

**SUBSTITUTE FOR
HOUSE BILL NO. 4156**

A bill to amend 1976 PA 451, entitled
"The revised school code,"
by amending sections 1278a and 1278b (MCL 380.1278a and 380.1278b),
as amended by 2022 PA 105, and by adding section 1278e.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 1278a. (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section
2 or section 1278b, the board of a school district or board of
3 directors of a public school academy shall not award a high school
4 diploma to a pupil unless the pupil meets all of the following:

5 (a) Has successfully completed all of the following credit
6 requirements of the Michigan merit standard before graduating from
7 high school:

8 (i) At least 4 credits in mathematics 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 algebra I** ~~, and 1 credit in~~
 4 ~~geometry. , and algebra II, or an integrated sequence of this~~
 5 ~~course content that consists of 3 credits, and an additional~~
 6 ~~mathematics credit, such as trigonometry, statistics, precalculus,~~
 7 ~~calculus, applied math, accounting, business math, a retake of~~
 8 ~~algebra II, or, for only pupils entering grade 8 before 2023, a~~
 9 ~~course in financial literacy as described in section 1165. A pupil~~
 10 ~~may complete algebra II over 2 years with 2 credits awarded or over~~
 11 ~~1.5 years with 1.5 credits awarded for the purposes of this section~~
 12 ~~and section 1278b. A pupil also may partially or fully fulfill the~~
 13 ~~algebra II requirement by completing a department-approved formal~~
 14 ~~career and technical education program or curriculum, such as a~~
 15 ~~program or curriculum in electronics, machining, construction,~~
 16 ~~welding, engineering, computer science, or renewable energy, and in~~
 17 ~~that program or curriculum successfully completing the same content~~
 18 ~~as the algebra II benchmarks assessed on the department-prescribed~~
 19 ~~state high school assessment, as determined by the department. The~~
 20 ~~department shall post on its website guidelines for implementation~~
 21 ~~of the immediately preceding sentence. Each pupil must successfully~~
 22 ~~complete at least 1 mathematics course during his or her~~ **the**
 23 **pupil's** final year of high school enrollment. ~~This subparagraph~~
 24 ~~does not require completion of mathematics courses in any~~
 25 ~~particular sequence.~~ **A pupil may fulfill the remaining 2 credits in**
 26 **mathematics through completion of any of the following courses.**
 27 **This subparagraph does not require the board of a school district**
 28 **or intermediate school district or the board of directors of a**
 29 **public school academy to offer all of the following courses.**

1 However, each high school operated by the board or board of
2 directors must offer at least sufficient courses for pupils to be
3 able to complete the requirements of this subparagraph:

4 (A) 1 credit in trigonometry.

5 (B) 1 credit in algebra II.

6 (C) 1 credit in precalculus.

7 (D) 1 credit in calculus.

8 (E) 1 credit in applied mathematics.

9 (F) 1 credit in statistics.

10 (G) 1 credit in computer science. A course in computer science
11 used to fulfill a credit under this subparagraph may not be used to
12 fulfill any other credit requirement under this section or section
13 1278b.

14 (H) 1/2 credit in accounting.

15 (I) 1/2 credit in business mathematics.

16 (J) 1/2 credit in construction mathematics.

17 (K) 1/2 credit in algebra-based physics.

18 (L) 1/2 credit in algebra-based chemistry.

19 (M) 1/2 credit in economics with a focus on mathematics.

20 (N) Up to 2 credits from a department-approved formal career
21 and technical education program.

22 (O) Up to 2 credits from mathematics courses developed or
23 approved by the board of the school district or intermediate school
24 district or board of directors of the public school academy in
25 which the pupil is enrolled.

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



geography, 1 credit in world history and geography, 1/2 credit in economics, and the civics course described in section 1166(2). For only pupils entering grade 8 before 2023, the 1/2-credit economics requirement may be satisfied by completion of at least a 1/2-credit course in personal economics that includes a financial literacy component as described in section 1165, if that course covers the subject area content expectations for economics developed by the department and approved by the state board under section 1278b. The 1/2 credit in economics required under this subparagraph cannot be fulfilled by completion of the 1/2 credit course in personal finance described in subsection (3).

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

(iv) At least 1 credit in visual arts, performing arts, or applied arts ~~, as defined by the department,~~ that is aligned with guidelines developed by the department and approved by the state board under section 1278b. ~~A school district or public school academy is strongly encouraged to offer visual arts and performing arts courses.~~ **The credit in visual arts, performing arts, or applied arts under this subparagraph may be fulfilled through completion of any of the following courses. This subparagraph does not require the board of a school district or intermediate school district or**



1 the board of directors of a public school academy to offer all of
2 the following courses. However, each high school operated by the
3 board or board of directors must offer at least sufficient courses
4 for pupils to be able to complete the requirements of this
5 subparagraph:

6 (A) 1 credit in general music.

7 (B) 1 credit in marching band.

8 (C) 1 credit in concert band.

9 (D) 1 credit in orchestra.

10 (E) 1 credit in choral music.

11 (F) 1 credit in strings.

12 (G) 1 credit in music theory.

13 (H) 1 credit in keyboard.

14 (I) 1 credit in jazz ensemble.

15 (J) 1 credit in wind ensemble.

16 (K) 1 credit in choir.

17 (L) 1 credit in art.

18 (M) 1 credit in visual arts.

19 (N) 1 credit in visual studies.

20 (O) 1 credit in drawing.

21 (P) 1 credit in painting.

22 (Q) 1 credit in ceramics and pottery.

23 (R) 1 credit in design.

24 (S) 1 credit in art appreciation.

25 (T) 1 credit in illustration.

26 (U) 1 credit in computer graphics and design.

27 (V) 1 credit in video.

28 (W) 1 credit in photography and film.

29 (X) 1 credit in art history.



(Y) 1 credit in art criticism.

(Z) 1 credit in fiber arts.

(AA) 1 credit in jewelry.

(BB) 1 credit in yearbook.

(CC) 1 credit in theater.

(DD) 1 credit in graphic design.

(EE) 1 credit in shop.

(FF) 1 credit in culinary studies.

(GG) 1 credit in computer science. A course in computer science used to fulfill a credit under this subparagraph may not be used to fulfill any other credit requirement under this section or section 1278b.

(HH) 1 credit from a department-approved formal career and technical education program.

(II) 1 credit in a visual arts course developed or approved by the board of the school district or intermediate school district or board of directors of the public school academy in which the pupil is enrolled.

(v) Beginning with pupils entering high school in the 2029-2030 school year, at least 1 credit in future skills that is aligned with subject area content expectations developed by the department and approved by the state board under section 1278b. The credit in future skills required under this subparagraph is fulfilled through completion of the 1/2 credit course in personal finance described in subsection (3) and the 1/2 credit course in workplace development described in subsection (4).

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

(b) Meets the online course or learning experience requirement of this subsection. A school district or public school academy



1 shall provide the basic level of technology and internet access
2 required by the state board to complete the online course or
3 learning experience. For a pupil to meet this requirement, the
4 pupil must meet either of the following, as determined by the
5 school district or public school academy:

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

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

13 (2) Except as otherwise provided in this section, and in
14 addition to the requirements under subsection (1), the board of a
15 school district or board of directors of a public school academy
16 shall not award a high school diploma to a pupil unless the pupil
17 has successfully completed during grades K to 12 at least 2 credits
18 that are grade-appropriate in a language other than English or
19 ~~course work~~ **coursework** or other learning experiences that are
20 substantially equivalent to 2 credits in a language other than
21 English, based on guidelines developed by the department. A pupil
22 may partially or fully fulfill ~~1 credit of this~~ requirement by
23 completing a department-approved formal career and technical
24 education program or curriculum or by completing visual or
25 performing arts instruction that is in addition to the requirements
26 under subsection (1) (a) (iv). The board of a school district or board
27 of directors of a public school academy is strongly encouraged to
28 ensure that all pupils complete ~~at least 1 credit~~ **the 2 credits** in
29 a language other than English **required under this subsection** in

grades K to ~~6~~ **8**. For the purposes of this subsection, both of the following apply:

(a) American Sign Language is considered to be a language other than English.

(b) Computer coding is considered to be a language other than English.

~~(c) (b)~~ The pupil may meet all or part of this requirement with online ~~course work~~ **coursework**.

(3) Beginning with pupils entering grade 8 in 2023, the board of a school district or board of directors of a public school academy shall not award a high school diploma to a pupil unless the pupil completes a 1/2 credit course in personal finance that aligns with subject area content expectations developed by the department and approved by the state board under section 1278b. The 1/2 credit course in personal finance must fulfill 1/2 credit of ~~mathematics required under subsection (1) (a) (i), 1/2 credit of visual arts, performing arts, or applied arts required under subsection (1) (a) (iv), or 1/2 credit of a language other than English required under subsection (2), as determined by the board of the school district or board of directors of the public school academy in which the pupil is enrolled. future skills required under subsection (1) (a) (v)~~. The 1/2 credit course in personal finance required under this subsection may be fulfilled through a department-approved formal career and technical education program or curriculum that aligns with the subject area content expectations developed by the department and approved by the state board for the credit under section 1278b.

(4) Beginning with pupils entering grade 8 in 2029, the board of a school district or board of directors of a public school



academy shall not award a high school diploma to a pupil unless the pupil completes a 1/2 credit course in workplace development that aligns with subject area content expectations developed by the department and approved by the state board under section 1278b. The 1/2 credit course in workplace development must fulfill 1/2 credit of future skills required under subsection (1)(a)(v). The 1/2 credit course in workplace development under this section must include instruction on at least all of the following topics:

(a) Resume building.

(b) Career pathway exploration.

(c) General workplace development components.

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

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

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



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

10 (c) A school district or public school academy shall also
11 grant a pupil a credit if the pupil earns a qualifying score, as
12 determined by the department, on assessments developed or selected
13 for the subject area by the department or the pupil earns a
14 qualifying score, as determined by the school district or public
15 school academy, on 1 or more assessments developed or selected by
16 the school district or public school academy that measure a pupil's
17 understanding of the subject area content expectations or
18 guidelines that apply to the credit.

19 (7) ~~(6)~~—If a high school is designated by the superintendent
20 of public instruction as a specialty school and the high school
21 meets the requirements of subsection ~~(7)~~, **(8)**, the pupils of the
22 high school are not required to successfully complete the 4 credits
23 in English language arts required under section 1278b(1)(a) or the
24 3 credits in social science required under subsection (1)(a)(ii) and
25 the school district or public school academy is not required to
26 ensure that each pupil is offered the curriculum necessary for
27 meeting those English language arts or social science credit
28 requirements. The superintendent of public instruction may
29 designate up to 15 high schools that meet the requirements of this



1 subsection as specialty schools. Subject to this maximum number,
2 the superintendent of public instruction shall designate a high
3 school as a specialty school if the superintendent of public
4 instruction finds that the high school meets all of the following
5 criteria:

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

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

13 **(8)** ~~(7)~~—A high school that is designated by the superintendent
14 of public instruction as a specialty school under subsection ~~(6)~~
15 **(7)** is only exempt from requirements as described under subsection
16 ~~(6)~~ **(7)** as long as the superintendent of public instruction finds
17 that the high school continues to meet all of the following
18 requirements:

19 (a) The high school clearly states to prospective pupils and
20 ~~their~~ **the prospective pupils'** parents that it does not meet the
21 requirements of the Michigan merit standard under this section and
22 section 1278b but is a designated specialty school that is exempt
23 from some of those requirements and that a pupil who enrolls in the
24 high school and subsequently transfers to a high school that is not
25 a specialty school meeting the requirements of this subsection will
26 be required to comply with the requirements of the Michigan merit
27 standard under this section and section 1278b.

28 (b) For the most recent year for which the data are available,
29 the mean scores on both the mathematics and science portions of the

1 applicable state assessment for the pupils of the high school
2 exceed by at least 10% the mean scores on the mathematics and
3 science portions of the applicable state assessment for the pupils
4 of the school district in which the greatest number of the pupils
5 of the high school reside.

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

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

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

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

22 Sec. 1278b. (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section
23 or section 1278a, as part of the requirements under section 1278a
24 the board of a school district or board of directors of a public
25 school academy shall not award a high school diploma to a pupil
26 unless the pupil has successfully completed all of the following
27 credit requirements of the Michigan merit standard before
28 graduating from high school:

29 (a) At least 4 credits in English language arts that are



1 aligned with subject area content expectations developed by the
2 department and approved by the state board under this section. A
3 pupil may fulfill the credits in English language arts through
4 completion of any of the following courses. This subdivision does
5 not require the board of a school district or intermediate school
6 district or the board of directors of a public school academy to
7 offer all of the following courses. However, each high school
8 operated by the board or board of directors must offer at least
9 sufficient courses for pupils to be able to complete the
10 requirements of this subdivision:

- 11 (i) 1 credit in English.
- 12 (ii) 1 credit in language arts.
- 13 (iii) 1 credit in grammar.
- 14 (iv) 1 credit in writing.
- 15 (v) 1 credit in poetry.
- 16 (vi) 1 credit in literature.
- 17 (vii) 1 credit in great books.
- 18 (viii) 1 credit in Shakespeare.
- 19 (ix) 1 credit in dramatic literature.
- 20 (x) 1 credit in business writing.
- 21 (xi) 1 credit in school newspaper.
- 22 (xii) 1 credit in yearbook.
- 23 (xiii) 1 credit in public speaking.
- 24 (xiv) 1 credit in debate.
- 25 (xv) 1 credit from a department-approved formal career and
26 technical education program.
- 27 (xvi) Up to 4 credits from English language arts courses
28 developed or approved by the board of the school district or

1 intermediate school district or board of directors of the public
2 school academy in which the pupil is enrolled.

3 (b) ~~At~~ **For students who entered high school before the 2029-**
4 **2030 school year, at** least 3 credits in science that are aligned
5 with subject area content expectations developed by the department
6 and approved by the state board under this section, ~~including~~
7 ~~completion of~~ **and for students who entered high school after the**
8 **start of the 2029-2030 school year, at least 4 credits in science**
9 **that are aligned with subject area content expectations developed**
10 **by the department and approved by the state board under this**
11 **section. A student must complete at least 1 credit in biology and**
12 **either 1 credit in chemistry, earth science, agricultural science,**
13 **or physics. , anatomy, or agricultural science, or successfully**
14 ~~completing a program or curriculum that provides the same content~~
15 ~~as the chemistry or physics benchmarks, as determined by the~~
16 ~~department. A student may fulfill the requirement~~ **requirements** for
17 the ~~third science credit by completing a department approved~~
18 ~~computer science program or curriculum or formal career and~~
19 ~~technical education program or curriculum. The legislature strongly~~
20 ~~encourages pupils to complete a fourth credit in science, such as~~
21 ~~forensics, astronomy, Earth science, agricultural science,~~
22 ~~environmental science, geology, physics, chemistry, physiology, or~~
23 ~~microbiology.~~ **remaining credits in science through completion of any**
24 **of the following courses. This subdivision does not require the**
25 **board of a school district or intermediate school district or the**
26 **board of directors of a public school academy to offer all of the**
27 **following courses. However, each high school operated by the board**
28 **or board of directors must offer at least sufficient courses for**
29 **pupils to be able to complete the requirements of this subdivision:**



(i) 1 credit in physics.

(ii) 1 credit in chemistry.

(iii) 1 credit in anatomy.

(iv) 1 credit in biology.

(v) 1 credit in microbiology.

(vi) 1 credit in environmental science.

(vii) 1 credit in geology.

(viii) 1 credit in computer science. A course in computer science used to fulfill a credit under this subdivision may not be used to fulfill any other credit requirement under this section or section 1278a.

(ix) 1 credit in forensic science.

(x) 1 credit in agricultural science.

(xi) 1 credit in earth science.

(xii) 1 credit in computer literacy.

(xiii) 1 credit in keyboarding.

(xiv) 1 credit in computer applications.

(xv) 1 credit in web design.

(xvi) 1 credit in programming.

(xvii) 1 credit from a science course developed or approved by the board of the school district or intermediate school district or board of directors of the public school academy in which the student is enrolled.

(xviii) Up to 2 credits from a department-approved formal career and technical education program or curriculum.

(c) The credit requirements specified in section 1278a(1)(a)(i) to (iv).

(2) If a pupil successfully completes 1 or more of the high



1 school credits required under subsection (1) or under section
2 1278a(1) or (3) before entering high school, the pupil must be
3 given high school credit for that credit.

4 (3) For the purposes of this section and section 1278a, the
5 department shall do all of the following:

6 (a) Develop subject area content expectations that apply to
7 the credit requirements of the Michigan merit standard that are
8 required under subsection (1)(a) and (b) and section 1278a(1)(a)(i)
9 and (ii), ~~and~~ the 1/2 credit course in personal finance required
10 under section 1278a(3), **and the workplace development course**
11 **required under section 1278a(4)**, and develop guidelines for the
12 remaining credit requirements of the Michigan merit standard that
13 are required under this section and section 1278a(1)(a), for the
14 online course or learning experience required under section
15 1278a(1)(b), and for the requirements for a language other than
16 English under section 1278a(2). All of the following apply to these
17 subject area content expectations and guidelines:

18 (i) All subject area content expectations must be consistent
19 with the state board recommended model core academic curriculum
20 content standards under section 1278. Subject area content
21 expectations or guidelines must not include attitudes, beliefs, or
22 value systems that are not essential in the legal, economic, and
23 social structure of our society and to the personal and social
24 responsibility of citizens of our society. The subject area content
25 expectations must require pupils to demonstrate critical thinking
26 skills.

27 (ii) The subject area content expectations and the guidelines
28 must be approved by the state board under subsection (4).

29 (iii) The subject area content expectations must state in clear



1 and measurable terms what pupils are expected to know upon
2 completion of each credit.

3 (iv) The department shall complete the development of the
4 subject area content expectations that apply to algebra I and the
5 guidelines for the online course or learning experience under
6 section 1278a(1)(b) not later than August 1, 2006.

7 (v) The department shall complete development of the subject
8 area content expectations or guidelines that apply to each of the
9 other credits required in the Michigan merit standard under
10 subsection (1) and section 1278a(1)(a) not later than 1 year before
11 the beginning of the school year in which a pupil entering high
12 school in 2007 would normally be expected to complete the credit.

13 (vi) If the department has not completed development of the
14 subject area content expectations that apply to a particular credit
15 required in the Michigan merit standard under subsection (1) or
16 section 1278a(1)(a) by the date required under this subdivision, a
17 school district or public school academy may align the content of
18 the credit with locally adopted standards.

19 (vii) Until all of the subject area content expectations and
20 guidelines have been developed by the department and approved by
21 the state board, the department shall submit a report at least
22 every 6 months to the senate and house standing committees
23 responsible for education legislation on the status of the
24 development of the subject area content expectations and
25 guidelines. The report must detail any failure by the department to
26 meet a deadline established under subparagraph (iv) or (v) and the
27 reasons for that failure.

28 (b) Develop and implement a process for developing the subject
29 area content expectations and guidelines required under this



1 section. This process must provide for all of the following:

2 (i) Soliciting input from all of the following groups:

3 (A) Recognized experts in the relevant subject areas.

4 (B) Representatives from 4-year colleges or universities,
5 community colleges, and other postsecondary institutions.

6 (C) Teachers, administrators, and school personnel who have
7 specialized knowledge of the subject area.

8 (D) Representatives from the business community.

9 (E) Representatives from vocational and career and technical
10 education providers.

11 (F) Government officials, including officials from the
12 legislature.

13 (G) Parents of public school pupils.

14 (ii) A review of the subject area content expectations or
15 guidelines by national experts.

16 (iii) An opportunity for the public to review and provide input
17 on the proposed subject area content expectations or guidelines
18 before they are submitted to the state board for approval. The time
19 period allowed for this review and input must be at least 15
20 business days.

21 (c) Determine the basic level of technology and internet
22 access required for pupils to complete the online course or
23 learning experience requirement of section 1278a(1)(b), and submit
24 that determination to the state board for approval.

25 (d) Develop and make available material to assist school
26 districts and public school academies in implementing the
27 requirements of this section and section 1278a. This must include
28 developing guidelines for alternative instructional delivery
29 methods as described in subsection (7).



1 (4) The state board shall approve subject area content
2 expectations and guidelines developed by the department under
3 subsection (3) before those subject area content expectations and
4 guidelines may take effect. The state board also shall approve the
5 basic level of technology and internet access required for pupils
6 to complete the online course or learning experience requirement of
7 section 1278a(1)(b).

8 (5) The parent or legal guardian of a pupil who has completed
9 grade 9, a teacher who is currently teaching the pupil, who
10 currently teaches in or whose expertise is in a subject area
11 proposed to be modified by the personal curriculum, or who is
12 determined by the principal to have qualifications otherwise
13 relevant to developing a personal curriculum, or a school counselor
14 or school employee qualified to act in a counseling role under
15 section 1233 or 1233a may request a personal curriculum under this
16 subsection for the pupil that modifies certain of the Michigan
17 merit standard requirements under subsection (1) or section
18 1278a(1)(a). If the request for a personal curriculum is made by
19 the pupil's parent or legal guardian or, if the pupil is at least
20 age 18 or is an emancipated minor, by the pupil, the school
21 district or public school academy shall develop a personal
22 curriculum for the pupil. A teacher, school counselor, or school
23 employee qualified to act in a counseling role under section 1233
24 or 1233a may contact a pupil's parent or legal guardian to discuss
25 the possibility and potential benefits of a personal curriculum
26 under this subsection for the pupil. If all of the requirements
27 under this subsection for completing a personal curriculum are met,
28 then the board of a school district or board of directors of a
29 public school academy may award a high school diploma to a pupil



1 who successfully completes ~~his or her~~ **the pupil's** personal
2 curriculum even if it does not meet the requirements of the
3 Michigan merit standard required under subsection (1) and section
4 1278a(1)(a). All of the following apply to a personal curriculum:

5 (a) The personal curriculum must be developed by a group that
6 includes at least the pupil, at least 1 of the pupil's parents or
7 the pupil's legal guardian, and a teacher described in this
8 subdivision or the pupil's high school counselor or another
9 designee qualified to act in a counseling role under section 1233
10 or 1233a selected by the high school principal. In addition, for a
11 pupil who receives special education services, a school
12 psychologist should also be included in this group. The teacher
13 included in the group developing the personal curriculum must be a
14 teacher who is currently teaching the pupil, who currently teaches
15 in or whose expertise is in a subject area being modified by the
16 personal curriculum, or who is determined by the principal to have
17 qualifications otherwise relevant to the group. This subdivision
18 does not require an in-person meeting of the group.

19 (b) The personal curriculum must do all of the following:

20 (i) Incorporate as much of the subject area content
21 expectations of the Michigan merit standard required under
22 subsection (1) and section 1278a(1)(a) as is practicable for the
23 pupil.

24 (ii) Establish measurable goals that the pupil must achieve
25 while enrolled in high school.

26 (iii) Provide a method to evaluate whether the pupil achieved
27 the goals described in subparagraph (ii).

28 (iv) Align with the pupil's educational development plan
29 developed under subsection (11).



(c) Before it takes effect, the personal curriculum must be agreed to by the pupil's parent or legal guardian and by the superintendent of the school district or chief executive of the public school academy or his or her designee.

(d) The pupil's parent or legal guardian shall communicate with each of the pupil's teachers to monitor the pupil's progress toward the goals contained in the pupil's personal curriculum.

(e) Revisions may be made in the personal curriculum if the revisions are developed and agreed to in the same manner as the original personal curriculum.

(f) The English language arts credit requirements of subsection (1)(a) and the science credit requirements of subsection (1)(b) are not subject to modification as part of a personal curriculum under this subsection.

(g) The mathematics credit requirements of section 1278a(1)(a)(i) may be modified as part of a personal curriculum if the pupil successfully completes at least ~~3-1/2~~ **3** total credits of the mathematics credits required under that section before completing high school, including algebra I and geometry, and successfully completes at least 1 mathematics credit during ~~his or her~~ **the pupil's** final 2 years of high school. ~~The algebra II credit required under that section may be modified as part of a personal curriculum under this subsection if the pupil meets 1 or more of the following:~~

~~(i) Successfully completes the same content as 1 semester of algebra II, as determined by the department.~~

~~(ii) Elects to complete the same content as algebra II over 2 years, with a credit awarded for each of those 2 years, and successfully completes that content.~~



1 ~~(iii) Enrolls in a formal career and technical education program~~
2 ~~or curriculum and in that program or curriculum successfully~~
3 ~~completes the same content as the algebra II benchmarks assessed on~~
4 ~~the department-prescribed state high school assessment, as~~
5 ~~determined by the department.~~

6 ~~(iv) Successfully completes 1 semester of statistics, functions~~
7 ~~and data analysis, or technical mathematics.~~

8 (h) The social science credit requirements of section
9 1278a(1) (a) (ii) may be modified as part of a personal curriculum
10 only if all of the following are met:

11 (i) The pupil has successfully completed 2 credits of the
12 social science credits required under section 1278a(1), including
13 the civics course described in section 1166(2).

14 (ii) The modification requires the pupil to complete 1
15 additional credit in English language arts, mathematics, or science
16 or 1 additional credit in a language other than English, or
17 requires the pupil to complete a formal career and technical
18 education program. This additional credit must be in addition to
19 the number of those credits otherwise required under subsection (1)
20 and section 1278a(1) or under section 1278a(2).

21 (i) The health and physical education credit requirement under
22 section 1278a(1) (a) (iii) may be modified as part of a personal
23 curriculum only if the modification requires the pupil to complete
24 1 additional credit in English language arts, mathematics, or
25 science or 1 additional credit in a language other than English, or
26 requires the pupil to complete a formal career and technical
27 education program. This additional credit must be in addition to
28 the number of those credits otherwise required under subsection (1)
29 and section 1278a(1) or under section 1278a(2).



1 (j) The visual arts, performing arts, or applied arts credit
2 requirement under section 1278a(1) (a) (iv) may be modified as part of
3 a personal curriculum only if the modification requires the pupil
4 to complete 1 additional credit in English language arts,
5 mathematics, or science or 1 additional credit in a language other
6 than English, or requires the pupil to complete a formal career and
7 technical education program. This additional credit must be in
8 addition to the number of those credits otherwise required under
9 subsection (1) and section 1278a(1) or under section 1278a(2).

10 (k) If the parent or legal guardian of a pupil requests as
11 part of the pupil's personal curriculum a modification of the
12 Michigan merit standard requirements that would not otherwise be
13 allowed under this section and demonstrates that the modification
14 is necessary because the pupil is a child with a disability, the
15 school district or public school academy may allow that additional
16 modification to the extent necessary because of the pupil's
17 disability if the group under subdivision (a) determines that the
18 modification is consistent with both the pupil's educational
19 development plan under subsection (11) and the pupil's
20 individualized education program. If the superintendent of public
21 instruction has reason to believe that a school district or a
22 public school academy is allowing modifications inconsistent with
23 the requirements of this subdivision, the superintendent of public
24 instruction shall monitor the school district or public school
25 academy to ensure that the school district's or public school
26 academy's policies, procedures, and practices are in compliance
27 with the requirements for additional modifications under this
28 subdivision. As used in this subdivision, "child with a disability"
29 means that term as defined in 20 USC 1401.



(l) If a pupil transfers to a school district or public school academy from out of state or from a nonpublic school, the pupil's parent or legal guardian may request, as part of the pupil's personal curriculum, a modification of the Michigan merit standard requirements that would not otherwise be allowed under this section. The school district or public school academy may allow this additional modification for a transfer pupil if all of the following are met:

(i) The transfer pupil has successfully completed at least the equivalent of 2 years of high school credit out of state or at a nonpublic school. The school district or public school academy may use appropriate assessment examinations to determine what credits, if any, the pupil has earned out of state or at a nonpublic school that may be used to satisfy the curricular requirements of the Michigan merit standard and this subdivision.

(ii) The transfer pupil's personal curriculum incorporates as much of the subject area content expectations of the Michigan merit standard as is practicable for the pupil.

(iii) The transfer pupil's personal curriculum requires the pupil to successfully complete at least 1 mathematics course during ~~his or her~~ **the transfer pupil's** final year of high school enrollment. In addition, if the transfer pupil is enrolled in the school district or public school academy for at least 1 full school year, both of the following apply:

(A) The transfer pupil's personal curriculum must require that this mathematics course is at least algebra I.

(B) If the transfer pupil demonstrates that ~~he or she~~ **the transfer pupil** has mastered the content of algebra I, the transfer pupil's personal curriculum must require that this mathematics

1 course is a course normally taken after completing algebra I.

2 (iv) The transfer pupil's personal curriculum includes the
3 civics course described in section 1166(2).

4 (m) If a pupil is at least age 18 or is an emancipated minor,
5 the pupil may act on ~~his or her~~ **the pupil's** own behalf under this
6 subsection.

7 (n) This subsection does not apply to a pupil enrolled in a
8 high school that is designated as a specialty school under section
9 ~~1278a(6)~~ **1278a(7)** and that is exempt under that section from the
10 English language arts requirement under subsection (1)(a) and the
11 social science credit requirement under section 1278a(1)(a) (ii).

12 (o) The department or a school district or public school
13 academy shall not limit or discourage the number of pupils with a
14 personal curriculum on any basis other than the best interests of
15 each individual pupil.

16 (p) A school district or public school academy annually shall
17 notify each of its pupils and a parent or legal guardian of each of
18 its pupils that all pupils are entitled to a personal curriculum
19 under this subsection. The annual notice must include an
20 explanation of what a personal curriculum is and state that if a
21 personal curriculum is requested, the public school or public
22 school academy will grant that request. The school district or
23 public school academy shall provide this annual notice to parents
24 and legal guardians by sending a written notice to each pupil's
25 home or by including the notice in a newsletter, student handbook,
26 or similar communication that is sent to a pupil's home, and also
27 shall post the notice on the school district's or public school
28 academy's website.

29 (6) If a pupil receives special education services, the



1 pupil's individualized education program, in accordance with the
2 individuals with disabilities education act, title VI of Public Law
3 91-230, must identify the appropriate course or courses of study
4 and identify the supports, accommodations, and modifications
5 necessary to allow the pupil to progress in the curricular
6 requirements of this section and section 1278a, or in a personal
7 curriculum as provided under subsection (5), and meet the
8 requirements for a high school diploma.

9 (7) The board of a school district or board of directors of a
10 public school academy that operates a high school shall ensure that
11 each pupil is offered the curriculum necessary for the pupil to
12 meet the curricular requirements of this section and section 1278a.
13 The board or board of directors may provide this curriculum by
14 providing the credits specified in this section and section 1278a ~~7~~
15 by using alternative instructional delivery methods such as
16 alternative ~~course work~~, **coursework**, humanities course sequences,
17 career and technical education, industrial technology courses, or
18 vocational education, or by a combination of these. School
19 districts and public school academies that operate career and
20 technical education programs are encouraged to integrate the credit
21 requirements of this section and section 1278a into those programs.

22 (8) If the board of a school district or board of directors of
23 a public school academy wants its high school to be accredited
24 under section 1280, the board or board of directors shall ensure
25 that all elements of the curriculum required under this section and
26 section 1278a are made available to all affected pupils. If a
27 school district or public school academy does not offer all of the
28 required credits, the board of the school district or board of
29 directors of the public school academy shall ensure that the pupil

1 has access to the required credits by another means, such as
2 enrollment in a postsecondary course under the postsecondary
3 enrollment options act, 1996 PA 160, MCL 388.511 to 388.524;
4 enrollment in an online course; a cooperative arrangement with a
5 neighboring school district or with a public school academy; or
6 granting approval under section 6(6) of the state school aid act of
7 1979, MCL 388.1606, for the pupil to be counted in membership in
8 another school district.

9 (9) If a pupil is not successfully completing a credit
10 required for graduation under this section and section 1278a ~~or~~
11 is identified as being at risk of withdrawing from high school,
12 then the pupil's school district or public school academy shall
13 notify the pupil's parent or legal guardian or, if the pupil is at
14 least age 18 or is an emancipated minor, the pupil, of the
15 availability of tutoring or other supplemental educational support
16 and counseling services that may be available to the pupil under
17 existing state or federal programs, such as those programs or
18 services available under section 31a of the state school aid act of
19 1979, MCL 388.1631a, or under the no child left behind act of 2001,
20 Public Law 107-110, or every student succeeds act, Public Law 114-
21 95.

22 (10) To the extent required by the no child left behind act of
23 2001, Public Law 107-110, or every student succeeds act, Public Law
24 114-95, the board of a school district or public school academy
25 shall ensure that all components of the curricular requirements
26 under this section and section 1278a are taught by highly qualified
27 teachers. If a school district or public school academy
28 demonstrates to the department that the school district or public
29 school academy is unable to meet the requirements of this section



1 because the school district or public school academy is unable to
2 hire enough highly qualified teachers, the department shall work
3 with the school district or public school academy to develop a plan
4 to allow the school district or public school academy to hire
5 enough highly qualified teachers to meet the requirements of this
6 section.

7 (11) The board of a school district or board of directors of a
8 public school academy shall provide the opportunity for each pupil
9 to develop an educational development plan during grade 7, and
10 shall ensure that each pupil reviews ~~his or her~~ **the pupil's**
11 educational development plan during grade 8 and revises it as
12 appropriate before he or she begins high school. The board of a
13 school district or board of directors of a public school academy
14 shall also ensure that each pupil reviews and revises ~~his or her~~
15 **the pupil's** educational development plan as appropriate during each
16 year of high school. An educational development plan must be
17 developed, reviewed, and revised by the pupil under the supervision
18 of the pupil's school counselor or another designee qualified to
19 act in a counseling role under section 1233 or 1233a selected by
20 the school principal and must be based on high school readiness
21 scores and a career pathways program or similar career exploration
22 program. An educational development plan must be designed to assist
23 pupils to identify career development goals as they relate to
24 academic requirements. During the process of developing and
25 reviewing a pupil's educational development plan, the pupil must be
26 advised that many of the curricular requirements of this section
27 and section 1278a may be fulfilled through career and technical
28 education. In addition, during the process of developing and
29 reviewing an educational development plan, the pupil must be



1 provided with all of the following:

2 (a) Information on various types of careers and current and
3 projected job openings in this state and those jobs' actual and
4 projected wages.

5 (b) An opportunity to explore careers specific to a pupil's
6 interests and identify career pathways and goals for achieving
7 success in those careers, including, but not limited to, the level
8 and type of educational preparation necessary to accomplish those
9 goals.

10 (c) An opportunity to develop a talent portfolio. A talent
11 portfolio must be developed and revised throughout the
12 implementation of a pupil's educational development plan. A talent
13 portfolio must include, but is not limited to, a record of the
14 pupil's experiences, proficiencies, certifications, or
15 accomplishments that demonstrate talents or marketable skills. The
16 department, in conjunction with the department of labor and
17 economic opportunity, shall develop and make available to the
18 public schools model information materials that districts or public
19 school academies may use to comply with this subdivision.

20 (12) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, if a
21 school district or public school academy is unable to implement all
22 of the curricular requirements of this section and section 1278a
23 for pupils entering grade 9 in 2007 or is unable to implement
24 another requirement of this section or section 1278a, the school
25 district or public school academy may apply to the department for
26 permission to phase in 1 or more of the requirements of this
27 section or section 1278a. To apply, the school district or public
28 school academy shall submit a proposed phase-in plan to the
29 department. The department shall approve a phase-in plan if the



1 department determines that the plan will result in the school
 2 district or public school academy making satisfactory progress
 3 toward full implementation of the requirements of this section and
 4 section 1278a. If the department disapproves a proposed phase-in
 5 plan, the department shall work with the school district or public
 6 school academy to develop a satisfactory plan that may be approved.
 7 This subsection does not apply to a high school that is designated
 8 as a specialty school under section ~~1278a(6)~~**1278a(7)** and that is
 9 exempt under that section from the English language arts
 10 requirement under subsection (1)(a) and the social science credit
 11 requirement under section 1278a(1)(a)(ii).

12 (13) This section and section 1278a do not prohibit a pupil
 13 from satisfying or exceeding the credit requirements of the
 14 Michigan merit standard under this section and section 1278a
 15 through advanced studies such as accelerated course placement,
 16 advanced placement, dual enrollment in a postsecondary institution,
 17 or participation in the international baccalaureate program or an
 18 early college/middle college program.

19 (14) Not later than April 1 of each year, the department shall
 20 submit an annual report to the legislature that evaluates the
 21 overall success of the curriculum required under this section and
 22 section 1278a, the rigor and relevance of the ~~course work~~
 23 **coursework** required by the curriculum, the ability of public
 24 schools to implement the curriculum and the required ~~course work,~~
 25 **coursework**, and the impact of the curriculum on pupil success, and
 26 that details any activities the department has undertaken to
 27 implement this section and section 1278a or to assist public
 28 schools in implementing the requirements of this section and
 29 section 1278a.



1 Sec. 1278e. (1) By not later than June 30, 2028, the
2 department shall develop or adopt, and provide to schools, model
3 programs of instruction for all courses described in sections 1278a
4 and 1278b. The model programs of instruction must align with
5 subject area content expectations and guidelines developed by the
6 department and approved by the state board under section 1278b.

7 (2) The board of a school district or intermediate school
8 district or board of directors of a public school academy is not
9 required to adopt or implement the model programs of instruction
10 developed or adopted by the department under subsection (1).