

HOUSE BILL No. 4072

January 22, 2013, Introduced by Reps. Nesbitt, McBroom, O'Brien, Cotter and Pscholka 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
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 retake of algebra II, a course in
7 financial literacy as described in section 1165. A pupil may
8 complete algebra II over 2 years with 2 credits awarded or over 1.5
9 years with 1.5 credits awarded for the purposes of this section and
10 section 1278b. A pupil also may partially or fully fulfill the
11 algebra II requirement by completing a department-approved formal
12 career and technical education program or curriculum that has **ANY**
13 appropriate embedded mathematics content, such as a program or
14 curriculum in electronics, machining, construction, welding,
15 engineering, or renewable energy. ~~Not later than 30 days after the~~
16 ~~effective date of the amendatory act that added the immediately~~
17 ~~preceding sentence, the~~ **THE** department shall post on its website
18 and submit to the senate and house standing committees on education
19 guidelines for implementation of the immediately preceding
20 sentence. Each pupil must successfully complete at least 1
21 mathematics course during his or her final year of high school
22 enrollment. This subparagraph does not require completion of
23 mathematics courses in any particular sequence.

24 (ii) At least 3 credits in social science that are aligned with
25 subject area content expectations developed by the department and
26 approved by the state board under section 1278b, including
27 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. **AS USED IN THIS SUBPARAGRAPH, "APPLIED**
10 **ARTS" MEANS CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION.**

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

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

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

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

26 (2) In addition to the requirements under subsection (1),
27 ~~beginning with pupils entering grade 3 in 2006,~~ the board of a

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

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

13 (b) ~~The pupil may meet all or part of this requirement with~~
14 **SOME OR ALL OF THIS COURSEWORK OR OTHER LEARNING EXPERIENCES MAY BE**
15 **OFFERED USING** online course work **OR OTHER ONLINE LEARNING**
16 **EXPERIENCES.**

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

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

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

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

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

22 (5) If a high school is designated by the superintendent of
23 public instruction as a specialty school and the high school meets
24 the requirements of subsection (6), then the pupils of the high
25 school are not required to successfully complete the 4 credits in
26 English language arts required under section 1278b(1)(a) or the 3
27 credits in social science required under subsection (1)(a)(ii) and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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