

# SENATE BILL NO. 171

March 07, 2019, Introduced by Senator STAMAS and referred to the Committee on Education and Career Readiness.

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

1 unless the pupil meets all of the following:

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

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

29 (ii) At least 3 credits in social science that are aligned with

1 subject area content expectations developed by the department and  
2 approved by the state board under section 1278b, including  
3 completion of at least 1 credit in United States history and  
4 geography, 1 credit in world history and geography, 1/2 credit in  
5 economics, and the civics course described in section 1166(2). The  
6 1/2-credit economics requirement may be satisfied by completion of  
7 at least a 1/2-credit course in personal economics that includes a  
8 financial literacy component as described in section 1165, if that  
9 course covers the subject area content expectations for economics  
10 developed by the department and approved by the state board under  
11 section 1278b.

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

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

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

28 (b) Meets the online course or learning experience requirement  
29 of this subsection. A school district or public school academy

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

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

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

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

1 credit in a language other than English in grades K to 6. For the  
 2 purposes of this subsection, ~~all~~**both** of the following apply:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

28           (5) If a high school is designated by the superintendent of  
29 public instruction as a specialty school and the high school meets

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

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

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

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

27 (a) The high school clearly states to prospective pupils and  
28 their parents that it does not meet the requirements of the  
29 Michigan merit standard under this section and section 1278b but is

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

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

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

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

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

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