

HOUSE BILL NO. 6471

November 09, 2022, Introduced by Rep. Stone 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 2022 PA
105.

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:

1 (a) Has successfully completed all of the following credit
2 requirements of the Michigan merit standard before graduating from
3 high school:

4 (i) At least 4 credits in mathematics that are aligned with
5 subject area content expectations developed by the department and
6 approved by the state board under section 1278b, including
7 completion of at least algebra I, geometry, and algebra II, or an
8 integrated sequence of this course content that consists of 3
9 credits, and an additional mathematics credit, such as
10 trigonometry, statistics, precalculus, calculus, applied math,
11 accounting, business math, a retake of algebra II, or, for only
12 pupils entering grade 8 before 2023, a course in financial literacy
13 as described in section 1165. A pupil may complete algebra II over
14 2 years with 2 credits awarded or over 1.5 years with 1.5 credits
15 awarded for the purposes of this section and section 1278b. A pupil
16 also may partially or fully fulfill the algebra II requirement by
17 completing a department-approved formal career and technical
18 education program or curriculum, such as a program or curriculum in
19 electronics, machining, construction, welding, engineering,
20 computer science, or renewable energy, and in that program or
21 curriculum successfully completing the same content as the algebra
22 II benchmarks assessed on the department-prescribed state high
23 school assessment, as determined by the department. The department
24 shall post on its website guidelines for implementation of the
25 immediately preceding sentence. Each pupil must successfully
26 complete at least 1 mathematics course during his or her final year
27 of high school enrollment. This subparagraph does not require
28 completion of mathematics courses in any particular sequence.

29 (ii) At least 3 credits in social science 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 United States history and
4 geography, 1 credit in world history and geography, 1/2 credit in
5 economics, and the civics course described in section 1166(2). For
6 only pupils entering grade 8 before 2023, the 1/2-credit economics
7 requirement may be satisfied by completion of at least a 1/2-credit
8 course in personal economics that includes a financial literacy
9 component as described in section 1165, if that course covers the
10 subject area content expectations for economics developed by the
11 department and approved by the state board under section 1278b. ~~The~~
12 ~~1/2 credit in economics required under this subparagraph cannot be~~
13 ~~fulfilled by completion of the 1/2 credit course in personal~~
14 ~~finance described in subsection (3).~~

15 (iii) At least 1 credit in subject matter that includes both
16 health and physical education aligned with guidelines developed by
17 the department and approved by the state board under section 1278b,
18 or at least 1/2 credit in health aligned with guidelines developed
19 by the department and approved by the state board under section
20 1278b and at least 1/2 credit awarded by the school district or
21 public school academy for approved participation in extracurricular
22 athletics or other extracurricular activities involving physical
23 activity.

24 (iv) At least 1 credit in visual arts, performing arts, or
25 applied arts, as defined by the department, that is aligned with
26 guidelines developed by the department and approved by the state
27 board under section 1278b. A school district or public school
28 academy is strongly encouraged to offer visual arts and performing
29 arts courses.

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

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

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

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

16 (2) Except as otherwise provided in this section, and in
17 addition to the requirements under subsection (1), the board of a
18 school district or board of directors of a public school academy
19 shall not award a high school diploma to a pupil unless the pupil
20 has successfully completed during grades K to 12 at least 2 credits
21 that are grade-appropriate in a language other than English or
22 course work or other learning experiences that are substantially
23 equivalent to 2 credits in a language other than English, based on
24 guidelines developed by the department. A pupil may partially or
25 fully fulfill 1 credit of this requirement by completing a
26 department-approved formal career and technical education program
27 or curriculum or by completing visual or performing arts
28 instruction that is in addition to the requirements under
29 subsection (1) (a) (iv). The board of a school district or board of

1 directors of a public school academy is strongly encouraged to
2 ensure that all pupils complete at least 1 credit in a language
3 other than English in grades K to 6. For the purposes of this
4 subsection, both of the following apply:

5 (a) American Sign Language is considered to be a language
6 other than English.

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

9 (3) Beginning with pupils entering grade 8 in 2023, the board
10 of a school district or board of directors of a public school
11 academy shall not award a high school diploma to a pupil unless the
12 pupil completes a 1/2 credit course in personal finance that aligns
13 with subject area content expectations developed by the department
14 and approved by the state board under section 1278b. The 1/2 credit
15 course in personal finance must fulfill 1/2 credit of mathematics
16 required under subsection (1)(a)(i), **1/2 credit of economics**
17 **required under subsection (1)(a)(ii)**, 1/2 credit of visual arts,
18 performing arts, or applied arts required under subsection
19 (1)(a)(iv), or 1/2 credit of a language other than English required
20 under subsection (2), as determined by the board of the school
21 district or board of directors of the public school academy in
22 which the pupil is enrolled. The 1/2 credit course in personal
23 finance required under this subsection may be fulfilled through a
24 department-approved formal career and technical education program
25 or curriculum that aligns with the subject area content
26 expectations developed by the department and approved by the state
27 board for the credit under section 1278b.

28 (4) The requirements under this section and section 1278b for
29 a high school diploma are in addition to any local requirements

1 imposed by the board of a school district or board of directors of
2 a public school academy. The board of a school district or board of
3 directors of a public school academy, as a local requirement for a
4 high school diploma, may require a pupil to complete the Michigan
5 merit examination under section 1279g or may require a pupil to
6 participate in the MIAccess assessments if appropriate for the
7 pupil.

8 (5) For the purposes of this section and section 1278b, all of
9 the following apply:

10 (a) A pupil is considered to have completed a credit if the
11 pupil successfully completes the subject area content expectations
12 or guidelines developed by the department that apply to the credit.
13 For a career and technical education credit, a school district or
14 public school academy may supplement those content expectations and
15 guidelines with additional guidelines developed by the school
16 district or public school academy.

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

26 (c) A school district or public school academy shall also
27 grant a pupil a credit if the pupil earns a qualifying score, as
28 determined by the department, on assessments developed or selected
29 for the subject area by the department or the pupil earns a

1 qualifying score, as determined by the school district or public
2 school academy, on 1 or more assessments developed or selected by
3 the school district or public school academy that measure a pupil's
4 understanding of the subject area content expectations or
5 guidelines that apply to the credit.

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

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

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

28 (7) A high school that is designated by the superintendent of
29 public instruction as a specialty school under subsection (6) is

1 only exempt from requirements as described under subsection (6) as
2 long as the superintendent of public instruction finds that the
3 high school continues to meet all of the following requirements:

4 (a) The high school clearly states to prospective pupils and
5 their parents that it does not meet the requirements of the
6 Michigan merit standard under this section and section 1278b but is
7 a designated specialty school that is exempt from some of those
8 requirements and that a pupil who enrolls in the high school and
9 subsequently transfers to a high school that is not a specialty
10 school meeting the requirements of this subsection will be required
11 to comply with the requirements of the Michigan merit standard
12 under this section and section 1278b.

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

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

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

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

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