

HOUSE BILL No. 4317

March 7, 2017, Introduced by Reps. Hauck, Howell, Frederick, VanderWall, Griffin, Reilly, Cole, Wentworth, Marino, Bellino, Lower, Noble, Glenn, Lucido, Hornberger, LaFave, Hoitenga, LaSata, Iden, Graves, Barrett, Sneller, Sheppard, Rendon, Leutheuser, Tedder and Vaupel and referred to the Committee on Workforce and Talent Development.

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

1 high school:

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

26 (ii) At least 3 credits in social science that are aligned
27 with subject area content expectations developed by the department

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

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

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

1 guidelines developed by the department and approved by the state
2 board under section 1278b. A school district or public school
3 academy is strongly encouraged to offer visual arts and performing
4 arts courses.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

27 (a) A pupil is considered to have completed a credit if the

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

7 (b) A school district or public school academy shall base its
8 determination of whether a pupil has successfully completed the
9 subject area content expectations or guidelines developed by the
10 department that apply to a credit at least in part on the pupil's
11 performance on the assessments developed or selected by the
12 department under section 1278b or 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 (c) A school district or public school academy shall also
17 grant a pupil a credit if the pupil earns a qualifying score, as
18 determined by the department, on the assessments developed or
19 selected for the subject area by the department under section 1278b
20 or the pupil earns a qualifying score, as determined by the school
21 district or public school academy, on 1 or more assessments
22 developed or selected by the school district or public school
23 academy that measure a pupil's understanding of the subject area
24 content expectations or guidelines that apply to the credit.

25 (5) If a high school is designated by the superintendent of
26 public instruction as a specialty school and the high school meets
27 the requirements of subsection (6), then the pupils of the high

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

24 (f) All pupils of the high school are required to meet the
25 science credit requirements of section 1278b(1)(b) and are also
26 required to successfully complete at least 1 additional science
27 credit, for a total of at least 4 science credits, 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 Enacting section 1. This amendatory act takes effect 90 days
4 after the date it is enacted into law.