

HOUSE BILL No. 5684

May 24, 2016, Introduced by Reps. Howell, Hooker, Muxlow, Goike, Pettalia, Brett Roberts and Johnson and referred to the Committee on Education.

A bill to amend 1976 PA 451, entitled
"The revised school code,"
by amending section 1278a (MCL 380.1278a), as amended by 2015 PA
186.

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

approved by the state board under section 1278b, including completion of at least algebra I, geometry, and **EITHER** algebra II **OR STATISTICS**, or an integrated sequence of this course content that consists of 3 credits, and an additional mathematics credit, such as trigonometry, ~~statistics~~, precalculus, calculus, applied math, accounting, business math, a retake of algebra II, or a course in financial literacy as described in section 1165. A pupil may complete algebra II over 2 years with 2 credits awarded or over 1.5 years with 1.5 credits awarded for the purposes of this section and section 1278b. A pupil also may partially or fully fulfill the algebra II requirement by completing a department-approved formal career and technical education program or curriculum, such as a program or curriculum in electronics, machining, construction, welding, engineering, computer science, or renewable energy, and in that program or curriculum successfully completing the same content as the algebra II benchmarks assessed on the department-prescribed state high school assessment, as determined by the department. The department shall post on its website guidelines for implementation of the immediately preceding sentence. Each pupil must successfully complete at least 1 mathematics course during his or her final year of high school enrollment. This subparagraph does not require completion of mathematics courses in any particular sequence.

(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

1 economics, and the civics course described in section 1166(2). The
2 1/2-credit economics requirement may be satisfied by completion of
3 at least a 1/2-credit course in personal economics that includes a
4 financial literacy component as described in section 1165, if that
5 course covers the subject area content expectations for economics
6 developed by the department and approved by the state board under
7 section 1278b.

8 (iii) At least 1 credit in subject matter that includes both
9 health and physical education aligned with guidelines developed by
10 the department and approved by the state board under section 1278b,
11 or at least 1/2 credit in health aligned with guidelines developed
12 by the department and approved by the state board under section
13 1278b and at least 1/2 credit awarded by the school district or
14 public school academy for approved participation in extracurricular
15 athletics or other extracurricular activities involving physical
16 activity.

17 (iv) At least 1 credit in visual arts, performing arts, or
18 applied arts, as defined by the department, that is aligned with
19 guidelines developed by the department and approved by the state
20 board under section 1278b. A school district or public school
21 academy is strongly encouraged to offer visual arts and performing
22 arts courses.

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

24 (b) Meets the online course or learning experience requirement
25 of this subsection. A school district or public school academy
26 shall provide the basic level of technology and internet access
27 required by the state board to complete the online course or

1 learning experience. For a pupil to meet this requirement, the
2 pupil shall meet either of the following, as determined by the
3 school district or public school academy:

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

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

11 (2) In addition to the requirements under subsection (1),
12 beginning with pupils entering grade 3 in 2006, the board of a
13 school district or board of directors of a public school academy
14 shall not award a high school diploma to a pupil unless the pupil
15 has successfully completed during grades K to 12 at least 2 credits
16 that are grade-appropriate in a language other than English or
17 course work or other learning experiences that are substantially
18 equivalent to 2 credits in a language other than English, based on
19 guidelines developed by the department. For pupils who graduate
20 from high school in 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, or 2021 only, a
21 pupil may partially or fully fulfill 1 credit of this requirement
22 by completing a department-approved formal career and technical
23 education program or curriculum or by completing visual or
24 performing arts instruction that is in addition to the requirements
25 under subsection (1)(a)(iv). The board of a school district or
26 board of directors of a public school academy is strongly
27 encouraged to ensure that all pupils complete at least 1 credit in

1 a language other than English in grades K to 6. For the purposes of
2 this subsection, all of the following apply:

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

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

7 (3) The requirements under this section and section 1278b for
8 a high school diploma are in addition to any local requirements
9 imposed by the board of a school district or board of directors of
10 a public school academy. The board of a school district or board of
11 directors of a public school academy, as a local requirement for a
12 high school diploma, may require a pupil to complete the Michigan
13 merit examination under section 1279g or may require a pupil to
14 participate in the MIAccess assessments if appropriate for the
15 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 For a career and technical education credit, a school district or
22 public school academy may supplement those content expectations and
23 guidelines with additional guidelines developed by the school
24 district or public school academy.

25 (b) A school district or public school academy shall base its
26 determination of whether a pupil has successfully completed the
27 subject area content expectations or guidelines developed by the

1 department that apply to a credit at least in part on the pupil's
2 performance on the assessments developed or selected by the
3 department under section 1278b or on 1 or more assessments
4 developed or selected by the school district or public school
5 academy that measure a pupil's understanding of the subject area
6 content expectations or guidelines that apply to the credit.

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

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

1 the superintendent of public instruction shall designate a high
2 school as a specialty school if the superintendent of public
3 instruction finds that the high school meets all of the following
4 criteria:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

21 Enacting section 1. This amendatory act takes effect 90 days
22 after the date it is enacted into law.