

SENATE BILL No. 1124

March 9, 2006, Introduced by Senators KUIPERS, VAN WOERKOM, CASSIS, LELAND, HAMMERSTROM, SIKKEMA, ALLEN, CLARK-COLEMAN, THOMAS, JOHNSON and PATTERSON and referred to the Committee on Education.

A bill to amend 1976 PA 451, entitled
"The revised school code,"
(MCL 380.1 to 380.1852) by adding section 1278a.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 SEC. 1278A. (1) BEGINNING WITH PUPILS ENTERING GRADE 8 IN
2 2006, AND SUBJECT TO SUBSECTION (3), THE BOARD OF A SCHOOL DISTRICT
3 OR BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF A PUBLIC SCHOOL ACADEMY SHALL NOT AWARD A
4 HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA TO A PUPIL UNLESS THE PUPIL MEETS ALL OF THE
5 FOLLOWING:

6 (A) HAS COMPLETED ALL SUBJECT AREA ASSESSMENTS UNDER SECTION
7 1279 OR THE MICHIGAN MERIT EXAMINATION UNDER SECTION 1279G, AS
8 APPLICABLE TO THE PUPIL UNDER SECTION 1279G, OR HAS PARTICIPATED IN
9 THE MIACCESS ASSESSMENTS FOR PUPILS NEEDING SPECIAL EDUCATION
10 SERVICES.

(B) HAS SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED THE CREDIT REQUIREMENTS OF THE MICHIGAN MERIT CURRICULUM BEFORE GRADUATING FROM HIGH SCHOOL. THE CREDIT REQUIREMENTS OF THE MICHIGAN MERIT CURRICULUM ARE AS FOLLOWS:

(i) AT LEAST 4 CREDITS IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS THAT ARE ALIGNED WITH SUBJECT AREA CONTENT EXPECTATIONS DEVELOPED BY THE DEPARTMENT. ALL OF THESE CREDITS SHALL INCLUDE AT LEAST WRITING, SPEAKING, REPRESENTING, READING, LISTENING, VIEWING, LITERATURE, CULTURE, AND LANGUAGE.

(ii) AT LEAST 4 CREDITS IN MATHEMATICS THAT ARE ALIGNED WITH SUBJECT AREA CONTENT EXPECTATIONS DEVELOPED BY THE DEPARTMENT, INCLUDING COMPLETION OF AT LEAST ALGEBRA I, GEOMETRY, AND ALGEBRA II, IN THAT SEQUENCE, AND AN ADDITIONAL MATHEMATICS COURSE, WHICH MAY BE SATISFIED BY COMPLETING TRIGONOMETRY, STATISTICS, PRECALCULUS, CALCULUS, APPLIED MATH, ACCOUNTING, BUSINESS MATH, OR A RETAKE OF ALGEBRA II. IF A PUPIL SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETES A CREDIT IN ALGEBRA I OR ALGEBRA II BEFORE ENTERING HIGH SCHOOL, THE PUPIL SHALL BE GIVEN HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT FOR THAT CREDIT. EACH PUPIL MUST SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE AT LEAST 1 MATHEMATICS COURSE DURING GRADE 12.

(iii) AT LEAST 3 CREDITS IN SCIENCE THAT ARE ALIGNED WITH SUBJECT AREA CONTENT EXPECTATIONS DEVELOPED BY THE DEPARTMENT, INCLUDING COMPLETION OF AT LEAST EARTH SCIENCE, BIOLOGY, AND CHEMISTRY OR PHYSICS, IN THAT SEQUENCE. IF A PUPIL SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETES 1 OR MORE OF THESE SCIENCE CREDITS BEFORE ENTERING HIGH SCHOOL, THE PUPIL SHALL BE GIVEN HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT FOR THAT CREDIT. THE LEGISLATURE STRONGLY ENCOURAGES PUPILS TO COMPLETE AN

1 ADDITIONAL CREDIT IN SCIENCE, SUCH AS FORENSICS, ENVIRONMENTAL
2 SCIENCE, GEOLOGY, PHYSICS OR CHEMISTRY, PHYSIOLOGY, OR
3 MICROBIOLOGY.

4 (iv) AT LEAST 3 CREDITS IN SOCIAL SCIENCE THAT ARE ALIGNED WITH
5 SUBJECT AREA CONTENT EXPECTATIONS DEVELOPED BY THE DEPARTMENT,
6 INCLUDING COMPLETION OF AT LEAST 1 CREDIT IN UNITED STATES HISTORY,
7 1 CREDIT IN WORLD HISTORY, 1/2 CREDIT IN ECONOMICS, AND THE CIVICS
8 OR GOVERNMENT COURSE DESCRIBED IN SECTION 1166(2). THE HISTORY
9 CREDITS SHALL INCLUDE GEOGRAPHY.

10 (v) AT LEAST 1 CREDIT IN HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION THAT IS
11 ALIGNED WITH GUIDELINES DEVELOPED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

12 (vi) AT LEAST 1 CREDIT IN VISUAL ARTS, PERFORMING ARTS, OR
13 APPLIED ARTS, AS DEFINED BY THE DEPARTMENT, THAT IS ALIGNED WITH
14 GUIDELINES DEVELOPED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

15 (C) HAS SUCCESSFULLY MET THE ELECTIVE COURSE CREDIT
16 REQUIREMENTS ESTABLISHED BY THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OR PUBLIC SCHOOL
17 ACADEMY UNDER SUBSECTION (5).

18 (D) MEETS EITHER OF THE FOLLOWING, AS DETERMINED BY THE SCHOOL
19 DISTRICT OR PUBLIC SCHOOL ACADEMY:

20 (i) HAS SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED AT LEAST 1 COURSE OR LEARNING
21 EXPERIENCE THAT IS PRESENTED ONLINE, AS DEFINED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

22 (ii) THE PUPIL'S SCHOOL DISTRICT OR PUBLIC SCHOOL ACADEMY HAS
23 INTEGRATED AN ONLINE EXPERIENCE THROUGHOUT THE HIGH SCHOOL
24 CURRICULUM BY ENSURING THAT EACH TEACHER OF EACH COURSE THAT
25 PROVIDES THE REQUIRED CREDITS OF THE MICHIGAN MERIT CURRICULUM HAS
26 INTEGRATED AN ONLINE EXPERIENCE INTO THE COURSE.

27 (2) IN ADDITION TO THE REQUIREMENTS UNDER SUBSECTION (1),

1 BEGINNING WITH PUPILS ENTERING GRADE 9 IN 2009, THE BOARD OF A
2 SCHOOL DISTRICT OR BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF A PUBLIC SCHOOL ACADEMY
3 SHALL NOT AWARD A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA TO A PUPIL UNLESS THE PUPIL
4 HAS SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED DURING GRADES 9 TO 12 AT LEAST 2
5 CREDITS, AS DETERMINED BY THE DEPARTMENT, IN A LANGUAGE OTHER THAN
6 ENGLISH, OR THE PUPIL HAS SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED DURING GRADES K TO
7 8 COURSE WORK OR OTHER LEARNING EXPERIENCES THAT ARE SUBSTANTIALLY
8 EQUIVALENT TO 2 CREDITS IN A LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH, BASED ON
9 STANDARDS DEVELOPED BY THE DEPARTMENT. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS
10 SUBSECTION, ALL OF THE FOLLOWING APPLY:

11 (A) AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE IS CONSIDERED TO BE A LANGUAGE
12 OTHER THAN ENGLISH.

13 (B) THE PUPIL MAY MEET ALL OR PART OF THIS REQUIREMENT WITH
14 ONLINE COURSE WORK.

15 (3) FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL DO
16 ALL OF THE FOLLOWING:

17 (A) DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT SUBJECT AREA CONTENT EXPECTATIONS
18 THAT APPLY TO THE CREDIT REQUIREMENTS OF THE MICHIGAN MERIT
19 CURRICULUM THAT ARE REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (1)(B)(i) TO (iv) AND
20 DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT GUIDELINES FOR THE CREDIT REQUIREMENTS OF THE
21 MICHIGAN MERIT CURRICULUM THAT ARE REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION
22 (1)(B)(v) AND (vi) AND FOR THE ONLINE COURSE OR LEARNING EXPERIENCE
23 UNDER SUBSECTION (1)(D). ALL OF THE FOLLOWING APPLY TO THESE
24 EXPECTATIONS AND GUIDELINES:

25 (i) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL COMPLETE THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE
26 SUBJECT AREA CONTENT EXPECTATIONS THAT APPLY TO ALGEBRA I AND EARTH
27 SCIENCE AND THE GUIDELINES FOR THE ONLINE COURSE OR LEARNING

1 EXPERIENCE UNDER SUBSECTION (1) (D) NOT LATER THAN AUGUST 1, 2006.

2 (ii) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL COMPLETE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SUBJECT
3 AREA CONTENT EXPECTATIONS OR GUIDELINES THAT APPLY TO EACH OF THE
4 OTHER CREDITS REQUIRED IN THE MICHIGAN MERIT CURRICULUM UNDER
5 SUBSECTION (1) (B) NOT LATER THAN 1 YEAR BEFORE THE BEGINNING OF THE
6 SCHOOL YEAR IN WHICH A PUPIL ENTERING HIGH SCHOOL IN 2007 WOULD
7 NORMALLY BE EXPECTED TO COMPLETE THE CREDIT.

8 (iii) IF THE DEPARTMENT HAS NOT COMPLETED DEVELOPMENT OF THE
9 SUBJECT AREA CONTENT EXPECTATIONS THAT APPLY TO A PARTICULAR CREDIT
10 REQUIRED IN THE MICHIGAN MERIT CURRICULUM UNDER SUBSECTION (1) (B)
11 BY THE DATE REQUIRED UNDER THIS SUBDIVISION, A SCHOOL DISTRICT OR
12 PUBLIC SCHOOL ACADEMY MAY ALIGN THE CONTENT OF THE CREDIT WITH
13 LOCALLY ADOPTED STANDARDS.

14 (B) NOT LATER THAN 3 YEARS AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THIS
15 SECTION, DEVELOP OR SELECT AND APPROVE ASSESSMENTS THAT MAY BE USED
16 BY SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND PUBLIC SCHOOL ACADEMIES TO DETERMINE
17 WHETHER A PUPIL HAS SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED A CREDIT REQUIRED UNDER
18 THE MICHIGAN MERIT CURRICULUM. THE ASSESSMENT FOR EACH CREDIT SHALL
19 MEASURE A PUPIL'S UNDERSTANDING OF THE SUBJECT AREA CONTENT
20 EXPECTATIONS OR GUIDELINES THAT APPLY TO THE CREDIT. THE DEPARTMENT
21 SHALL DEVELOP OR SELECT AND APPROVE AN ASSESSMENT FOR EACH OF THE
22 FOLLOWING CREDITS: ALGEBRA I, GEOMETRY, ALGEBRA II, EARTH SCIENCE,
23 BIOLOGY, PHYSICS, CHEMISTRY, GRADE 9 ENGLISH, GRADE 10 ENGLISH,
24 GRADE 11 ENGLISH, GRADE 12 ENGLISH, WORLD HISTORY, UNITED STATES
25 HISTORY, ECONOMICS, AND CIVICS/GOVERNMENT.

26 (C) DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT STANDARDS AND MODELS FOR TWENTY-
27 FIRST CENTURY TEACHING AND LEARNING SKILLS REQUIRED TO BE INCLUDED

1 IN ELECTIVE COURSES UNDER SUBSECTION (6) .

2 (D) DEVELOP STANDARDS FOR DETERMINING WHETHER COURSE WORK OR
3 OTHER LEARNING EXPERIENCES DURING GRADES K TO 8 ARE SUBSTANTIALLY
4 EQUIVALENT TO 2 CREDITS IN A LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH.

5 (4) THE REQUIREMENTS OF SUBSECTION (1) ARE SUBJECT TO ALL OF
6 THE FOLLOWING:

7 (A) THE PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN OF A PUPIL WHO HAS COMPLETED,
8 OR IS ABOUT TO COMPLETE, AT LEAST THE FIRST SEMESTER OF GRADE 11
9 AND AT LEAST 2-1/2 YEARS OF THE MICHIGAN MERIT CURRICULUM MAY
10 REQUEST A MODIFICATION OF THE MATHEMATICS OR SCIENCE CREDIT
11 REQUIREMENTS UNDER SUBSECTION (1) (B) (ii) AND (iii) FOR THE PUPIL. IF A
12 PUPIL REQUESTS MODIFICATION UNDER THIS SUBDIVISION, THE PUPIL'S
13 SCHOOL DISTRICT OR PUBLIC SCHOOL ACADEMY SHALL WORK WITH THE
14 PUPIL'S PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN TO DEVELOP AN INDIVIDUALIZED
15 LEARNING PLAN FOR THE PUPIL. THE PUPIL MAY THEN COMPLETE A
16 CURRICULUM DESIGNED THROUGH THIS PROCESS AND SPECIFIED IN THE
17 INDIVIDUALIZED LEARNING PLAN EVEN IF IT DOES NOT MEET THE
18 MATHEMATICS OR SCIENCE CREDIT REQUIREMENTS OF SUBSECTION (1) (B) .
19 HOWEVER, THE ALGEBRA II REQUIREMENT MAY BE MODIFIED ONLY IF THE
20 PUPIL EITHER SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETES THE SAME CONTENT AS ALGEBRA II
21 OVER 2 YEARS, WITH A CREDIT AWARDED FOR EACH OF THOSE YEARS, OR THE
22 PUPIL ENROLLS IN A FORMAL CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM OR
23 CURRICULUM. IF A PUPIL IS AT LEAST AGE 18 OR IS AN EMANCIPATED
24 MINOR, THE PUPIL MAY ACT ON HIS OR HER OWN BEHALF UNDER THIS
25 SUBDIVISION.

26 (B) IF A PUPIL RECEIVES SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES, THE
27 PUPIL'S INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAM, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE

1 INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT, TITLE VI OF PUBLIC LAW
2 91-230, SHALL IDENTIFY THE APPROPRIATE COURSE OR COURSES OF STUDY
3 AND IDENTIFY THE SUPPORTS, ACCOMMODATIONS, AND MODIFICATIONS
4 NECESSARY TO ALLOW THE PUPIL TO PROGRESS IN THE MICHIGAN MERIT
5 CURRICULUM REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (1), OR IN AN INDIVIDUALIZED
6 LEARNING PLAN AS PROVIDED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION, AND MEET THE
7 REQUIREMENTS FOR A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA.

8 (5) THE BOARD OF A SCHOOL DISTRICT OR BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF A
9 PUBLIC SCHOOL ACADEMY THAT OPERATES A HIGH SCHOOL SHALL ENSURE THAT
10 EACH PUPIL IS OFFERED THE CURRICULUM NECESSARY FOR THE PUPIL TO
11 MEET THE CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS OF SUBSECTION (1). THE BOARD OR
12 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MAY PROVIDE THIS CURRICULUM BY PROVIDING THE
13 CREDITS SPECIFIED IN SUBSECTION (1), BY USING ALTERNATIVE
14 INSTRUCTIONAL DELIVERY METHODS SUCH AS ALTERNATIVE COURSE WORK,
15 HUMANITIES COURSE SEQUENCES, CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION,
16 INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY COURSES, OR VOCATIONAL EDUCATION, OR BY A
17 COMBINATION OF THESE.

18 (6) THE BOARD OF A SCHOOL DISTRICT OR BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF A
19 PUBLIC SCHOOL ACADEMY THAT OPERATES A HIGH SCHOOL SHALL ESTABLISH A
20 NUMBER OF ELECTIVE COURSE WORK CREDITS THAT EACH PUPIL MUST
21 SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE TO EARN A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA. THE BOARD OR
22 BOARD OF DIRECTORS SHALL ENSURE THAT EACH ELECTIVE COURSE OFFERED
23 BY THE HIGH SCHOOL INCLUDES AT LEAST 1 OF THE FOLLOWING TWENTY-
24 FIRST CENTURY TEACHING AND LEARNING SKILLS ACCORDING TO STANDARDS
25 AND MODELS DEVELOPED BY THE DEPARTMENT:

26 (A) GLOBAL LITERACY.

27 (B) CIVIC LITERACY.

1 (C) FINANCIAL, ECONOMIC, AND ENTREPRENEURIAL LITERACY.

2 (D) INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY LITERACY.

3 (E) LEARNING SKILLS.

4 (7) BEGINNING IN THE 2006-2007 SCHOOL YEAR, THE BOARD OF A
5 SCHOOL DISTRICT OR BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF A PUBLIC SCHOOL ACADEMY
6 THAT OPERATES GRADE 7 SHALL ENSURE THAT ALL PUPILS IN GRADE 7 ARE
7 PROVIDED WITH A CAREER PATHWAYS PROGRAM OR SIMILAR CAREER
8 EXPLORATION PROGRAM.

9 (8) THE BOARD OF A SCHOOL DISTRICT OR PUBLIC SCHOOL ACADEMY
10 SHALL ENSURE THAT ALL COMPONENTS OF THE CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS
11 UNDER THIS SECTION ARE TAUGHT BY HIGHLY QUALIFIED TEACHERS,
12 CONSISTENT WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND ACT OF
13 2001, PUBLIC LAW 107-110.

14 (9) IF A SCHOOL DISTRICT OR PUBLIC SCHOOL ACADEMY IS UNABLE TO
15 IMPLEMENT ALL OF THE CURRICULAR REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION FOR
16 PUPILS ENTERING GRADE 9 IN 2007 OR IS UNABLE TO IMPLEMENT ANOTHER
17 REQUIREMENT OF THIS SECTION, THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OR PUBLIC SCHOOL
18 ACADEMY MAY APPLY TO THE DEPARTMENT FOR PERMISSION TO PHASE IN 1 OR
19 MORE OF THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS SECTION. TO APPLY, THE SCHOOL
20 DISTRICT OR PUBLIC SCHOOL ACADEMY SHALL SUBMIT A PROPOSED PHASE-IN
21 PLAN TO THE DEPARTMENT. THE DEPARTMENT SHALL APPROVE A PHASE-IN
22 PLAN IF THE DEPARTMENT DETERMINES THAT THE PLAN WILL RESULT IN THE
23 SCHOOL DISTRICT OR PUBLIC SCHOOL ACADEMY MAKING SATISFACTORY
24 PROGRESS TOWARD FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS
25 SECTION. IF THE DEPARTMENT DISAPPROVES A PROPOSED PHASE-IN PLAN,
26 THE DEPARTMENT SHALL WORK WITH THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OR PUBLIC SCHOOL
27 ACADEMY TO DEVELOP A SATISFACTORY PLAN THAT MAY BE APPROVED.

1 (10) FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, ALL OF THE FOLLOWING
2 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 (B) A SCHOOL DISTRICT OR PUBLIC SCHOOL ACADEMY SHALL BASE ITS
7 DETERMINATION OF WHETHER A PUPIL HAS SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED THE
8 SUBJECT AREA CONTENT EXPECTATIONS OR GUIDELINES DEVELOPED BY THE
9 DEPARTMENT THAT APPLY TO A CREDIT AT LEAST IN PART ON THE PUPIL'S
10 PERFORMANCE ON THE ASSESSMENT DEVELOPED OR SELECTED BY THE
11 DEPARTMENT UNDER SUBSECTION (3) (B) OR ON AN ASSESSMENT DEVELOPED OR
12 SELECTED BY THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OR PUBLIC SCHOOL ACADEMY THAT
13 MEASURES A PUPIL'S UNDERSTANDING OF THE SUBJECT AREA CONTENT
14 EXPECTATIONS OR GUIDELINES THAT APPLY TO THE CREDIT.

15 (C) A SCHOOL DISTRICT OR PUBLIC SCHOOL ACADEMY SHALL ALSO
16 GRANT A PUPIL A CREDIT IF THE PUPIL EARNS A QUALIFYING SCORE, AS
17 DETERMINED BY THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OR PUBLIC SCHOOL ACADEMY, ON
18 EITHER THE ASSESSMENT DEVELOPED OR SELECTED FOR THE SUBJECT AREA BY
19 THE DEPARTMENT UNDER SUBSECTION (3) (B) OR ON AN ASSESSMENT
20 DEVELOPED OR SELECTED BY THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OR PUBLIC SCHOOL
21 ACADEMY THAT MEASURES A PUPIL'S UNDERSTANDING OF THE SUBJECT AREA
22 CONTENT EXPECTATIONS OR GUIDELINES THAT APPLY TO THE CREDIT.