

# SENATE BILL No. 834

October 17, 2007, Introduced by Senators SWITALSKI and JACOBS 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 added by 2006 PA 124.

**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  
10 subject area content expectations developed by the department and

1 approved by the state board under section 1278b, including  
2 completion of at least algebra I, geometry, and algebra II, or an  
3 integrated sequence of this course content that consists of 3  
4 credits, and an additional mathematics credit, such as  
5 trigonometry, statistics, precalculus, calculus, applied math,  
6 accounting, business math, **A COURSE IN FINANCIAL LITERACY AS**  
7 **DESCRIBED IN SECTION 1165**, or a retake of algebra II. Each pupil  
8 must successfully complete at least 1 mathematics course during his  
9 or her final year of high school enrollment.

10 (ii) At least 3 credits in social science that are aligned with  
11 subject area content expectations developed by the department and  
12 approved by the state board under section 1278b, including  
13 completion of at least 1 credit in United States history and  
14 geography, 1 credit in world history and geography, 1/2 credit in  
15 economics, and the civics course described in section 1166(2).

16 (iii) At least 1 credit in subject matter that includes both  
17 health and physical education aligned with guidelines developed by  
18 the department and approved by the state board under section 1278b.

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

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

24 (b) Meets the online course or learning experience requirement  
25 of this subsection. A school district or public school academy  
26 shall provide the basic level of technology and internet access  
27 required by the state board to complete the online course or

1 learning experience. For a pupil to meet this requirement, the  
2 pupil shall meet either of the following, as determined by the  
3 school district or public school academy:

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

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

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

22 (a) American sign language is considered to be a language  
23 other than English.

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

26 (3) The requirements under this section and section 1278b for  
27 a high school diploma are in addition to any local requirements

1 imposed by the board of a school district or board of directors of  
2 a public school academy. The board of a school district or board of  
3 directors of a public school academy, as a local requirement for a  
4 high school diploma, may require a pupil to complete some or all of  
5 the subject area assessments under section 1279 or the Michigan  
6 merit examination under section 1279g, as applicable to the pupil  
7 under section 1279g, or may require a pupil to participate in the  
8 MIAccess assessments if appropriate for the pupil.

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

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

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 the assessments developed or selected by the  
19 department under section 1278b or on 1 or more assessments  
20 developed or selected by the school district or public school  
21 academy that measure a pupil's understanding of the subject area  
22 content expectations or 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 the assessments developed or  
26 selected for the subject area by the department under section 1278b  
27 or the pupil earns a qualifying score, as determined by the school

1 district or public school academy, on 1 or more assessments  
2 developed or selected by the school district or public school  
3 academy that measure a pupil's understanding of the subject area  
4 content expectations or guidelines that apply to the credit.

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

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

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

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

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

15           (b) For the most recent year for which the data are available,  
16 the mean scores on both the mathematics and science portions of the  
17 ACT examination for the pupils of the high school exceed by at  
18 least 10% the mean scores on the mathematics and science portions  
19 of the ACT examination for the pupils of the school district in  
20 which the greatest number of the pupils of the high school reside.

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

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

27           (e) All pupils of the high school are required to meet the

1 mathematics credit requirements of subsection (1)(a)(i), 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 (f) All pupils of the high school are required to meet the  
5 science credit requirements of section 1278b(1)(b) and are also  
6 required to successfully complete at least 1 additional science  
7 credit, for a total of at least 4 science credits, with no  
8 modification of these requirements under section 1278b(5), and each  
9 pupil is offered the curriculum necessary to meet this requirement.