

HOUSE BILL No. 4762

April 2, 2009, Introduced by Reps. Genetski, Haines, Opsommer, Ball, Barnett, Caul, Pearce, Tyler, Daley, Lund, Knollenberg, Rick Jones, Agema, Meltzer, Walsh, Bolger, Stamas and Moore 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 2008 PA
316.

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:

1 (i) At least 4 credits in mathematics that are aligned with
2 subject area content expectations developed by the department and
3 approved by the state board under section 1278b, including
4 completion of at least algebra I, geometry, and algebra II, or an
5 integrated sequence of this course content that consists of 3
6 credits, and an additional mathematics credit, such as
7 trigonometry, statistics, precalculus, calculus, applied math,
8 accounting, business math, a retake of algebra II, a course in
9 financial literacy as described in section 1165. A pupil may
10 complete algebra II over 2 years with a credit awarded for each of
11 those years for the purposes of this section and section 1278b.
12 Each pupil must successfully complete at least 1 mathematics course
13 during his or her final year of high school enrollment. This
14 subparagraph does not require completion of mathematics courses in
15 any particular sequence.

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

22 (iii) ~~At~~ **EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE PROVIDED IN THIS SUBPARAGRAPH, AT**
23 least 1 credit in subject matter that includes both health and
24 physical education aligned with guidelines developed by the
25 department and approved by the state board under section 1278b. **A**
26 **BOARD OR BOARD OF DIRECTORS MAY ADOPT A LOCAL POLICY THAT CREDITS A**
27 **PUPIL'S PARTICIPATION IN AN INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ACTIVITY AS**

1 **MEETING THIS REQUIREMENT, WHETHER OR NOT THE BOARD OR BOARD OF**
2 **DIRECTORS GRANTS ACADEMIC CREDIT FOR THAT ACTIVITY.**

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

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

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

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

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

22 (2) In addition to the requirements under subsection (1),
23 beginning with pupils entering grade 3 in 2006, the board of a
24 school district or board of directors of a public school academy
25 shall not award a high school diploma to a pupil unless the pupil
26 has successfully completed during grades 9 to 12 at least 2
27 credits, as determined by the department, in a language other than

1 English, or the pupil has successfully completed at any time during
2 grades K to 12 course work or other learning experiences that are
3 substantially equivalent to 2 credits in a language other than
4 English, based on guidelines developed by the department. For the
5 purposes of this subsection, all of the following apply:

6 (a) American sign language is considered to be a language
7 other than English.

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

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

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

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

25 (b) A school district or public school academy shall base its
26 determination of whether a pupil has successfully completed the
27 subject area content expectations or guidelines developed by the

1 department that apply to a credit at least in part on the pupil's
2 performance on the assessments developed or selected by the
3 department under section 1278b or on 1 or more assessments
4 developed or selected by the school district or public school
5 academy that measure a pupil's understanding of the subject area
6 content expectations or guidelines that apply to the credit.

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

16 (5) If a high school is designated by the superintendent of
17 public instruction as a specialty school and the high school meets
18 the requirements of subsection (6), then the pupils of the high
19 school are not required to successfully complete the 4 credits in
20 English language arts required under section 1278b(1)(a) or the 3
21 credits in social science required under subsection (1)(a)(ii) and
22 the school district or public school academy is not required to
23 ensure that each pupil is offered the curriculum necessary for
24 meeting those English language arts or social science credit
25 requirements. The superintendent of public instruction may
26 designate up to 15 high schools that meet the requirements of this
27 subsection as specialty schools. Subject to this maximum number,

1 the superintendent of public instruction shall designate a high
2 school as a specialty school if the superintendent of public
3 instruction finds that the high school meets all of the following
4 criteria:

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

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

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

17 (a) The high school clearly states to prospective pupils and
18 their parents that it does not meet the requirements of the
19 Michigan merit standard under this section and section 1278b but is
20 a designated specialty school that is exempt from some of those
21 requirements and that a pupil who enrolls in the high school and
22 subsequently transfers to a high school that is not a specialty
23 school meeting the requirements of this subsection will be required
24 to comply with the requirements of the Michigan merit standard
25 under this section and section 1278b.

26 (b) For the most recent year for which the data are available,
27 the mean scores on both the mathematics and science portions of the

1 ACT examination for the pupils of the high school exceed by at
2 least 10% the mean scores on the mathematics and science portions
3 of the ACT examination for the pupils of the school district in
4 which the greatest number of the pupils of the high school reside.

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

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

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

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