

HOUSE SUBSTITUTE FOR
SENATE BILL NO. 834

A bill to amend 1976 PA 451, entitled
"The revised school code,"
by amending section 1278a (MCL 380.1278a), as added by 2006 PA 124.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 1278a. (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section
2 or section 1278b, beginning with pupils entering grade 8 in 2006,
3 the board of a school district or board of directors of a public
4 school academy shall not award a high school diploma to a pupil
5 unless the pupil meets all of the following:

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

9 (i) At least 4 credits in mathematics that are aligned with
10 subject area content expectations developed by the department and

1 approved by the state board under section 1278b, including
2 completion of at least algebra I, geometry, and algebra II, or an
3 integrated sequence of this course content that consists of 3
4 credits, and an additional mathematics credit, such as
5 trigonometry, statistics, precalculus, calculus, applied math,
6 accounting, business math, ~~or~~ a retake of algebra II, **A COURSE IN**
7 **FINANCIAL LITERACY AS DESCRIBED IN SECTION 1165, A MATH SUPPORT**
8 **COURSE, PREALGEBRA, OR ANOTHER MATHEMATICS COURSE APPROVED BY THE**
9 **BOARD OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OR BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE PUBLIC**
10 **SCHOOL ACADEMY FOR THIS PURPOSE. A PUPIL MAY COMPLETE ALGEBRA II**
11 **OVER 2 YEARS WITH A CREDIT AWARDED FOR EACH OF THOSE YEARS FOR THE**
12 **PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION AND SECTION 1278B.** Each pupil must
13 successfully complete at least 1 mathematics course during his or
14 her final year of high school enrollment. **THIS SUBPARAGRAPH DOES**
15 **NOT REQUIRE COMPLETION OF MATHEMATICS COURSES IN ANY PARTICULAR**
16 **SEQUENCE.**

17 (ii) At least 3 credits in social science that are aligned with
18 subject area content expectations developed by the department and
19 approved by the state board under section 1278b, including
20 completion of at least 1 credit in United States history and
21 geography, 1 credit in world history and geography, 1/2 credit in
22 economics, and the civics course described in section 1166(2).

23 (iii) At least 1 credit in subject matter that includes both
24 health and physical education aligned with guidelines developed by
25 the department and approved by the state board under section 1278b.

26 (iv) At least 1 credit in visual arts, performing arts, or
27 applied arts, as defined by the department, that is aligned with

1 guidelines developed by the department and approved by the state
2 board under section 1278b.

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

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

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

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

18 (2) In addition to the requirements under subsection (1),
19 beginning with pupils entering grade 3 in 2006, the board of a
20 school district or board of directors of a public school academy
21 shall not award a high school diploma to a pupil unless the pupil
22 has successfully completed during grades 9 to 12 at least 2
23 credits, as determined by the department, in a language other than
24 English, or the pupil has successfully completed at any time during
25 grades K to 12 course work or other learning experiences that are
26 substantially equivalent to 2 credits in a language other than
27 English, based on guidelines developed by the department. For the

1 purposes of this subsection, all of the following apply:

2 (a) American sign language is considered to be a language
3 other than English.

4 (b) The pupil may meet all or part of this requirement with
5 online course work.

6 (3) The requirements under this section and section 1278b for
7 a high school diploma are in addition to any local requirements
8 imposed by the board of a school district or board of directors of
9 a public school academy. The board of a school district or board of
10 directors of a public school academy, as a local requirement for a
11 high school diploma, may require a pupil to complete some or all of
12 the subject area assessments under section 1279 or the Michigan
13 merit examination under section 1279g, as applicable to the pupil
14 under section 1279g, or may require a pupil to participate in the
15 MIAccess assessments if appropriate for the pupil.

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

18 (a) A pupil is considered to have completed a credit if the
19 pupil successfully completes the subject area content expectations
20 or guidelines developed by the department that apply to the credit.

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

1 academy that measure a pupil's understanding of the subject area
2 content expectations or guidelines that apply to the credit.

3 (c) A school district or public school academy shall also
4 grant a pupil a credit if the pupil earns a qualifying score, as
5 determined by the department, on the assessments developed or
6 selected for the subject area by the department under section 1278b
7 or the pupil earns a qualifying score, as determined by the school
8 district or public school academy, on 1 or more assessments
9 developed or selected by the school district or public school
10 academy that measure a pupil's understanding of the subject area
11 content expectations or guidelines that apply to the credit.

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

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

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

8 (6) A high school that is designated by the superintendent of
9 public instruction as a specialty school under subsection (5) is
10 only exempt from requirements as described under subsection (5) as
11 long as the superintendent of public instruction finds that the
12 high school continues to meet all of the following requirements:

13 (a) The high school clearly states to prospective pupils and
14 their parents that it does not meet the requirements of the
15 Michigan merit standard under this section and section 1278b but is
16 a designated specialty school that is exempt from some of those
17 requirements and that a pupil who enrolls in the high school and
18 subsequently transfers to a high school that is not a specialty
19 school meeting the requirements of this subsection will be required
20 to comply with the requirements of the Michigan merit standard
21 under this section and section 1278b.

22 (b) For the most recent year for which the data are available,
23 the mean scores on both the mathematics and science portions of the
24 ACT examination for the pupils of the high school exceed by at
25 least 10% the mean scores on the mathematics and science portions
26 of the ACT examination for the pupils of the school district in
27 which the greatest number of the pupils of the high school reside.

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

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

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

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

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