



# SENATE BILL No. 251

February 8, 1995, Introduced by Senator POSTHUMUS and referred to the Committee on Education.

A bill to amend section 1279 of Act No. 451 of the Public Acts of 1976, entitled as amended "The school code of 1976," as added by Act No. 335 of the Public Acts of 1993, being section 380.1279 of the Michigan Compiled Laws.

**THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:**

1 Section 1. Section 1279 of Act No. 451 of the Public Acts  
2 of 1976, as added by Act No. 335 of the Public Acts of 1993,  
3 being section 380.1279 of the Michigan Compiled Laws, is amended  
4 to read as follows:

5 Sec. 1279. (1) The board of a school district shall award a  
6 state-endorsed high school diploma to an eligible graduate as  
7 provided in this section. For a pupil scheduled to graduate in  
8 1994, 1995, or 1996 to be eligible for a state endorsement in 1

1 or more of the subject areas of communication arts, mathematics,  
2 or science, the pupil must achieve at least 1 of the following:

3 (a) A passing score on locally-adopted and state-approved  
4 basic proficiency tests measuring proficiency in 1 or more of the  
5 subject areas specified in this subsection.

6 (b) If the pupil is eligible to take the general education  
7 development (G.E.D.) test, a passing score in 1 or more of the  
8 subject areas specified in this subsection and tested in the  
9 G.E.D. test.

10 (c) For a state endorsement in communications arts, at least  
11 category 2 on the reading portion of the Michigan educational  
12 assessment program (MEAP) grade 10 test; for a state endorsement  
13 in mathematics, at least 50% of the objectives on the mathematics  
14 portion of the MEAP grade 10 test; and, for a state endorsement  
15 in science, at least 50% of the objectives on the science portion  
16 of the MEAP grade 11 test.

17 (2) Beginning with pupils scheduled to graduate in 1997, if  
18 a pupil achieves the academic outcomes required by the state  
19 board, as measured by an assessment instrument developed under  
20 subsection (8) OR BY A LOCALLY-ADOPTED AND STATE-APPROVED BASIC  
21 PROFICIENCY TEST DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION (1)(A), for a  
22 state-endorsed high school diploma in 1 or more of the subject  
23 areas of communications skills, mathematics, science, and, begin-  
24 ning with pupils scheduled to graduate in 1999, social studies,  
25 the pupil's school district shall award a state endorsement on  
26 the pupil's diploma in each of the subject areas in which the  
27 pupil demonstrated the required proficiency. A school district

1 shall not award a state endorsement to a pupil unless the pupil  
2 meets the applicable requirements for the endorsement, as  
3 described in this subsection. A school district may award a high  
4 school diploma to a pupil who successfully completes local dis-  
5 trict requirements established in accordance with state law for  
6 high school graduation, regardless of whether the pupil is eligi-  
7 ble for any state endorsement.

8 (3) A school district that offers a pupil the opportunity to  
9 pass a basic proficiency test described in subsection (1)(a) as 1  
10 means to obtain a state-endorsed diploma ~~in 1994, 1995, or 1996~~  
11 may submit the school district's own basic proficiency test to  
12 the department for approval to be used by the district to assess  
13 proficiency FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION.

14 (4) A pupil who does not achieve at least 1 of the require-  
15 ments listed in subsection (1) or the requirements of  
16 subsection (2), as applicable, may be reevaluated each school  
17 year until the pupil achieves an applicable requirement for a  
18 state-endorsed diploma. In addition, the board of the school  
19 district in which the pupil is enrolled shall provide that there  
20 be at least 1 meeting attended by at least the pupil and a member  
21 of the school district's staff or a local or intermediate dis-  
22 trict consultant who is proficient in the measurement and evalu-  
23 ation of pupils. The school district may provide the meeting as  
24 a group meeting for pupils in similar circumstances. If the  
25 pupil is a minor, the school district shall invite and encourage  
26 the pupil's parent, legal guardian, or person in loco parentis to  
27 attend the meeting and shall mail a notice of the meeting to the

1 pupil's parent, legal guardian, or person in loco parentis. The  
2 purpose of this meeting and any subsequent meeting under this  
3 subsection shall be to determine an educational program for the  
4 pupil designed to have the pupil reach proficiency in each  
5 subject or skill area in which he or she was assessed by the  
6 testing as not proficient. In addition, a school district may  
7 provide for subsequent meetings with the pupil conducted by a  
8 high school counselor or teacher designated by the pupil's high  
9 school principal, and shall invite and encourage the pupil's  
10 parent, legal guardian, or person in loco parentis to attend the  
11 subsequent meetings. The school board shall provide special pro-  
12 grams for the pupil or develop a program using the educational  
13 programs regularly provided by the district unless the board  
14 decides otherwise and publishes and explains its decision in a  
15 public justification report. A pupil may be reevaluated at any  
16 time the school district administers an applicable assessment  
17 instrument.

18 (5) For a state-endorsed diploma, a pupil must achieve at  
19 least 1 of the requirements listed in subsection (1) or the  
20 requirements of subsection (2), as applicable, in addition to any  
21 other requirements established by law or by the board of the  
22 school district for a high school diploma. If the board of a  
23 school district determines that a pupil qualifies for a  
24 state-endorsed diploma, the board shall indicate on the pupil's  
25 high school diploma and transcript that the pupil achieved the  
26 proficiency necessary for receipt of a state-endorsed diploma.

1 (6) An individual may repeat any of the tests or assessment  
2 instruments specified in subsection (1) or subsection (2), as  
3 applicable, at any time the school district regularly offers the  
4 test or assessment or, for the MEAP tests described in  
5 subsection (1)(c), during the month of April or first 2 weeks of  
6 May, and, upon achieving at least 1 of the requirements listed in  
7 subsection (1) or the requirements of subsection (2), as applica-  
8 ble, and completing all other applicable requirements for a high  
9 school diploma, shall be awarded a state-endorsed diploma.

10 (7) A school district shall provide accommodations to a  
11 pupil with disabilities for the proficiency testing or assessment  
12 required under this section, as provided under section 504 of  
13 title V of the rehabilitation act of 1973, Public Law 93-112, 29  
14 U.S.C. 794; subtitle A of title II of the Americans with disabil-  
15 ities act of 1990, Public Law 101-336, 42 U.S.C. 12131 to 12134;  
16 and the implementing regulations for those statutes. A special  
17 education pupil scheduled to graduate in 1994, 1995, or 1996 who  
18 has passed an alternative form of assessment permitted under  
19 section 104a of the state school aid act of 1979, being  
20 section 388.1604a of the Michigan Compiled Laws, as that section  
21 was in effect for the 1992-93 state fiscal year, shall receive  
22 the applicable endorsement under this section.

23 (8) Not later than July 31, 1993, for the purposes of this  
24 section, the state board shall develop or select and approve  
25 assessment instruments to determine pupil proficiency in communi-  
26 cations skills, mathematics, and science and not later than  
27 July 31, 1995 shall develop or select and approve assessment

1 instruments to determine pupil proficiency in social studies.  
2 The assessment instruments shall be based on the state board  
3 model core academic curriculum outcomes.

4 (9) Not later than July 31, 1995, the state board shall  
5 develop or select and approve assessment instruments for the pur-  
6 pose of awarding state endorsements of advanced mastery in speci-  
7 fied subject areas.

8 (10) The state board shall establish a novice level score  
9 for each state-endorsed diploma assessment developed or selected  
10 and approved under subsection (8). If a graduate achieves a  
11 novice level score in a subject area on an assessment, the tran-  
12 script shall include a notation to that effect but shall not be  
13 considered to be a state-endorsed diploma for that subject area.

14 (11) All assessment instruments developed or selected and  
15 approved by the state under any statute or rule for a purpose  
16 related to K to 12 education shall be outcomes-based and consis-  
17 tent with the state board model core academic curriculum.

18 (12) Beginning in 1995, upon payment of a reasonable fee any  
19 person may take ~~the~~ A state-endorsed diploma ~~test~~ ASSESSMENT  
20 DEVELOPED UNDER SUBSECTION (8) and, upon achieving the initial  
21 mastery level in a subject area, have his or her high school  
22 diploma state-endorsed for that subject area.