

HOUSE BILL No. 4114

January 31, 2017, Introduced by Reps. Kelly, Iden, Hughes, Alexander, Lilly, Hornberger, Garcia and Crawford and referred to the Committee on Education Reform.

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:

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, or 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, such as a
13 program or curriculum in electronics, machining, construction,
14 welding, engineering, computer science, or renewable energy, and in
15 that program or curriculum successfully completing the same content
16 as the algebra II benchmarks assessed on the department-prescribed
17 state high school assessment, as determined by the department. The
18 department shall post on its website guidelines for implementation
19 of the immediately preceding sentence. Each pupil must successfully
20 complete at least 1 mathematics course during his or her final year
21 of high school enrollment. This subparagraph does not require
22 completion of mathematics courses in any particular sequence.

23 (ii) At least 3 credits in social science that are aligned
24 with subject area content expectations developed by the department
25 and approved by the state board under section 1278b, including
26 completion of at least 1 credit in United States history and
27 geography, 1 credit in world history and geography, 1/2 credit in

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

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

17 (iv) At least ~~1 credit in visual arts, performing arts, or~~
18 ~~applied arts, as defined by the department, that is~~ **3 CREDITS IN**
19 **21ST CENTURY SKILLS**, aligned with guidelines developed by the
20 department and approved by the state board under section 1278b. **FOR**
21 **THE PURPOSES OF THIS SUBPARAGRAPH, THE CREDITS IN 21ST CENTURY**
22 **SKILLS MAY BE SATISFIED BY SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETING ANY COMBINATION**
23 **OF 3 CREDITS IN THE FOLLOWING:**

24 (A) A LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH AS DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION
25 (2).

26 (B) VISUAL ARTS, PERFORMING ARTS, OR APPLIED ARTS, AS DEFINED
27 BY THE DEPARTMENT. A school district or public school academy is

1 strongly encouraged to offer visual arts and performing arts
2 courses.

3 **(C) COMPUTER SCIENCE OR COMPUTER CODING, OR A COMBINATION OF**
4 **THESE.**

5 **(D) A DEPARTMENT-APPROVED FORMAL CAREER AND TECHNICAL**
6 **EDUCATION PROGRAM.**

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 K to 12 at least 2~~ **A PUPIL**
27 **MAY COMPLETE 1 OR MORE CREDITS IN A LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH**

1 **TOWARD FULFILLING THE REQUIREMENTS UNDER SUBSECTION (1) (A) (iv) BY**
2 **COMPLETING AT ANY TIME DURING GRADES K TO 12 ONE OR MORE** credits
3 that are grade-appropriate in a language other than English or
4 course work or other learning experiences that are substantially
5 equivalent to ~~2~~ credits in a language other than English, based on
6 guidelines developed by the department. ~~For pupils who graduate~~
7 ~~from high school in 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, or 2021 only, a~~
8 ~~pupil may partially or fully fulfill 1 credit of this requirement~~
9 ~~by completing a department-approved formal career and technical~~
10 ~~education program or curriculum or by completing visual or~~
11 ~~performing arts instruction that is in addition to the requirements~~
12 ~~under subsection (1) (a) (iv).~~ The board of a school district or
13 board of directors of a public school academy is strongly
14 encouraged to ensure that all pupils complete at least 1 credit in
15 a language other than English in grades K to 6. For the purposes of
16 this subsection, all of the following apply:

17 (a) American sign language is considered to be a language
18 other than English.

19 (b) The pupil may ~~meet~~ **SATISFY** all or part of ~~this requirement~~
20 **THE REQUIREMENTS FOR A CREDIT IN A LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH** with
21 online course work.

22 (3) The requirements under this section and section 1278b for
23 a high school diploma are in addition to any local requirements
24 imposed by the board of a school district or board of directors of
25 a public school academy. The board of a school district or board of
26 directors of a public school academy, as a local requirement for a
27 high school diploma, may require a pupil to complete the Michigan

1 merit examination under section 1279g or may require a pupil to
2 participate in the MIAccess assessments if appropriate for the
3 pupil.

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

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

13 (b) A school district or public school academy shall base its
14 determination of whether a pupil has successfully completed the
15 subject area content expectations or guidelines developed by the
16 department that apply to a credit at least in part on the pupil's
17 performance on the assessments developed or selected by the
18 department under section 1278b or 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 (c) A school district or public school academy shall also
23 grant a pupil a credit if the pupil earns a qualifying score, as
24 determined by the department, on the assessments developed or
25 selected for the subject area by the department under section 1278b
26 or the pupil earns a qualifying score, as determined by the school
27 district or public school academy, on 1 or more assessments

1 developed or selected by the school district or public school
2 academy that measure a pupil's understanding of the subject area
3 content expectations or guidelines that apply to the credit.

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

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

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

27 (6) A high school that is designated by the superintendent of

1 public instruction as a specialty school under subsection (5) is
2 only exempt from requirements as described under subsection (5) as
3 long as the superintendent of public instruction finds that the
4 high school continues to meet all of the following requirements:

5 (a) The high school clearly states to prospective pupils and
6 their parents that it does not meet the requirements of the
7 Michigan merit standard under this section and section 1278b but is
8 a designated specialty school that is exempt from some of those
9 requirements and that a pupil who enrolls in the high school and
10 subsequently transfers to a high school that is not a specialty
11 school meeting the requirements of this subsection will be required
12 to comply with the requirements of the Michigan merit standard
13 under this section and section 1278b.

14 (b) For the most recent year for which the data are available,
15 the mean scores on both the mathematics and science portions of the
16 ACT examination for the pupils of the high school exceed by at
17 least 10% the mean scores on the mathematics and science portions
18 of the ACT examination for the pupils of the school district in
19 which the greatest number of the pupils of the high school reside.

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

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

26 (e) All pupils of the high school are required to meet the
27 mathematics credit requirements of subsection (1) (a) (i), with no

1 modification of these requirements under section 1278b(5), and each
2 pupil is offered the curriculum necessary to meet this requirement.

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

9 Enacting section 1. This amendatory act takes effect 90 days
10 after the date it is enacted into law.