

HOUSE BILL NO. 4974

September 17, 2019, Introduced by Rep. VanWoerkom 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 2018 PA 232.

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:



1 (a) Has successfully completed all of the following credit
2 requirements of the Michigan merit standard before graduating from
3 high school:

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

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

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

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

27 (b) Meets the online course or learning experience requirement
28 of this subsection. A school district or public school academy
29 shall provide the basic level of technology and internet access



1 required by the state board to complete the online course or
2 learning experience. For a pupil to meet this requirement, the
3 pupil ~~shall~~**must** meet either of the following, as determined by the
4 school district or public school academy:

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

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

12 (2) In addition to the requirements under subsection (1),
13 beginning with pupils entering grade 3 in 2006, the board of a
14 school district or board of directors of a public school academy
15 shall not award a high school diploma to a pupil unless the pupil
16 has successfully completed during grades K to 12 at least 2 credits
17 that are grade-appropriate in a language other than English or
18 course work or other learning experiences that are substantially
19 equivalent to 2 credits in a language other than English, based on
20 guidelines developed by the department. For pupils who graduate
21 from high school in 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023,
22 or 2024 only, a pupil may partially or fully fulfill 1 credit of
23 this requirement by completing a department-approved formal career
24 and technical education program or curriculum or by completing
25 visual or performing arts instruction that is in addition to the
26 requirements under subsection (1) (a) (iv). The board of a school
27 district or board of directors of a public school academy is
28 strongly encouraged to ensure that all pupils complete at least 1
29 credit in a language other than English in grades K to 6. For the



1 purposes of this subsection, all of the following apply:

2 (a) American ~~sign language~~ **Sign Language** is considered to be a
3 language other than English.

4 (b) **Computer coding is considered to be a language other than**
5 **English.**

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

8 ~~(c) Not later than September 1, 2018, and not later than~~
9 ~~September 1 of each subsequent school year, a school district or~~
10 ~~public school academy shall report to the department both of the~~
11 ~~following, in a form and manner prescribed by the department:~~

12 ~~(i) The number of pupils who partially or fully fulfilled 1~~
13 ~~credit in a language other than English by completing a department-~~
14 ~~approved formal career and technical education program or~~
15 ~~curriculum under this subsection in the immediately preceding~~
16 ~~school year.~~

17 ~~(ii) The number of pupils who partially or fully fulfilled 1~~
18 ~~credit in a language other than English by completing visual or~~
19 ~~performing arts instruction that is in addition to the requirements~~
20 ~~under subsection (1) (a) (iv) under this subsection in the immediately~~
21 ~~preceding school year.~~

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



1 pupil.

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

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

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

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

29 (5) If a high school is designated by the superintendent of



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

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

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

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

28 (a) The high school clearly states to prospective pupils and
29 their parents that it does not meet the requirements of the



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

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

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

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

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

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



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

