

HOUSE BILL No. 5906

May 1, 2018, Introduced by Reps. Green, Lucido, Farrington, Marino, Alexander,
Hornberger, Yaroach and Lasinski 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

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~~**THE** course
10 in financial literacy ~~as described in~~ **DEVELOPED OR ADOPTED UNDER**
11 ~~section 1165. A pupil may complete algebra II over 2 years with 2~~
12 ~~credits awarded or over 1.5 years with 1.5 credits awarded for the~~
13 ~~purposes of this section and section 1278b. A pupil also may~~
14 partially or fully fulfill the algebra II requirement by completing
15 **THE COURSE IN FINANCIAL LITERACY DEVELOPED OR ADOPTED UNDER SECTION**
16 **1165 OR BY COMPLETING** a department-approved formal career and
17 technical education program or curriculum **THAT HAS APPROPRIATE**
18 **EMBEDDED MATHEMATICS CONTENT**, such as a program or curriculum in
19 electronics, machining, construction, welding, engineering,
20 computer science, or renewable energy, and in that program or
21 curriculum successfully completing the same content as ~~the algebra~~
22 ~~II. benchmarks assessed on the department-prescribed state high~~
23 ~~school assessment, as determined by the department. The department~~
24 shall post on its website guidelines for implementation of the
25 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

1 completion of mathematics courses in any particular sequence.

2 (ii) At least 3 credits in social science that are aligned
3 with subject area content expectations developed by the department
4 and approved by the state board under section 1278b, including
5 completion of at least 1 credit in United States history and
6 geography, 1 credit in world history and geography, 1/2 credit in
7 economics, and the civics course described in section 1166(2). The
8 1/2-credit economics requirement may be satisfied by completion of
9 ~~at least a 1/2-credit course in personal economics that includes a~~

10 **THE COURSE IN** financial literacy ~~component as described in~~
11 **DEVELOPED OR ADOPTED UNDER** section 1165, if that course covers the
12 subject area content expectations for economics developed by the
13 department and approved by the state board under section 1278b.

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

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

1 arts courses.

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

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

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

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

17 (2) In addition to the requirements under subsection (1),
18 beginning with pupils entering grade 3 in 2006, the board of a
19 school district or board of directors of a public school academy
20 shall not award a high school diploma to a pupil unless the pupil
21 has successfully completed during grades K to 12 at least 2 credits
22 that are grade-appropriate in a language other than English or
23 course work or other learning experiences that are substantially
24 equivalent to 2 credits in a language other than English, based on
25 guidelines developed by the department. For pupils who graduate
26 from high school in 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, or 2021 only, a
27 pupil may partially or fully fulfill 1 credit of this requirement

1 by completing a department-approved formal career and technical
2 education program or curriculum or by completing visual or
3 performing arts instruction that is in addition to the requirements
4 under subsection (1) (a) (iv) . The board of a school district or
5 board of directors of a public school academy is strongly
6 encouraged to ensure that all pupils complete at least 1 credit in
7 a language other than English in grades K to 6. For the purposes of
8 this subsection, all of the following apply:

9 (a) American ~~sign language~~ **SIGN LANGUAGE** is considered to be a
10 language other than English.

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

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

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

24 (a) A pupil is considered to have completed a credit if the
25 pupil successfully completes the subject area content expectations
26 or guidelines developed by the department that apply to the credit.
27 For a career and technical education credit, a school district or

1 public school academy may supplement those content expectations and
2 guidelines with additional guidelines developed by the school
3 district or public school academy.

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

13 (c) A school district or public school academy shall also
14 grant a pupil a credit if the pupil earns a qualifying score, as
15 determined by the department, on the assessments developed or
16 selected for the subject area by the department under section 1278b
17 or the pupil earns a qualifying score, as determined by the school
18 district or public school academy, 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 (5) If a high school is designated by the superintendent of
23 public instruction as a specialty school and the high school meets
24 the requirements of subsection (6), then the pupils of the high
25 school are not required to successfully complete the 4 credits in
26 English language arts required under section 1278b(1)(a) or the 3
27 credits in social science required under subsection (1)(a)(ii) and

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

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

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

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

23 (a) The high school clearly states to prospective pupils and
24 their parents that it does not meet the requirements of the
25 Michigan merit standard under this section and section 1278b but is
26 a designated specialty school that is exempt from some of those
27 requirements and that a pupil who enrolls in the high school and

1 subsequently transfers to a high school that is not a specialty
2 school meeting the requirements of this subsection will be required
3 to comply with the requirements of the Michigan merit standard
4 under this section and section 1278b.

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

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

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

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

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

27 Enacting section 1. This amendatory act takes effect 90 days

1 after the date it is enacted into law.

2 Enacting section 2. This amendatory act does not take effect
3 unless Senate Bill No. _____ or House Bill No. 5905 (request no.
4 06075'18) of the 99th Legislature is enacted into law.