

**SUBSTITUTE FOR  
HOUSE BILL NO. 4282**

A bill to amend 1976 PA 451, entitled  
"The revised school code,"  
by amending section 1278a (MCL 380.1278a), as amended by 2018 PA  
232.

**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 **either** algebra II,  
 5 **statistics, or a course in financial literacy as described in**  
 6 **section 1165 if that course aligns with the subject area content**  
 7 **expectations for mathematics developed by the department and**  
 8 **approved by the state board under section 1278b**, or an integrated  
 9 sequence of this course content that consists of 3 credits, and an  
 10 additional mathematics credit, such as trigonometry, ~~statistics,~~  
 11 precalculus, calculus, applied math, accounting, business math, **or**  
 12 a retake of algebra II. ~~, or a course in financial literacy as~~  
 13 ~~described in section 1165.~~ A pupil may complete algebra II over 2  
 14 years with 2 credits awarded or over 1.5 years with 1.5 credits  
 15 awarded for the purposes of this section and section 1278b. A pupil  
 16 also may partially or fully fulfill the algebra II requirement by  
 17 completing a ~~department-approved formal~~ **state-approved** career and  
 18 technical education program or curriculum, such as a program or  
 19 curriculum in electronics, machining, construction, welding,  
 20 engineering, computer science, or renewable energy, and in that  
 21 program or curriculum successfully completing the same content as  
 22 the algebra II benchmarks assessed on the department-prescribed  
 23 state high school assessment, as determined by the department. The  
 24 department shall post on its website guidelines for implementation  
 25 of the 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  
 28 completion of mathematics courses in any particular sequence.

29 (ii) At least 3 credits in social science that are aligned with



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

12 (iii) At least 1 credit in subject matter that includes both  
 13 health and physical education aligned with guidelines developed by  
 14 the department and approved by the state board under section 1278b,  
 15 or at least 1/2 credit in health aligned with guidelines developed  
 16 by the department and approved by the state board under section  
 17 1278b and **either** at least 1/2 credit awarded by the school district  
 18 or public school academy for approved participation in  
 19 extracurricular athletics or other extracurricular activities  
 20 involving physical activity **or, if a pupil is enrolled in a state-**  
 21 **approved career and technical education program or curriculum, a**  
 22 **30-hour educational training course designed by the Occupational**  
 23 **Safety and Health Administration within the United States**  
 24 **Department of Labor relating to occupational safety and health**  
 25 **standards applicable to general 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~~ **3 credits in**  
 28 **21st century skills described under section 1278f**, aligned with  
 29 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,~~ **kindergarten in**  
 21 **2020**, the board of a school district or board of directors of a  
 22 public school academy shall not award a high school diploma to a  
 23 pupil unless the pupil has successfully completed during grades K  
 24 to 12 at least ~~2 credits that are~~ **1 credit that is** grade-  
 25 appropriate in a language other than English, **as described in**  
 26 **section 1278f**, or course work or ~~other another~~ learning experiences  
 27 ~~that are~~ **experience that is** substantially equivalent to ~~2 credits~~ **1**  
 28 **credit** in a language other than English, based on guidelines  
 29 developed by the department. ~~For pupils who graduate from high~~



1 ~~school in 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, or 2024~~  
 2 ~~only, a pupil may partially or fully fulfill 1 credit of this~~  
 3 ~~requirement by completing a department-approved formal career and~~  
 4 ~~technical education program or curriculum or by completing visual~~  
 5 ~~or performing arts instruction that is in addition to the~~  
 6 ~~requirements under subsection (1) (a) (iv).~~ The board of a school  
 7 district or board of directors of a public school academy is  
 8 strongly encouraged to ensure that all pupils complete at least 1  
 9 credit in a language other than English, **as described under section**  
 10 **1278f**, in grades K to 6. ~~For the purposes of this subsection, all~~  
 11 ~~of the following apply:~~**8.**

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 ~~(c) Not later than September 1, 2018, and not later than~~  
 17 ~~September 1 of each subsequent school year, a school district or~~  
 18 ~~public school academy shall report to the department both of the~~  
 19 ~~following, in a form and manner prescribed by the department:~~

20 ~~(i) The number of pupils who partially or fully fulfilled 1~~  
 21 ~~credit in a language other than English by completing a department-~~  
 22 ~~approved formal career and technical education program or~~  
 23 ~~curriculum under this subsection in the immediately preceding~~  
 24 ~~school year.~~

25 ~~(ii) The number of pupils who partially or fully fulfilled 1~~  
 26 ~~credit in a language other than English by completing visual or~~  
 27 ~~performing arts instruction that is in addition to the requirements~~  
 28 ~~under subsection (1) (a) (iv) under this subsection in the immediately~~  
 29 ~~preceding school year.~~



1 (3) The requirements under this section and section 1278b for  
2 a high school diploma are in addition to any local requirements  
3 imposed by the board of a school district or board of directors of  
4 a public school academy. The board of a school district or board of  
5 directors of a public school academy, as a local requirement for a  
6 high school diploma, may require a pupil to complete the Michigan  
7 merit examination under section 1279g or may require a pupil to  
8 participate in the MIAccess assessments if appropriate for the  
9 pupil.

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

12 (a) A pupil is considered to have completed a credit if the  
13 pupil successfully completes the subject area content expectations  
14 or guidelines developed by the department that apply to the credit.  
15 For a career and technical education credit, a school district or  
16 public school academy may supplement those content expectations and  
17 guidelines with additional guidelines developed by the school  
18 district or public school academy.

19 (b) A school district or public school academy shall base its  
20 determination of whether a pupil has successfully completed the  
21 subject area content expectations or guidelines developed by the  
22 department that apply to a credit at least in part on the pupil's  
23 performance on ~~the~~ assessments developed or selected by the  
24 department ~~under section 1278b~~ or on 1 or more assessments  
25 developed or selected by the school district or public school  
26 academy that measure a pupil's understanding of the subject area  
27 content expectations or guidelines that apply to the credit.

28 (c) A school district or public school academy shall also  
29 grant a pupil a credit if the pupil earns a qualifying score, as



1 determined by the department, on ~~the~~ assessments developed or  
2 selected for the subject area by the department ~~under section 1278b~~  
3 or the pupil earns a qualifying score, as determined by the school  
4 district or public school academy, on 1 or more assessments  
5 developed or selected by the school district or public school  
6 academy that measure a pupil's understanding of the subject area  
7 content expectations or guidelines that apply to the credit.

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

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

26 (b) The high school uses a specialized, innovative, and  
27 rigorous curriculum in such areas as performing arts, foreign  
28 language, extensive use of internships, or other learning  
29 innovations that conform to pioneering innovations among other



1 leading national or international high schools.

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

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

16 (b) For the most recent year for which the data are available,  
17 the mean scores on both the mathematics ~~and science portions of the~~  
18 ~~ACT examination~~ **portion of the SAT examination and the science**  
19 **portion of the applicable state assessment** for the pupils of the  
20 high school exceed by at least 10% the mean scores on the  
21 mathematics ~~and science portions of the ACT examination~~ **portion of**  
22 **the SAT examination and the science portion of the applicable state**  
23 **assessment** for the pupils of the school district in which the  
24 greatest number of the pupils of the high school reside.

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

28 (d) For the most recent year for which the data are available,  
29 at least 75% of the pupils who graduated from the high school the



1 preceding year are enrolled in a postsecondary institution.

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

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

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

