

**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, the board of a~~
 21 ~~school district or board of directors of a public school academy~~
 22 ~~shall not award a high school diploma to a pupil unless the pupil~~
 23 ~~has successfully completed during grades K to 12 at least 2 credits~~
 24 ~~that are grade-appropriate in a language other than English or~~
 25 ~~course work or other learning experiences that are substantially~~
 26 ~~equivalent to 2 credits in a language other than English, based on~~
 27 ~~guidelines developed by the department. For pupils who graduate~~
 28 ~~from high school in 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023,~~
 29 ~~or 2024 only, a pupil may partially or fully fulfill 1 credit of~~



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

10 ~~(a) American sign language is considered to be a language~~
 11 ~~other than English.~~

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

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

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

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

28 (3) The requirements under this section and section 1278b for
 29 a high school diploma are in addition to any local requirements



1 imposed by the board of a school district or board of directors of
2 a public school academy. The board of a school district or board of
3 directors of a public school academy, as a local requirement for a
4 high school diploma, may require a pupil to complete the Michigan
5 merit examination under section 1279g or may require a pupil to
6 participate in the MIAccess assessments if appropriate for the
7 pupil.

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

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

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

26 (c) A school district or public school academy shall also
27 grant a pupil a credit if the pupil earns a qualifying score, as
28 determined by the department, on ~~the~~ assessments developed or
29 selected for the subject area by the department ~~under section 1278b~~



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

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

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

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

29 (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~~ **portion of the SAT examination and the science**
17 **portion of the applicable state assessment** for the pupils of the
18 high school exceed by at least 10% the mean scores on the
19 mathematics ~~and science portions of the ACT examination~~ **portion of**
20 **the SAT examination and the science portion of the applicable state**
21 **assessment** for the pupils of the school district in which the
22 greatest number of the pupils of the high school reside.

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

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

29 (e) All pupils of the high school are required to meet the



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

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

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

