving and investing contribute to
19 financial well-being, building wealth, and helping meet personal
20 financial goals. The instruction on saving and investing must
21 compare and contrast saving and investment strategies, including,
22 but not limited to, savings accounts, certificates of deposit,
23 stocks, bonds, mutual funds, employer-sponsored savings plans,
24 physical assets, and commodities.

25 (4) The requirements under this section and section 1278b for
26 a high school diploma are in addition to any local requirements
27 imposed by the board of a school district or board of directors of
28 a public school academy. The board of a school district or board of
29 directors of a public school academy, as a local requirement for a

1 high school diploma, may require a pupil to complete the Michigan
2 merit examination under section 1279g or may require a pupil to
3 participate in the MIAccess assessments if appropriate for the
4 pupil.

5 (5) For the purposes of this section and section 1278b, all of
6 the following apply:

7 (a) A pupil is considered to have completed a credit if the
8 pupil successfully completes the subject area content expectations
9 or guidelines developed by the department that apply to the credit.
10 For a career and technical education credit, a school district or
11 public school academy may supplement those content expectations and
12 guidelines with additional guidelines developed by the school
13 district or public school academy.

14 (b) A school district or public school academy shall base its
15 determination of whether a pupil has successfully completed the
16 subject area content expectations or guidelines developed by the
17 department that apply to a credit at least in part on the pupil's
18 performance on assessments developed or selected by the department
19 or on 1 or more assessments developed or selected by the school
20 district or public school academy that measure a pupil's
21 understanding of the subject area content expectations or
22 guidelines that apply to the credit.

23 (c) A school district or public school academy shall also
24 grant a pupil a credit if the pupil earns a qualifying score, as
25 determined by the department, on assessments developed or selected
26 for the subject area by the department or the pupil earns a
27 qualifying score, as determined by the school district or public
28 school academy, on 1 or more assessments developed or selected by
29 the school district or public school academy that measure a pupil's

1 understanding of the subject area content expectations or
2 guidelines that apply to the credit.

3 (6) If a high school is designated by the superintendent of
4 public instruction as a specialty school and the high school meets
5 the requirements of subsection (7), the pupils of the high school
6 are not required to successfully complete the 4 credits in English
7 language arts required under section 1278b(1)(a) or the 3 credits
8 in social science required under subsection (1)(a)(ii) and the
9 school district or public school academy is not required to ensure
10 that each pupil is offered the curriculum necessary for meeting
11 those English language arts or social science credit requirements.
12 The superintendent of public instruction may designate up to 15
13 high schools that meet the requirements of this subsection as
14 specialty schools. Subject to this maximum number, the
15 superintendent of public instruction shall designate a high school
16 as a specialty school if the superintendent of public instruction
17 finds that the high school meets all of the following criteria:

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

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

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

1 (a) The high school clearly states to prospective pupils and
2 their parents that it does not meet the requirements of the
3 Michigan merit standard under this section and section 1278b but is
4 a designated specialty school that is exempt from some of those
5 requirements and that a pupil who enrolls in the high school and
6 subsequently transfers to a high school that is not a specialty
7 school meeting the requirements of this subsection will be required
8 to comply with the requirements of the Michigan merit standard
9 under this section and section 1278b.

10 (b) For the most recent year for which the data are available,
11 the mean scores on both the mathematics and science portions of the
12 applicable state assessment for the pupils of the high school
13 exceed by at least 10% the mean scores on the mathematics and
14 science portions of the applicable state assessment for the pupils
15 of the school district in which the greatest number of the pupils
16 of the high school reside.

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

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

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

27 (f) All pupils of the high school are required to meet the
28 science credit requirements of section 1278b(1) (b) and are also
29 required to successfully complete at least 1 additional science

1 credit, for a total of at least 4 science credits, with no
2 modification of these requirements under section 1278b(5), and each
3 pupil is offered the curriculum necessary to meet this requirement.

4 **(8) The instruction required in subsection (3) (a) to (t) must**
5 **not be fulfilled through instruction in a course other than the 1/2**
6 **credit personal finance course or department-approved formal career**
7 **and technical education program or curriculum described in**
8 **subsection (3).**

9 Sec. 1278b. (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section
10 or section 1278a, as part of the requirements under section 1278a
11 the board of a school district or board of directors of a public
12 school academy shall not award a high school diploma to a pupil
13 unless the pupil has successfully completed all of the following
14 credit requirements of the Michigan merit standard before
15 graduating from high school:

16 (a) At least 4 credits in English language arts that are
17 aligned with subject area content expectations developed by the
18 department and approved by the state board under this section.

19 (b) At least 3 credits in science that are aligned with
20 subject area content expectations developed by the department and
21 approved by the state board under this section, including
22 completion of at least biology and either chemistry, physics,
23 anatomy, or agricultural science, or successfully completing a
24 program or curriculum that provides the same content as the
25 chemistry or physics benchmarks, as determined by the department. A
26 student may fulfill the requirement for the third science credit by
27 completing a department-approved computer science program or
28 curriculum or formal career and technical education program or
29 curriculum. The legislature strongly encourages pupils to complete

1 a fourth credit in science, such as forensics, astronomy, Earth
2 science, agricultural science, environmental science, geology,
3 physics, chemistry, physiology, or microbiology.

4 (c) The credit requirements specified in section 1278a(1)(a)(i)
5 to (iv).

6 (2) If a pupil successfully completes 1 or more of the high
7 school credits required under subsection (1) or under section
8 1278a(1) ~~or (3)~~ before entering high school, the pupil must be
9 given high school credit for that credit.

10 (3) For the purposes of this section and section 1278a, the
11 department shall do all of the following:

12 (a) Develop subject area content expectations that apply to
13 the credit requirements of the Michigan merit standard that are
14 required under subsection (1)(a) and (b) and section 1278a(1)(a)(i)
15 and (ii) ~~and the 1/2 credit course in personal finance required~~
16 ~~under section 1278a(3)~~ and develop guidelines for the remaining
17 credit requirements of the Michigan merit standard that are
18 required under this section and section 1278a(1)(a), for the online
19 course or learning experience required under section 1278a(1)(b),
20 and for the requirements for a language other than English under
21 section 1278a(2). All of the following apply to these subject area
22 content expectations and guidelines:

23 (i) All subject area content expectations must be consistent
24 with the state board recommended model core academic curriculum
25 content standards under section 1278. Subject area content
26 expectations or guidelines must not include attitudes, beliefs, or
27 value systems that are not essential in the legal, economic, and
28 social structure of our society and to the personal and social
29 responsibility of citizens of our society. The subject area content

1 expectations must require pupils to demonstrate critical thinking
2 skills.

3 (ii) The subject area content expectations and the guidelines
4 must be approved by the state board under subsection (4).

5 (iii) The subject area content expectations must state in clear
6 and measurable terms what pupils are expected to know upon
7 completion of each credit.

8 (iv) The department shall complete the development of the
9 subject area content expectations that apply to algebra I and the
10 guidelines for the online course or learning experience under
11 section 1278a(1)(b) not later than August 1, 2006.

12 (v) The department shall complete development of the subject
13 area content expectations or guidelines that apply to each of the
14 other credits required in the Michigan merit standard under
15 subsection (1) and section 1278a(1)(a) not later than 1 year before
16 the beginning of the school year in which a pupil entering high
17 school in 2007 would normally be expected to complete the credit.

18 (vi) If the department has not completed development of the
19 subject area content expectations that apply to a particular credit
20 required in the Michigan merit standard under subsection (1) or
21 section 1278a(1)(a) by the date required under this subdivision, a
22 school district or public school academy may align the content of
23 the credit with locally adopted standards.

24 (vii) Until all of the subject area content expectations and
25 guidelines have been developed by the department and approved by
26 the state board, the department shall submit a report at least
27 every 6 months to the senate and house standing committees
28 responsible for education legislation on the status of the
29 development of the subject area content expectations and

1 guidelines. The report must detail any failure by the department to
2 meet a deadline established under subparagraph (iv) or (v) and the
3 reasons for that failure.

4 (b) Develop and implement a process for developing the subject
5 area content expectations and guidelines required under this
6 section. This process must provide for all of the following:

7 (i) Soliciting input from all of the following groups:

8 (A) Recognized experts in the relevant subject areas.

9 (B) Representatives from 4-year colleges or universities,
10 community colleges, and other postsecondary institutions.

11 (C) Teachers, administrators, and school personnel who have
12 specialized knowledge of the subject area.

13 (D) Representatives from the business community.

14 (E) Representatives from vocational and career and technical
15 education providers.

16 (F) Government officials, including officials from the
17 legislature.

18 (G) Parents of public school pupils.

19 (ii) A review of the subject area content expectations or
20 guidelines by national experts.

21 (iii) An opportunity for the public to review and provide input
22 on the proposed subject area content expectations or guidelines
23 before they are submitted to the state board for approval. The time
24 period allowed for this review and input must be at least 15
25 business days.

26 (c) Determine the basic level of technology and internet
27 access required for pupils to complete the online course or
28 learning experience requirement of section 1278a(1)(b), and submit
29 that determination to the state board for approval.

1 (d) Develop and make available material to assist school
2 districts and public school academies in implementing the
3 requirements of this section and section 1278a. This must include
4 developing guidelines for alternative instructional delivery
5 methods as described in subsection (7).

6 (4) The state board shall approve subject area content
7 expectations and guidelines developed by the department under
8 subsection (3) before those subject area content expectations and
9 guidelines may take effect. The state board also shall approve the
10 basic level of technology and internet access required for pupils
11 to complete the online course or learning experience requirement of
12 section 1278a(1)(b).

13 (5) The parent or legal guardian of a pupil who has completed
14 grade 9, a teacher who is currently teaching the pupil, who
15 currently teaches in or whose expertise is in a subject area
16 proposed to be modified by the personal curriculum, or who is
17 determined by the principal to have qualifications otherwise
18 relevant to developing a personal curriculum, or a school counselor
19 or school employee qualified to act in a counseling role under
20 section 1233 or 1233a may request a personal curriculum under this
21 subsection for the pupil that modifies certain of the Michigan
22 merit standard requirements under subsection (1) or section
23 1278a(1)(a). If the request for a personal curriculum is made by
24 the pupil's parent or legal guardian or, if the pupil is at least
25 age 18 or is an emancipated minor, by the pupil, the school
26 district or public school academy shall develop a personal
27 curriculum for the pupil. A teacher, school counselor, or school
28 employee qualified to act in a counseling role under section 1233
29 or 1233a may contact a pupil's parent or legal guardian to discuss

1 the possibility and potential benefits of a personal curriculum
2 under this subsection for the pupil. If all of the requirements
3 under this subsection for completing a personal curriculum are met,
4 then the board of a school district or board of directors of a
5 public school academy may award a high school diploma to a pupil
6 who successfully completes ~~his or her~~ **the pupil's** personal
7 curriculum even if it does not meet the requirements of the
8 Michigan merit standard required under subsection (1) and section
9 1278a(1)(a). All of the following apply to a personal curriculum:

10 (a) The personal curriculum must be developed by a group that
11 includes at least the pupil, at least 1 of the pupil's parents or
12 the pupil's legal guardian, and a teacher described in this
13 subdivision or the pupil's high school counselor or another
14 designee qualified to act in a counseling role under section 1233
15 or 1233a selected by the high school principal. In addition, for a
16 pupil who receives special education services, a school
17 psychologist should also be included in this group. The teacher
18 included in the group developing the personal curriculum must be a
19 teacher who is currently teaching the pupil, who currently teaches
20 in or whose expertise is in a subject area being modified by the
21 personal curriculum, or who is determined by the principal to have
22 qualifications otherwise relevant to the group. This subdivision
23 does not require an in-person meeting of the group.

24 (b) The personal curriculum must do all of the following:

25 (i) Incorporate as much of the subject area content
26 expectations of the Michigan merit standard required under
27 subsection (1) and section 1278a(1)(a) as is practicable for the
28 pupil.

29 (ii) Establish measurable goals that the pupil must achieve

1 while enrolled in high school.

2 (iii) Provide a method to evaluate whether the pupil achieved
3 the goals described in subparagraph (ii).

4 (iv) Align with the pupil's educational development plan
5 developed under subsection (11).

6 (c) Before it takes effect, the personal curriculum must be
7 agreed to by the pupil's parent or legal guardian and by the
8 superintendent of the school district or chief executive of the
9 public school academy or his or her designee.

10 (d) The pupil's parent or legal guardian shall communicate
11 with each of the pupil's teachers to monitor the pupil's progress
12 toward the goals contained in the pupil's personal curriculum.

13 (e) Revisions may be made in the personal curriculum if the
14 revisions are developed and agreed to in the same manner as the
15 original personal curriculum.

16 (f) The English language arts credit requirements of
17 subsection (1)(a) and the science credit requirements of subsection
18 (1)(b) are not subject to modification as part of a personal
19 curriculum under this subsection.

20 (g) The mathematics credit requirements of section
21 1278a(1)(a)(i) may be modified as part of a personal curriculum if
22 the pupil successfully completes at least 3-1/2 total credits of
23 the mathematics credits required under that section before
24 completing high school, including algebra I and geometry, and
25 successfully completes at least 1 mathematics credit during ~~his or~~
26 ~~her~~ **the pupil's** final 2 years of high school. The algebra II credit
27 required under that section may be modified as part of a personal
28 curriculum under this subsection if the pupil meets 1 or more of
29 the following:

1 (i) Successfully completes the same content as 1 semester of
2 algebra II, as determined by the department.

3 (ii) Elects to complete the same content as algebra II over 2
4 years, with a credit awarded for each of those 2 years, and
5 successfully completes that content.

6 (iii) Enrolls in a formal career and technical education program
7 or curriculum and in that program or curriculum successfully
8 completes the same content as the algebra II benchmarks assessed on
9 the department-prescribed state high school assessment, as
10 determined by the department.

11 (iv) Successfully completes 1 semester of statistics, functions
12 and data analysis, or technical mathematics.

13 (h) The social science credit requirements of section
14 1278a(1) (a) (ii) may be modified as part of a personal curriculum
15 only if all of the following are met:

16 (i) The pupil has successfully completed 2 credits of the
17 social science credits required under section 1278a(1), including
18 the civics course described in section 1166(2).

19 (ii) The modification requires the pupil to complete 1
20 additional credit in English language arts, mathematics, or science
21 or 1 additional credit in a language other than English, or
22 requires the pupil to complete a formal career and technical
23 education program. This additional credit must be in addition to
24 the number of those credits otherwise required under subsection (1)
25 and section 1278a(1) or under section 1278a(2).

26 (i) The health and physical education credit requirement under
27 section 1278a(1) (a) (iii) may be modified as part of a personal
28 curriculum only if the modification requires the pupil to complete
29 1 additional credit in English language arts, mathematics, or

1 science or 1 additional credit in a language other than English, or
2 requires the pupil to complete a formal career and technical
3 education program. This additional credit must be in addition to
4 the number of those credits otherwise required under subsection (1)
5 and section 1278a(1) or under section 1278a(2).

6 (j) The visual arts, performing arts, or applied arts credit
7 requirement under section 1278a(1) (a) (iv) may be modified as part of
8 a personal curriculum only if the modification requires the pupil
9 to complete 1 additional credit in English language arts,
10 mathematics, or science or 1 additional credit in a language other
11 than English, or requires the pupil to complete a formal career and
12 technical education program. This additional credit must be in
13 addition to the number of those credits otherwise required under
14 subsection (1) and section 1278a(1) or under section 1278a(2).

15 (k) If the parent or legal guardian of a pupil requests as
16 part of the pupil's personal curriculum a modification of the
17 Michigan merit standard requirements that would not otherwise be
18 allowed under this section and demonstrates that the modification
19 is necessary because the pupil is a child with a disability, the
20 school district or public school academy may allow that additional
21 modification to the extent necessary because of the pupil's
22 disability if the group under subdivision (a) determines that the
23 modification is consistent with both the pupil's educational
24 development plan under subsection (11) and the pupil's
25 individualized education program. If the superintendent of public
26 instruction has reason to believe that a school district or a
27 public school academy is allowing modifications inconsistent with
28 the requirements of this subdivision, the superintendent of public
29 instruction shall monitor the school district or public school

1 academy to ensure that the school district's or public school
2 academy's policies, procedures, and practices are in compliance
3 with the requirements for additional modifications under this
4 subdivision. As used in this subdivision, "child with a disability"
5 means that term as defined in 20 USC 1401.

6 (l) If a pupil transfers to a school district or public school
7 academy from out of state or from a nonpublic school, the pupil's
8 parent or legal guardian may request, as part of the pupil's
9 personal curriculum, a modification of the Michigan merit standard
10 requirements that would not otherwise be allowed under this
11 section. The school district or public school academy may allow
12 this additional modification for a transfer pupil if all of the
13 following are met:

14 (i) The transfer pupil has successfully completed at least the
15 equivalent of 2 years of high school credit out of state or at a
16 nonpublic school. The school district or public school academy may
17 use appropriate assessment examinations to determine what credits,
18 if any, the pupil has earned out of state or at a nonpublic school
19 that may be used to satisfy the curricular requirements of the
20 Michigan merit standard and this subdivision.

21 (ii) The transfer pupil's personal curriculum incorporates as
22 much of the subject area content expectations of the Michigan merit
23 standard as is practicable for the pupil.

24 (iii) The transfer pupil's personal curriculum requires the
25 pupil to successfully complete at least 1 mathematics course during
26 ~~his or her~~ **the pupil's** final year of high school enrollment. In
27 addition, if the transfer pupil is enrolled in the school district
28 or public school academy for at least 1 full school year, both of
29 the following apply:

1 (A) The transfer pupil's personal curriculum must require that
2 this mathematics course is at least algebra I.

3 (B) If the transfer pupil demonstrates that ~~he or she~~ **the**
4 **pupil** has mastered the content of algebra I, the transfer pupil's
5 personal curriculum must require that this mathematics course is a
6 course normally taken after completing algebra I.

7 (iv) The transfer pupil's personal curriculum includes the
8 civics course described in section 1166(2).

9 (m) If a pupil is at least age 18 or is an emancipated minor,
10 the pupil may act on ~~his or her~~ **the pupil's** own behalf under this
11 subsection.

12 (n) This subsection does not apply to a pupil enrolled in a
13 high school that is designated as a specialty school under section
14 1278a(6) and that is exempt under that section from the English
15 language arts requirement under subsection (1)(a) and the social
16 science credit requirement under section 1278a(1)(a)(ii).

17 (o) The department or a school district or public school
18 academy shall not limit or discourage the number of pupils with a
19 personal curriculum on any basis other than the best interests of
20 each individual pupil.

21 (p) A school district or public school academy annually shall
22 notify each of its pupils and a parent or legal guardian of each of
23 its pupils that all pupils are entitled to a personal curriculum
24 under this subsection. The annual notice must include an
25 explanation of what a personal curriculum is and state that if a
26 personal curriculum is requested, the public school or public
27 school academy will grant that request. The school district or
28 public school academy shall provide this annual notice to parents
29 and legal guardians by sending a written notice to each pupil's

1 home or by including the notice in a newsletter, student handbook,
2 or similar communication that is sent to a pupil's home, and also
3 shall post the notice on the school district's or public school
4 academy's website.

5 (6) If a pupil receives special education services, the
6 pupil's individualized education program, in accordance with the
7 individuals with disabilities education act, ~~title VI of Public Law~~
8 ~~91-230,~~ **20 USC 1400 to 1482**, must identify the appropriate course
9 or courses of study and identify the supports, accommodations, and
10 modifications necessary to allow the pupil to progress in the
11 curricular requirements of this section and section 1278a, or in a
12 personal curriculum as provided under subsection (5), and meet the
13 requirements for a high school diploma.

14 (7) The board of a school district or board of directors of a
15 public school academy that operates a high school shall ensure that
16 each pupil is offered the curriculum necessary for the pupil to
17 meet the curricular requirements of this section and section 1278a.
18 The board or board of directors may provide this curriculum by
19 providing the credits specified in this section and section 1278a,
20 by using alternative instructional delivery methods such as
21 alternative course work, humanities course sequences, career and
22 technical education, industrial technology courses, or vocational
23 education, or by a combination of these. School districts and
24 public school academies that operate career and technical education
25 programs are encouraged to integrate the credit requirements of
26 this section and section 1278a into those programs.

27 (8) If the board of a school district or board of directors of
28 a public school academy wants its high school to be accredited
29 under section 1280, the board or board of directors shall ensure

1 that all elements of the curriculum required under this section and
2 section 1278a are made available to all affected pupils. If a
3 school district or public school academy does not offer all of the
4 required credits, the board of the school district or board of
5 directors of the public school academy shall ensure that the pupil
6 has access to the required credits by another means, such as
7 enrollment in a postsecondary course under the postsecondary
8 enrollment options act, 1996 PA 160, MCL 388.511 to 388.524;
9 enrollment in an online course; a cooperative arrangement with a
10 neighboring school district or with a public school academy; or
11 granting approval under section 6(6) of the state school aid act of
12 1979, MCL 388.1606, for the pupil to be counted in membership in
13 another school district.

14 (9) If a pupil is not successfully completing a credit
15 required for graduation under this section and section 1278a, or is
16 identified as being at risk of withdrawing from high school, then
17 the pupil's school district or public school academy shall notify
18 the pupil's parent or legal guardian or, if the pupil is at least
19 age 18 or is an emancipated minor, the pupil, of the availability
20 of tutoring or other supplemental educational support and
21 counseling services that may be available to the pupil under
22 existing state or federal programs, such as those programs or
23 services available under section 31a of the state school aid act of
24 1979, MCL 388.1631a, or under the no child left behind act of 2001,
25 Public Law 107-110, or every student succeeds act, Public Law 114-
26 95.

27 (10) To the extent required by the no child left behind act of
28 2001, Public Law 107-110, or **the** every student succeeds act, Public
29 Law 114-95, the board of a school district or public school academy

1 shall ensure that all components of the curricular requirements
2 under this section and section 1278a are taught by highly qualified
3 teachers. If a school district or public school academy
4 demonstrates to the department that the school district or public
5 school academy is unable to meet the requirements of this section
6 because the school district or public school academy is unable to
7 hire enough highly qualified teachers, the department shall work
8 with the school district or public school academy to develop a plan
9 to allow the school district or public school academy to hire
10 enough highly qualified teachers to meet the requirements of this
11 section.

12 (11) The board of a school district or board of directors of a
13 public school academy shall provide the opportunity for each pupil
14 to develop an educational development plan during grade 7, and
15 shall ensure that each pupil reviews ~~his or her~~ **the pupil's**
16 educational development plan during grade 8 and revises it as
17 appropriate before ~~he or she~~ **the pupil** begins high school. The
18 board of a school district or board of directors of a public school
19 academy shall also ensure that each pupil reviews and revises ~~his~~
20 ~~or her~~ **the pupil's** educational development plan as appropriate
21 during each year of high school. An educational development plan
22 must be developed, reviewed, and revised by the pupil under the
23 supervision of the pupil's school counselor or another designee
24 qualified to act in a counseling role under section 1233 or 1233a
25 selected by the school principal and must be based on high school
26 readiness scores and a career pathways program or similar career
27 exploration program. An educational development plan must be
28 designed to assist pupils to identify career development goals as
29 they relate to academic requirements. During the process of

1 developing and reviewing a pupil's educational development plan,
2 the pupil must be advised that many of the curricular requirements
3 of this section and section 1278a may be fulfilled through career
4 and technical education. In addition, during the process of
5 developing and reviewing an educational development plan, the pupil
6 must be provided with all of the following:

7 (a) Information on various types of careers and current and
8 projected job openings in this state and those jobs' actual and
9 projected wages.

10 (b) An opportunity to explore careers specific to a pupil's
11 interests and identify career pathways and goals for achieving
12 success in those careers, including, but not limited to, the level
13 and type of educational preparation necessary to accomplish those
14 goals.

15 (c) An opportunity to develop a talent portfolio. A talent
16 portfolio must be developed and revised throughout the
17 implementation of a pupil's educational development plan. A talent
18 portfolio must include, but is not limited to, a record of the
19 pupil's experiences, proficiencies, certifications, or
20 accomplishments that demonstrate talents or marketable skills. The
21 department, in conjunction with the department of labor and
22 economic opportunity, shall develop and make available to the
23 public schools model information materials that districts or public
24 school academies may use to comply with this subdivision.

25 (12) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, if a
26 school district or public school academy is unable to implement all
27 of the curricular requirements of this section and section 1278a
28 for pupils entering grade 9 in 2007 or is unable to implement
29 another requirement of this section or section 1278a, the school

1 district or public school academy may apply to the department for
 2 permission to phase in 1 or more of the requirements of this
 3 section or section 1278a. To apply, the school district or public
 4 school academy shall submit a proposed phase-in plan to the
 5 department. The department shall approve a phase-in plan if the
 6 department determines that the plan will result in the school
 7 district or public school academy making satisfactory progress
 8 toward full implementation of the requirements of this section and
 9 section 1278a. If the department disapproves a proposed phase-in
 10 plan, the department shall work with the school district or public
 11 school academy to develop a satisfactory plan that may be approved.
 12 This subsection does not apply to a high school that is designated
 13 as a specialty school under section 1278a(6) and that is exempt
 14 under ~~that~~ section **1278a(6)** from the English language arts
 15 requirement under subsection (1)(a) and the social science credit
 16 requirement under section 1278a(1)(a)(ii).

17 (13) This section and section 1278a do not prohibit a pupil
 18 from satisfying or exceeding the credit requirements of the
 19 Michigan merit standard under this section and section 1278a
 20 through advanced studies such as accelerated course placement,
 21 advanced placement, dual enrollment in a postsecondary institution,
 22 or participation in the international baccalaureate program or an
 23 early ~~college/middle~~ **college or middle** college program.

24 (14) Not later than April 1 of each year, the department shall
 25 submit an annual report to the legislature that evaluates the
 26 overall success of the curriculum required under this section and
 27 section 1278a, the rigor and relevance of the course work required
 28 by the curriculum, the ability of public schools to implement the
 29 curriculum and the required course work, and the impact of the

1 curriculum on pupil success, and that details any activities the
2 department has undertaken to implement this section and section
3 1278a or to assist public schools in implementing the requirements
4 of this section and section 1278a.