

HOUSE BILL No. 5645

May 16, 2012, Introduced by Reps. Nesbitt, Genetski, Glardon and Horn 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~~ **SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (7),** AT least 4 credits in
10 mathematics that are aligned with subject area content expectations

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

(ii) At least 3 credits in social science that are aligned with subject area content expectations developed by the department and approved by the state board under section 1278b, including completion of at least 1 credit in United States history and

1 geography, 1 credit in world history and geography, 1/2 credit in
2 economics, and the civics course described in section 1166(2).

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

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

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

11 (b) Meets the online course or learning experience requirement
12 of this subsection. A school district or public school academy
13 shall provide the basic level of technology and internet access
14 required by the state board to complete the online course or
15 learning experience. For a pupil to meet this requirement, the
16 pupil shall meet either of the following, as determined by the
17 school district or public school academy:

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

20 (ii) The pupil's school district or public school academy has
21 integrated an online experience throughout the high school
22 curriculum by ensuring that each teacher of each course that
23 provides the required credits of the Michigan merit curriculum has
24 integrated an online experience into the course.

25 (2) In addition to the requirements under subsection (1) **AND**
26 **SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (7)**, beginning with pupils entering grade 3
27 in 2006, the board of a school district or board of directors of a

1 public school academy shall not award a high school diploma to a
2 pupil unless the pupil has successfully completed during grades 9
3 to 12 at least 2 credits, as determined by the department, in a
4 language other than English, or the pupil has successfully
5 completed at any time during grades K to 12 course work or other
6 learning experiences that are substantially equivalent to 2 credits
7 in a language other than English, based on guidelines developed by
8 the department. For the purposes of this subsection, all of the
9 following apply:

10 (a) American sign language is considered to be a language
11 other than English.

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

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

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

25 (a) A pupil is considered to have completed a credit if the
26 pupil successfully completes the subject area content expectations
27 or guidelines developed by the department that apply to the credit

1 OR, FOR A CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION CREDIT, THE PUPIL
2 SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETES THE SUBJECT AREA CONTENT EXPECTATIONS OR
3 GUIDELINES DEVELOPED BY THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OR PUBLIC SCHOOL
4 ACADEMY THAT APPLY TO THE CREDIT.

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

14 (c) A school district or public school academy shall also
15 grant a pupil a credit if the pupil earns a qualifying score, as
16 determined by the department, on the assessments developed or
17 selected for the subject area by the department under section 1278b
18 or the pupil earns a qualifying score, as determined by the school
19 district or public school academy, 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 (5) If a high school is designated by the superintendent of
24 public instruction as a specialty school and the high school meets
25 the requirements of subsection (6), then the pupils of the high
26 school are not required to successfully complete the 4 credits in
27 English language arts required under section 1278b(1)(a) or the 3

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

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

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

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

24 (a) The high school clearly states to prospective pupils and
25 their parents that it does not meet the requirements of the
26 Michigan merit standard under this section and section 1278b but is
27 a designated specialty school that is exempt from some of those

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 (7) BOTH OF THE FOLLOWING APPLY TO THE CREDIT REQUIREMENTS OF
2 THE MICHIGAN MERIT STANDARD UNDER THIS SECTION:

3 (A) A PUPIL IS NOT REQUIRED TO SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE THE
4 ALGEBRA II REQUIREMENT UNDER SUBSECTION (1) (A) IF THE PUPIL HAS
5 SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED AT LEAST 1 ADDITIONAL SCIENCE CREDIT, FOR A
6 TOTAL OF AT LEAST 4 SCIENCE CREDITS, OF THE TYPE DESCRIBED IN
7 SECTION 1278(1) (B), OR HAS SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED AT LEAST 1 CAREER
8 AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION CREDIT THAT MEETS THE DEPARTMENT'S
9 STANDARDS FOR CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION.

10 (B) A PUPIL IS NOT REQUIRED TO SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE THE
11 REQUIREMENT OF 2 CREDITS IN A LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH UNDER
12 SUBSECTION (2) IF THE PUPIL HAS SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED AT LEAST 2
13 ADDITIONAL SCIENCE CREDITS, FOR A TOTAL OF AT LEAST 5 SCIENCE
14 CREDITS, OF THE TYPE DESCRIBED IN SECTION 1278(1) (B), OR HAS
15 SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED AT LEAST 2 CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION
16 CREDITS THAT MEET THE DEPARTMENT'S STANDARDS FOR CAREER AND
17 TECHNICAL EDUCATION.