

**SUBSTITUTE FOR
HOUSE BILL NO. 4317**

A bill to amend 1976 PA 451, entitled
"The revised school code,"
by amending section 1278a (MCL 380.1278a), as amended by 2015 PA
186.

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:

(i) At least 4 credits in 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, or 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, such as a program or curriculum in electronics, machining, construction, welding, engineering, computer science, or renewable energy, and in that program or curriculum successfully completing the same content as the algebra II benchmarks assessed on the department-prescribed state high school assessment, as determined by the department. The department shall post on its website 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

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

10 (iii) At least 1 credit in subject matter that includes both
11 health and physical education aligned with guidelines developed by
12 the department and approved by the state board under section 1278b,
13 or at least 1/2 credit in health aligned with guidelines developed
14 by the department and approved by the state board under section
15 1278b and at least 1/2 credit awarded by the school district or
16 public school academy for approved participation in extracurricular
17 athletics or other extracurricular activities involving physical
18 activity. **A PUPIL ENROLLED IN A DEPARTMENT-APPROVED FORMAL CAREER
19 AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM OR CURRICULUM MAY FULFILL THE
20 HEALTH EDUCATION REQUIREMENT UNDER THIS SUBPARAGRAPH BY COMPLETING
21 A 30-HOUR EDUCATIONAL TRAINING COURSE DESIGNED BY THE OCCUPATIONAL
22 SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION WITHIN THE UNITED STATES
23 DEPARTMENT OF LABOR RELATING TO OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH
24 STANDARDS APPLICABLE TO GENERAL INDUSTRY OR CONSTRUCTION.**

25 (iv) At least 1 credit in visual arts, performing arts, or
26 applied arts, as defined by the department, that is aligned with
27 guidelines developed by the department and approved by the state

1 board under section 1278b. A school district or public school
2 academy is strongly encouraged to offer visual arts and performing
3 arts courses.

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

5 (b) Meets the online course or learning experience requirement
6 of this subsection. A school district or public school academy
7 shall provide the basic level of technology and internet access
8 required by the state board to complete the online course or
9 learning experience. For a pupil to meet this requirement, the
10 pupil shall meet either of the following, as determined by the
11 school district or public school academy:

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

14 (ii) The pupil's school district or public school academy has
15 integrated an online experience throughout the high school
16 curriculum by ensuring that each teacher of each course that
17 provides the required credits of the Michigan merit curriculum has
18 integrated an online experience into the course.

19 (2) In addition to the requirements under subsection (1),
20 beginning with pupils entering grade 3 in 2006, the board of a
21 school district or board of directors of a public school academy
22 shall not award a high school diploma to a pupil unless the pupil
23 has successfully completed during grades K to 12 at least 2 credits
24 that are grade-appropriate in a language other than English or
25 course work or other learning experiences that are substantially
26 equivalent to 2 credits in a language other than English, based on
27 guidelines developed by the department. For pupils who graduate

1 from high school in 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, or 2021 only, a
2 pupil may partially or fully fulfill 1 credit of this requirement
3 by completing a department-approved formal career and technical
4 education program or curriculum or by completing visual or
5 performing arts instruction that is in addition to the requirements
6 under subsection (1)(a)(iv). The board of a school district or
7 board of directors of a public school academy is strongly
8 encouraged to ensure that all pupils complete at least 1 credit in
9 a language other than English in grades K to 6. For the purposes of
10 this 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 online course work.

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

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

26 (a) A pupil is considered to have completed a credit if the
27 pupil successfully completes the subject area content expectations

1 or guidelines developed by the department that apply to the credit.
2 For a career and technical education credit, a school district or
3 public school academy may supplement those content expectations and
4 guidelines with additional guidelines developed by the school
5 district or public school academy.

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

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

24 (5) If a high school is designated by the superintendent of
25 public instruction as a specialty school and the high school meets
26 the requirements of subsection (6), then the pupils of the high
27 school are not required to successfully complete the 4 credits in

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

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

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

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

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

1 pupil is offered the curriculum necessary to meet this requirement.
2 Enacting section 1. This amendatory act takes effect 90 days
3 after the date it is enacted into law.