

**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.**

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

(A) 1 credit in trigonometry.

(B) 1 credit in algebra II.

(C) 1 credit in precalculus.

(D) 1 credit in calculus.

(E) 1 credit in applied mathematics.

(F) 1 credit in statistics.

(G) 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.

(H) 1/2 credit in accounting.

(I) 1/2 credit in business mathematics.

(J) 1/2 credit in construction mathematics.

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

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

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

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

(O) Up to 2 credits from mathematics courses 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.

(ii) At least 3 credits in social science that are aligned with subject area content expectations developed by the department and approved by the state board under section 1278b, including 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 2 credits in future skills that are aligned with subject area content expectations developed by the department and approved by the state board under section 1278b, including 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). The remaining credit may be fulfilled through completion of any of the following:

(A) Any of the courses described in subparagraph (i) or in section 1278b(1)(a) and (b). A course used to fulfill a credit under this subparagraph may not be used to fulfill any other credit



1 requirement under this section or section 1278b.

2 (B) A department-approved formal career and technical  
3 education program.

4 (C) Courses developed by the board of the school district or  
5 intermediate school district or board of directors of the public  
6 school academy in which the pupil is enrolled.

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

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

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

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

22 (2) Except as otherwise provided in this section, and in  
23 addition to the requirements under subsection (1), the board of a  
24 school district or board of directors of a public school academy  
25 shall not award a high school diploma to a pupil unless the pupil  
26 has successfully completed during grades K to 12 at least 2 credits  
27 that are grade-appropriate in a language other than English or  
28 ~~course work~~ **coursework** or other learning experiences that are  
29 substantially equivalent to 2 credits in a language other than



English, based on guidelines developed by the department. A pupil may partially or fully fulfill ~~1 credit of~~ this requirement by completing a department-approved formal career and technical education program or curriculum or by completing visual or performing arts instruction that is in addition to the requirements under subsection (1) (a) (iv). The board of a school district or board of directors of a public school academy is strongly encouraged to ensure that all pupils complete ~~at least 1 credit~~ **the 2 credits** in 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.



1       (6) ~~(5)~~—For the purposes of this section and section 1278b,  
2 all of the following apply:

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

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

28       (7) ~~(6)~~—If a high school is designated by the superintendent  
29 of public instruction as a specialty school and the high school



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

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

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

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

(a) The high school clearly states to prospective pupils and ~~their~~ **the prospective pupils'** parents that it does not meet the

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

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

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

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

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

25 (f) All pupils of the high school are required to meet the  
26 science credit requirements of section 1278b(1)(b) and are also  
27 required to successfully complete at least 1 additional science  
28 credit, for a total of at least 4 science credits, with no  
29 modification of these requirements under section 1278b(5), and each



pupil is offered the curriculum necessary to meet this requirement.

Sec. 1278b. (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section or section 1278a, as part of the requirements under section 1278a 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 has successfully completed all of the following credit requirements of the Michigan merit standard before graduating from high school:

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

- (i) 1 credit in English.
- (ii) 1 credit in language arts.
- (iii) 1 credit in grammar.
- (iv) 1 credit in writing.
- (v) 1 credit in poetry.
- (vi) 1 credit in literature.
- (vii) 1 credit in great books.
- (viii) 1 credit in Shakespeare.
- (ix) 1 credit in dramatic literature.
- (x) 1 credit in business writing.



(xi) 1 credit in school newspaper.

(xii) 1 credit in yearbook.

(xiii) 1 credit in public speaking.

(xiv) 1 credit in debate.

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

(xvi) Up to 4 credits from English language arts courses 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.

(b) ~~At~~ **For students who entered high school before the 2029-2030 school year, at least 3 credits in science that are aligned with subject area content expectations developed by the department and approved by the state board under this section, including completion of and for students who entered high school after the start of the 2029-2030 school year, at least 4 credits in science that are aligned with subject area content expectations developed by the department and approved by the state board under this section. A student must complete at least 1 credit in biology and either 1 credit in chemistry, earth science, agricultural science, or physics. , anatomy, or agricultural science, or successfully completing a program or curriculum that provides the same content as the chemistry or physics benchmarks, as determined by the department. A student may fulfill the requirement** **requirements** for the third science credit by completing a department-approved computer science program or curriculum or formal career and technical education program or curriculum. The legislature strongly encourages pupils to complete a fourth credit in science, such as forensics, astronomy, Earth science, agricultural science,

1 ~~environmental science, geology, physics, chemistry, physiology, or~~  
 2 ~~microbiology.~~ remaining credits in science through completion of any  
 3 of the following courses. This subdivision does not require the  
 4 board of a school district or intermediate school district or the  
 5 board of directors of a public school academy to offer all of the  
 6 following courses. However, each high school operated by the board  
 7 or board of directors must offer at least sufficient courses for  
 8 pupils to be able to complete the requirements of this subdivision:

9 (i) 1 credit in physics.

10 (ii) 1 credit in chemistry.

11 (iii) 1 credit in anatomy.

12 (iv) 1 credit in biology.

13 (v) 1 credit in microbiology.

14 (vi) 1 credit in environmental science.

15 (vii) 1 credit in geology.

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

20 (ix) 1 credit in forensic science.

21 (x) 1 credit in agricultural science.

22 (xi) 1 credit in earth science.

23 (xii) 1 credit in computer literacy.

24 (xiii) 1 credit in keyboarding.

25 (xiv) 1 credit in computer applications.

26 (xv) 1 credit in web design.

27 (xvi) 1 credit in programming.

28 (xvii) 1 credit from a science course developed or approved by

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

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

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

8 (2) If a pupil successfully completes 1 or more of the high  
 9 school credits required under subsection (1) or under section  
 10 1278a(1) or (3) before entering high school, the pupil must be  
 11 given high school credit for that credit.

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

14 (a) Develop subject area content expectations that apply to  
 15 the credit requirements of the Michigan merit standard that are  
 16 required under subsection (1)(a) and (b) and section 1278a(1)(a)(i)  
 17 and (ii), ~~and~~ the 1/2 credit course in personal finance required  
 18 under section 1278a(3), **and the workplace development course**  
 19 **required under section 1278a(4)**, and develop guidelines for the  
 20 remaining credit requirements of the Michigan merit standard that  
 21 are required under this section and section 1278a(1)(a), for the  
 22 online course or learning experience required under section  
 23 1278a(1)(b), and for the requirements for a language other than  
 24 English under section 1278a(2). All of the following apply to these  
 25 subject area content expectations and guidelines:

26 (i) All subject area content expectations must be consistent  
 27 with the state board recommended model core academic curriculum  
 28 content standards under section 1278. Subject area content  
 29 expectations or guidelines must not include attitudes, beliefs, or





1 value systems that are not essential in the legal, economic, and  
2 social structure of our society and to the personal and social  
3 responsibility of citizens of our society. The subject area content  
4 expectations must require pupils to demonstrate critical thinking  
5 skills.

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

8 (iii) The subject area content expectations must state in clear  
9 and measurable terms what pupils are expected to know upon  
10 completion of each credit.

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

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

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

27 (vii) Until all of the subject area content expectations and  
28 guidelines have been developed by the department and approved by  
29 the state board, the department shall submit a report at least



1 every 6 months to the senate and house standing committees  
2 responsible for education legislation on the status of the  
3 development of the subject area content expectations and  
4 guidelines. The report must detail any failure by the department to  
5 meet a deadline established under subparagraph (iv) or (v) and the  
6 reasons for that failure.

7 (b) Develop and implement a process for developing the subject  
8 area content expectations and guidelines required under this  
9 section. This process must provide for all of the following:

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

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

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

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

16 (D) Representatives from the business community.

17 (E) Representatives from vocational and career and technical  
18 education providers.

19 (F) Government officials, including officials from the  
20 legislature.

21 (G) Parents of public school pupils.

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

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

29 (c) Determine the basic level of technology and internet



1 access required for pupils to complete the online course or  
2 learning experience requirement of section 1278a(1)(b), and submit  
3 that determination to the state board for approval.

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

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

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



1 curriculum for the pupil. A teacher, school counselor, or school  
2 employee qualified to act in a counseling role under section 1233  
3 or 1233a may contact a pupil's parent or legal guardian to discuss  
4 the possibility and potential benefits of a personal curriculum  
5 under this subsection for the pupil. If all of the requirements  
6 under this subsection for completing a personal curriculum are met,  
7 then the board of a school district or board of directors of a  
8 public school academy may award a high school diploma to a pupil  
9 who successfully completes ~~his or her~~ **the pupil's** personal  
10 curriculum even if it does not meet the requirements of the  
11 Michigan merit standard required under subsection (1) and section  
12 1278a(1)(a). All of the following apply to a personal curriculum:

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

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

28 (i) Incorporate as much of the subject area content  
29 expectations of the Michigan merit standard required under



1 subsection (1) and section 1278a(1)(a) as is practicable for the  
2 pupil.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

23 (g) The mathematics credit requirements of section  
24 1278a(1)(a)(i) may be modified as part of a personal curriculum if  
25 the pupil successfully completes at least ~~3-1/2~~**3** total credits of  
26 the mathematics credits required under that section before  
27 completing high school, including algebra I and geometry, and  
28 successfully completes at least 1 mathematics credit during ~~his or~~  
29 ~~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.~~

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

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

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

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

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

(i) The health and physical education credit requirement under

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

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

18 (k) If the parent or legal guardian of a pupil requests as  
19 part of the pupil's personal curriculum a modification of the  
20 Michigan merit standard requirements that would not otherwise be  
21 allowed under this section and demonstrates that the modification  
22 is necessary because the pupil is a child with a disability, the  
23 school district or public school academy may allow that additional  
24 modification to the extent necessary because of the pupil's  
25 disability if the group under subdivision (a) determines that the  
26 modification is consistent with both the pupil's educational  
27 development plan under subsection (11) and the pupil's  
28 individualized education program. If the superintendent of public  
29 instruction has reason to believe that a school district or a



1 public school academy is allowing modifications inconsistent with  
2 the requirements of this subdivision, the superintendent of public  
3 instruction shall monitor the school district or public school  
4 academy to ensure that the school district's or public school  
5 academy's policies, procedures, and practices are in compliance  
6 with the requirements for additional modifications under this  
7 subdivision. As used in this subdivision, "child with a disability"  
8 means that term as defined in 20 USC 1401.

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

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

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

27 (iii) The transfer pupil's personal curriculum requires the  
28 pupil to successfully complete at least 1 mathematics course during  
29 ~~his or her~~ **the transfer pupil's** final year of high school





1 enrollment. In addition, if the transfer pupil is enrolled in the  
 2 school district or public school academy for at least 1 full school  
 3 year, both of the following apply:

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

6 (B) If the transfer pupil demonstrates that ~~he or she~~ **the**  
 7 **transfer pupil** has mastered the content of algebra I, the transfer  
 8 pupil's personal curriculum must require that this mathematics  
 9 course is a course normally taken after completing algebra I.

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

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

15 (n) This subsection does not apply to a pupil enrolled in a  
 16 high school that is designated as a specialty school under section  
 17 ~~1278a(6)~~ **1278a(7)** and that is exempt under that section from the  
 18 English language arts requirement under subsection (1)(a) and the  
 19 social science credit requirement under section 1278a(1)(a) (ii).

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

24 (p) A school district or public school academy annually shall  
 25 notify each of its pupils and a parent or legal guardian of each of  
 26 its pupils that all pupils are entitled to a personal curriculum  
 27 under this subsection. The annual notice must include an  
 28 explanation of what a personal curriculum is and state that if a  
 29 personal curriculum is requested, the public school or public



1 school academy will grant that request. The school district or  
2 public school academy shall provide this annual notice to parents  
3 and legal guardians by sending a written notice to each pupil's  
4 home or by including the notice in a newsletter, student handbook,  
5 or similar communication that is sent to a pupil's home, and also  
6 shall post the notice on the school district's or public school  
7 academy's website.

8 (6) If a pupil receives special education services, the  
9 pupil's individualized education program, in accordance with the  
10 individuals with disabilities education act, title VI of Public Law  
11 91-230, must identify the appropriate course or courses of study  
12 and identify the supports, accommodations, and modifications  
13 necessary to allow the pupil to progress in the curricular  
14 requirements of this section and section 1278a, or in a personal  
15 curriculum as provided under subsection (5), and meet the  
16 requirements for a high school diploma.

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



1 (8) If the board of a school district or board of directors of  
2 a public school academy wants its high school to be accredited  
3 under section 1280, the board or board of directors shall ensure  
4 that all elements of the curriculum required under this section and  
5 section 1278a are made available to all affected pupils. If a  
6 school district or public school academy does not offer all of the  
7 required credits, the board of the school district or board of  
8 directors of the public school academy shall ensure that the pupil  
9 has access to the required credits by another means, such as  
10 enrollment in a postsecondary course under the postsecondary  
11 enrollment options act, 1996 PA 160, MCL 388.511 to 388.524;  
12 enrollment in an online course; a cooperative arrangement with a  
13 neighboring school district or with a public school academy; or  
14 granting approval under section 6(6) of the state school aid act of  
15 1979, MCL 388.1606, for the pupil to be counted in membership in  
16 another school district.

17 (9) If a pupil is not successfully completing a credit  
18 required for graduation under this section and section 1278a ~~or~~  
19 is identified as being at risk of withdrawing from high school,  
20 then the pupil's school district or public school academy shall  
21 notify the pupil's parent or legal guardian or, if the pupil is at  
22 least age 18 or is an emancipated minor, the pupil, of the  
23 availability of tutoring or other supplemental educational support  
24 and counseling services that may be available to the pupil under  
25 existing state or federal programs, such as those programs or  
26 services available under section 31a of the state school aid act of  
27 1979, MCL 388.1631a, or under the no child left behind act of 2001,  
28 Public Law 107-110, or every student succeeds act, Public Law 114-  
29 95.



1 (10) To the extent required by the no child left behind act of  
2 2001, Public Law 107-110, or every student succeeds act, Public Law  
3 114-95, the board of a school district or public school academy  
4 shall ensure that all components of the curricular requirements  
5 under this section and section 1278a are taught by highly qualified  
6 teachers. If a school district or public school academy  
7 demonstrates to the department that the school district or public  
8 school academy is unable to meet the requirements of this section  
9 because the school district or public school academy is unable to  
10 hire enough highly qualified teachers, the department shall work  
11 with the school district or public school academy to develop a plan  
12 to allow the school district or public school academy to hire  
13 enough highly qualified teachers to meet the requirements of this  
14 section.

15 (11) The board of a school district or board of directors of a  
16 public school academy shall provide the opportunity for each pupil  
17 to develop an educational development plan during grade 7, and  
18 shall ensure that each pupil reviews ~~his or her~~ **the pupil's**  
19 educational development plan during grade 8 and revises it as  
20 appropriate before he or she begins high school. The board of a  
21 school district or board of directors of a public school academy  
22 shall also ensure that each pupil reviews and revises ~~his or her~~  
23 **the pupil's** educational development plan as appropriate during each  
24 year of high school. An educational development plan must be  
25 developed, reviewed, and revised by the pupil under the supervision  
26 of the pupil's school counselor or another designee qualified to  
27 act in a counseling role under section 1233 or 1233a selected by  
28 the school principal and must be based on high school readiness  
29 scores and a career pathways program or similar career exploration



1 program. An educational development plan must be designed to assist  
2 pupils to identify career development goals as they relate to  
3 academic requirements. During the process of developing and  
4 reviewing a pupil's educational development plan, the pupil must be  
5 advised that many of the curricular requirements of this section  
6 and section 1278a may be fulfilled through career and technical  
7 education. In addition, during the process of developing and  
8 reviewing an educational development plan, the pupil must be  
9 provided with all of the following:

10 (a) Information on various types of careers and current and  
11 projected job openings in this state and those jobs' actual and  
12 projected wages.

13 (b) An opportunity to explore careers specific to a pupil's  
14 interests and identify career pathways and goals for achieving  
15 success in those careers, including, but not limited to, the level  
16 and type of educational preparation necessary to accomplish those  
17 goals.

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

28 (12) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, if a  
29 school district or public school academy is unable to implement all



1 of the curricular requirements of this section and section 1278a  
 2 for pupils entering grade 9 in 2007 or is unable to implement  
 3 another requirement of this section or section 1278a, the school  
 4 district or public school academy may apply to the department for  
 5 permission to phase in 1 or more of the requirements of this  
 6 section or section 1278a. To apply, the school district or public  
 7 school academy shall submit a proposed phase-in plan to the  
 8 department. The department shall approve a phase-in plan if the  
 9 department determines that the plan will result in the school  
 10 district or public school academy making satisfactory progress  
 11 toward full implementation of the requirements of this section and  
 12 section 1278a. If the department disapproves a proposed phase-in  
 13 plan, the department shall work with the school district or public  
 14 school academy to develop a satisfactory plan that may be approved.  
 15 This subsection does not apply to a high school that is designated  
 16 as a specialty school under section ~~1278a(6)~~**1278a(7)** and that is  
 17 exempt under that section from the English language arts  
 18 requirement under subsection (1)(a) and the social science credit  
 19 requirement under section 1278a(1)(a)(ii).

20 (13) This section and section 1278a do not prohibit a pupil  
 21 from satisfying or exceeding the credit requirements of the  
 22 Michigan merit standard under this section and section 1278a  
 23 through advanced studies such as accelerated course placement,  
 24 advanced placement, dual enrollment in a postsecondary institution,  
 25 or participation in the international baccalaureate program or an  
 26 early college/middle college program.

27 (14) Not later than April 1 of each year, the department shall  
 28 submit an annual report to the legislature that evaluates the  
 29 overall success of the curriculum required under this section and



1 section 1278a, the rigor and relevance of the ~~course work~~  
2 **coursework** required by the curriculum, the ability of public  
3 schools to implement the curriculum and the required ~~course work~~,  
4 **coursework**, and the impact of the curriculum on pupil success, and  
5 that details any activities the department has undertaken to  
6 implement this section and section 1278a or to assist public  
7 schools in implementing the requirements of this section and  
8 section 1278a.

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

15       **(2) The board of a school district or intermediate school**  
16 **district or board of directors of a public school academy is not**  
17 **required to adopt or implement the model programs of instruction**  
18 **developed or adopted by the department under subsection (1).**