

# HOUSE BILL NO. 4156

February 26, 2025, Introduced by Reps. Greene, Kuhn, Steele, DeBoyer, Linting, Schuette, Thompson, St. Germaine, Schmaltz, Tisdell, Cavitt and Kelly and referred to Committee on Education and Workforce.

A bill to amend 1976 PA 451, entitled  
"The revised school code,"  
by amending sections 1278a and 1278b (MCL 380.1278a and 380.1278b),  
as amended by 2022 PA 105, and by adding section 1278e.

## **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:
- 5       (a) Has successfully completed all of the following credit

requirements of the Michigan merit standard before graduating from high school:

(i) At least 4 credits in mathematics 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 algebra I** ~~, and 1 credit in geometry. , and algebra II, 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, for only pupils entering grade 8 before 2023, 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 the~~ **pupil's** final year of high school enrollment. ~~This subparagraph does not require completion of mathematics courses in any particular sequence. A pupil may fulfill the remaining 2 credits in~~ **mathematics through completion of any of the following:**

(A) 1 credit in trigonometry.

(B) 1 credit in algebra II.

(C) 1 credit in precalculus.

(D) 1 credit in calculus.

(E) 1 credit in applied mathematics.

(F) 1 credit in statistics.

(G) 1 credit in computer science. A course in computer science used to fulfill a credit under this subparagraph may not be used to fulfill any other credit requirement under this section or section 1278b.

(H) 1/2 credit in accounting.

(I) 1/2 credit in business mathematics.

(J) 1/2 credit in construction mathematics.

(K) 1/2 credit in algebra-based physics.

(L) 1/2 credit in algebra-based chemistry.

(M) 1/2 credit in economics with a focus on mathematics.

(N) Up to 2 credits from a department-approved formal career and technical education program.

(O) Up to 2 credits from mathematics courses developed by the board of the school district or intermediate school district or board of directors of the public school academy in which the pupil is enrolled.

(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 economics, and the civics course described in section 1166(2). For only pupils entering grade 8 before 2023, the 1/2-credit economics

1 requirement may be satisfied by completion of at least a 1/2-credit  
2 course in personal economics that includes a financial literacy  
3 component as described in section 1165, if that course covers the  
4 subject area content expectations for economics developed by the  
5 department and approved by the state board under section 1278b. The  
6 1/2 credit in economics required under this subparagraph cannot be  
7 fulfilled by completion of the 1/2 credit course in personal  
8 finance described in subsection (3).

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

18 (iv) At least 1 credit in visual arts, performing arts, or  
19 applied arts ~~, as defined by the department,~~ that is aligned with  
20 guidelines developed by the department and approved by the state  
21 board under section 1278b. ~~A school district or public school~~  
22 ~~academy is strongly encouraged to offer visual arts and performing~~  
23 ~~arts courses.~~ **The credit in visual arts, performing arts, or applied**  
24 **arts under this subparagraph may be fulfilled through completion of**  
25 **any of the following:**

26 (A) 1 credit in general music.

27 (B) 1 credit in marching band.

28 (C) 1 credit in concert band.

29 (D) 1 credit in orchestra.

- 1 (E) 1 credit in choral music.
- 2 (F) 1 credit in strings.
- 3 (G) 1 credit in music theory.
- 4 (H) 1 credit in keyboard.
- 5 (I) 1 credit in jazz ensemble.
- 6 (J) 1 credit in wind ensemble.
- 7 (K) 1 credit in choir.
- 8 (L) 1 credit in art.
- 9 (M) 1 credit in visual arts.
- 10 (N) 1 credit in visual studies.
- 11 (O) 1 credit in drawing.
- 12 (P) 1 credit in painting.
- 13 (Q) 1 credit in ceramics and pottery.
- 14 (R) 1 credit in design.
- 15 (S) 1 credit in art appreciation.
- 16 (T) 1 credit in illustration.
- 17 (U) 1 credit in computer graphics and design.
- 18 (V) 1 credit in video.
- 19 (W) 1 credit in photography and film.
- 20 (X) 1 credit in art history.
- 21 (Y) 1 credit in art criticism.
- 22 (Z) 1 credit in fiber arts.
- 23 (AA) 1 credit in jewelry.
- 24 (BB) 1 credit in yearbook.
- 25 (CC) 1 credit in theater.
- 26 (DD) 1 credit in graphic design.
- 27 (EE) 1 credit in shop.
- 28 (FF) 1 credit in culinary studies.
- 29 (GG) 1 credit in computer science. A course in computer

1 science used to fulfill a credit under this subparagraph may not be  
2 used to fulfill any other credit requirement under this section or  
3 section 1278b.

4 (HH) 1 credit from a department-approved formal career and  
5 technical education program.

6 (II) 1 credit in a visual arts course developed by the board  
7 of the school district or intermediate school district or board of  
8 directors of the public school academy in which the pupil is  
9 enrolled.

10 (v) Beginning with pupils entering high school in the 2029-  
11 2030 school year, at least 2 credits in future skills that are  
12 aligned with subject area content expectations developed by the  
13 department and approved by the state board under section 1278b,  
14 including completion of the 1/2 credit course in personal finance  
15 described in subsection (3) and the 1/2 credit course in workplace  
16 development described in subsection (4). The remaining credit may  
17 be fulfilled through completion of any of the following:

18 (A) Any of the courses described in subparagraph (i) or in  
19 section 1278b(1) (a) and (b). A course used to fulfill a credit  
20 under this subparagraph may not be used to fulfill any other credit  
21 requirement under this section or section 1278b.

22 (B) A department-approved formal career and technical  
23 education program.

24 (C) Courses developed by the board of the school district or  
25 intermediate school district or board of directors of the public  
26 school academy in which the pupil is enrolled.

27 (vi) ~~(v)~~—The credit requirements specified in section 1278b(1).

28 (b) Meets the online course or learning experience requirement  
29 of this subsection. A school district or public school academy

shall provide the basic level of technology and internet access required by the state board to complete the online course or learning experience. For a pupil to meet this requirement, the pupil must meet either of the following, as determined by the school district or public school academy:

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

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

(2) Except as otherwise provided in this section, and in addition to the requirements under subsection (1), the board of a school district or board of directors of a public school academy shall not award a high school diploma to a pupil unless the pupil has successfully completed during grades K to 12 at least 2 credits that are grade-appropriate in a language other than English or ~~course work~~ **coursework** or other learning experiences that are substantially equivalent to 2 credits in a language other than English, based on guidelines developed by the department. A pupil may partially or fully fulfill ~~1 credit of this~~ requirement by completing a department-approved formal career and technical education program or curriculum or by completing visual or performing arts instruction that is in addition to the requirements under subsection (1)(a)(iv). The board of a school district or board of directors of a public school academy is strongly encouraged to ensure that all pupils complete ~~at least 1 credit~~ **the 2 credits** in a language other than English **required under this subsection** in

grades K to ~~6~~—8. For the purposes of this subsection, both of the following apply:

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

**(b) Computer coding is considered to be a language other than English.**

**(c) ~~(b)~~**—The pupil may meet all or part of this requirement with online ~~course work~~.**coursework.**

(3) Beginning with pupils entering grade 8 in 2023, the board of a school district or board of directors of a public school academy shall not award a high school diploma to a pupil unless the pupil completes a 1/2 credit course in personal finance that aligns with subject area content expectations developed by the department and approved by the state board under section 1278b. The 1/2 credit course in personal finance must fulfill 1/2 credit of ~~mathematics required under subsection (1) (a) (i), 1/2 credit of visual arts, performing arts, or applied arts required under subsection (1) (a) (iv), or 1/2 credit of a language other than English required under subsection (2), as determined by the board of the school district or board of directors of the public school academy in which the pupil is enrolled.~~ **future skills required under subsection (1) (a) (v).** The 1/2 credit course in personal finance required under this subsection may be fulfilled through a department-approved formal career and technical education program or curriculum that aligns with the subject area content expectations developed by the department and approved by the state board for the credit under section 1278b.

**(4) Beginning with pupils entering grade 8 in 2029, the board of a school district or board of directors of a public school**



academy shall not award a high school diploma to a pupil unless the pupil completes a 1/2 credit course in workplace development that aligns with subject area content expectations developed by the department and approved by the state board under section 1278b. The 1/2 credit course in workplace development must fulfill 1/2 credit of future skills required under subsection (1)(a)(v). The 1/2 credit course in workplace development under this section must include instruction on at least all of the following topics:

(a) Resume building.

(b) Career pathway exploration.

(c) General workplace development components.

~~(4)~~ The requirements under this section and section 1278b for a high school diploma are in addition to any local requirements imposed by the board of a school district or board of directors of a public school academy. The board of a school district or board of directors of a public school academy, as a local requirement for a high school diploma, may require a pupil to complete the Michigan merit examination under section 1279g or may require a pupil to participate in the MIAccess assessments if appropriate for the pupil.

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

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

1 (b) A school district or public school academy shall base its  
2 determination of whether a pupil has successfully completed the  
3 subject area content expectations or guidelines developed by the  
4 department that apply to a credit at least in part on the pupil's  
5 performance on assessments developed or selected by the department  
6 or on 1 or more assessments developed or selected by the school  
7 district or public school academy that measure a pupil's  
8 understanding of the subject area content expectations or  
9 guidelines that apply to the credit.

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

19 (7) ~~(6)~~—If a high school is designated by the superintendent  
20 of public instruction as a specialty school and the high school  
21 meets the requirements of subsection ~~(7)~~, ~~(8)~~, the pupils of the  
22 high school are not required to successfully complete the 4 credits  
23 in English language arts required under section 1278b(1)(a) or the  
24 3 credits in social science required under subsection (1)(a)(ii) and  
25 the school district or public school academy is not required to  
26 ensure that each pupil is offered the curriculum necessary for  
27 meeting those English language arts or social science credit  
28 requirements. The superintendent of public instruction may  
29 designate up to 15 high schools that meet the requirements of this

1 subsection as specialty schools. Subject to this maximum number,  
2 the superintendent of public instruction shall designate a high  
3 school as a specialty school if the superintendent of public  
4 instruction finds that the high school meets all of the following  
5 criteria:

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

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

13 (8) ~~(7)~~—A high school that is designated by the superintendent  
14 of public instruction as a specialty school under subsection ~~(6)~~  
15 (7) is only exempt from requirements as described under subsection  
16 ~~(6)~~—(7) as long as the superintendent of public instruction finds  
17 that the high school continues to meet all of the following  
18 requirements:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

22 Sec. 1278b. (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section  
23 or section 1278a, as part of the requirements under section 1278a  
24 the board of a school district or board of directors of a public  
25 school academy shall not award a high school diploma to a pupil  
26 unless the pupil has successfully completed all of the following  
27 credit requirements of the Michigan merit standard before  
28 graduating from high school:

29 (a) At least 4 credits in English language arts that are

aligned with subject area content expectations developed by the department and approved by the state board under this section. **A pupil may fulfill the credits in English language arts through completion of any of the following:**

(i) 1 credit in English.

(ii) 1 credit in language arts.

(iii) 1 credit in grammar.

(iv) 1 credit in writing.

(v) 1 credit in poetry.

(vi) 1 credit in literature.

(vii) 1 credit in great books.

(viii) 1 credit in Shakespeare.

(ix) 1 credit in dramatic literature.

(x) 1 credit in business writing.

(xi) 1 credit in school newspaper.

(xii) 1 credit in yearbook.

(xiii) 1 credit in public speaking.

(xiv) 1 credit in debate.

(xv) 1 credit from a department-approved formal career and technical education program.

(xvi) Up to 4 credits from English language arts courses developed by the board of the school district or intermediate school district or board of directors of the public school academy in which the pupil is enrolled.

(b) ~~At~~ **For students who entered high school before the 2029-2030 school year, at** least 3 credits in science that are aligned with subject area content expectations developed by the department and approved by the state board under this section, ~~including~~

~~completion of~~ and for students who entered high school after the start of the 2029-2030 school year, at least 4 credits in science that are aligned with subject area content expectations developed by the department and approved by the state board under this section. A student must complete at least 1 credit in biology and either 1 credit in chemistry, earth science, agricultural science, or physics. ~~, anatomy, or agricultural science, or successfully completing a program or curriculum that provides the same content as the chemistry or physics benchmarks, as determined by the~~ department. A student may fulfill the ~~requirement~~ **requirements** for the ~~third science credit by completing a department-approved computer science program or curriculum or formal career and technical education program or curriculum.~~ The legislature strongly encourages pupils to complete a fourth credit in science, such as forensics, astronomy, Earth science, agricultural science, environmental science, geology, physics, chemistry, physiology, or microbiology. **remaining credits in science through completion of any of the following:**

(i) 1 credit in physics.

(ii) 1 credit in chemistry.

(iii) 1 credit in anatomy.

(iv) 1 credit in biology.

(v) 1 credit in microbiology.

(vi) 1 credit in environmental science.

(vii) 1 credit in geology.

(viii) 1 credit in computer science. A course in computer science used to fulfill a credit under this subdivision may not be used to fulfill any other credit requirement under this section or section 1278a.

(ix) 1 credit in forensic science.

(x) 1 credit in agricultural science.

(xi) 1 credit in earth science.

(xii) 1 credit in computer literacy.

(xiii) 1 credit in keyboarding.

(xiv) 1 credit in computer applications.

(xv) 1 credit in web design.

(xvi) 1 credit in programming.

(xvii) 1 credit from a science course developed by the board of the school district or intermediate school district or board of directors of the public school academy in which the student is enrolled.

(xviii) Up to 2 credits from a department-approved formal career and technical education program or curriculum.

(c) The credit requirements specified in section 1278a(1)(a)(i) to (iv).

(2) If a pupil successfully completes 1 or more of the high school credits required under subsection (1) or under section 1278a(1) or (3) before entering high school, the pupil must be given high school credit for that credit.

(3) For the purposes of this section and section 1278a, the department shall do all of the following:

(a) Develop subject area content expectations that apply to the credit requirements of the Michigan merit standard that are required under subsection (1)(a) and (b) and section 1278a(1)(a)(i) and (ii), ~~and~~ the 1/2 credit course in personal finance required under section 1278a(3), **and the workplace development course required under section 1278a(4)**, and develop guidelines for the

1 remaining credit requirements of the Michigan merit standard that  
2 are required under this section and section 1278a(1)(a), for the  
3 online course or learning experience required under section  
4 1278a(1)(b), and for the requirements for a language other than  
5 English under section 1278a(2). All of the following apply to these  
6 subject area content expectations and guidelines:

7 (i) All subject area content expectations must be consistent  
8 with the state board recommended model core academic curriculum  
9 content standards under section 1278. Subject area content  
10 expectations or guidelines must not include attitudes, beliefs, or  
11 value systems that are not essential in the legal, economic, and  
12 social structure of our society and to the personal and social  
13 responsibility of citizens of our society. The subject area content  
14 expectations must require pupils to demonstrate critical thinking  
15 skills.

16 (ii) The subject area content expectations and the guidelines  
17 must be approved by the state board under subsection (4).

18 (iii) The subject area content expectations must state in clear  
19 and measurable terms what pupils are expected to know upon  
20 completion of each credit.

21 (iv) The department shall complete the development of the  
22 subject area content expectations that apply to algebra I and the  
23 guidelines for the online course or learning experience under  
24 section 1278a(1)(b) not later than August 1, 2006.

25 (v) The department shall complete development of the subject  
26 area content expectations or guidelines that apply to each of the  
27 other credits required in the Michigan merit standard under  
28 subsection (1) and section 1278a(1)(a) not later than 1 year before  
29 the beginning of the school year in which a pupil entering high



1 school in 2007 would normally be expected to complete the credit.

2 (vi) If the department has not completed development of the  
3 subject area content expectations that apply to a particular credit  
4 required in the Michigan merit standard under subsection (1) or  
5 section 1278a(1)(a) by the date required under this subdivision, a  
6 school district or public school academy may align the content of  
7 the credit with locally adopted standards.

8 (vii) Until all of the subject area content expectations and  
9 guidelines have been developed by the department and approved by  
10 the state board, the department shall submit a report at least  
11 every 6 months to the senate and house standing committees  
12 responsible for education legislation on the status of the  
13 development of the subject area content expectations and  
14 guidelines. The report must detail any failure by the department to  
15 meet a deadline established under subparagraph (iv) or (v) and the  
16 reasons for that failure.

17 (b) Develop and implement a process for developing the subject  
18 area content expectations and guidelines required under this  
19 section. This process must provide for all of the following:

20 (i) Soliciting input from all of the following groups:

21 (A) Recognized experts in the relevant subject areas.

22 (B) Representatives from 4-year colleges or universities,  
23 community colleges, and other postsecondary institutions.

24 (C) Teachers, administrators, and school personnel who have  
25 specialized knowledge of the subject area.

26 (D) Representatives from the business community.

27 (E) Representatives from vocational and career and technical  
28 education providers.

29 (F) Government officials, including officials from the

1 legislature.

2 (G) Parents of public school pupils.

3 (ii) A review of the subject area content expectations or  
4 guidelines by national experts.

5 (iii) An opportunity for the public to review and provide input  
6 on the proposed subject area content expectations or guidelines  
7 before they are submitted to the state board for approval. The time  
8 period allowed for this review and input must be at least 15  
9 business days.

10 (c) Determine the basic level of technology and internet  
11 access required for pupils to complete the online course or  
12 learning experience requirement of section 1278a(1)(b), and submit  
13 that determination to the state board for approval.

14 (d) Develop and make available material to assist school  
15 districts and public school academies in implementing the  
16 requirements of this section and section 1278a. This must include  
17 developing guidelines for alternative instructional delivery  
18 methods as described in subsection (7).

19 (4) The state board shall approve subject area content  
20 expectations and guidelines developed by the department under  
21 subsection (3) before those subject area content expectations and  
22 guidelines may take effect. The state board also shall approve the  
23 basic level of technology and internet access required for pupils  
24 to complete the online course or learning experience requirement of  
25 section 1278a(1)(b).

26 (5) The parent or legal guardian of a pupil who has completed  
27 grade 9, a teacher who is currently teaching the pupil, who  
28 currently teaches in or whose expertise is in a subject area  
29 proposed to be modified by the personal curriculum, or who is

1 determined by the principal to have qualifications otherwise  
2 relevant to developing a personal curriculum, or a school counselor  
3 or school employee qualified to act in a counseling role under  
4 section 1233 or 1233a may request a personal curriculum under this  
5 subsection for the pupil that modifies certain of the Michigan  
6 merit standard requirements under subsection (1) or section  
7 1278a(1)(a). If the request for a personal curriculum is made by  
8 the pupil's parent or legal guardian or, if the pupil is at least  
9 age 18 or is an emancipated minor, by the pupil, the school  
10 district or public school academy shall develop a personal  
11 curriculum for the pupil. A teacher, school counselor, or school  
12 employee qualified to act in a counseling role under section 1233  
13 or 1233a may contact a pupil's parent or legal guardian to discuss  
14 the possibility and potential benefits of a personal curriculum  
15 under this subsection for the pupil. If all of the requirements  
16 under this subsection for completing a personal curriculum are met,  
17 then the board of a school district or board of directors of a  
18 public school academy may award a high school diploma to a pupil  
19 who successfully completes ~~his or her~~ **the pupil's** personal  
20 curriculum even if it does not meet the requirements of the  
21 Michigan merit standard required under subsection (1) and section  
22 1278a(1)(a). All of the following apply to a personal curriculum:  
23 (a) The personal curriculum must be developed by a group that  
24 includes at least the pupil, at least 1 of the pupil's parents or  
25 the pupil's legal guardian, and a teacher described in this  
26 subdivision or the pupil's high school counselor or another  
27 designee qualified to act in a counseling role under section 1233  
28 or 1233a selected by the high school principal. In addition, for a  
29 pupil who receives special education services, a school

1 psychologist should also be included in this group. The teacher  
2 included in the group developing the personal curriculum must be a  
3 teacher who is currently teaching the pupil, who currently teaches  
4 in or whose expertise is in a subject area being modified by the  
5 personal curriculum, or who is determined by the principal to have  
6 qualifications otherwise relevant to the group. This subdivision  
7 does not require an in-person meeting of the group.

8 (b) The personal curriculum must do all of the following:

9 (i) Incorporate as much of the subject area content  
10 expectations of the Michigan merit standard required under  
11 subsection (1) and section 1278a(1)(a) as is practicable for the  
12 pupil.

13 (ii) Establish measurable goals that the pupil must achieve  
14 while enrolled in high school.

15 (iii) Provide a method to evaluate whether the pupil achieved  
16 the goals described in subparagraph (ii).

17 (iv) Align with the pupil's educational development plan  
18 developed under subsection (11).

19 (c) Before it takes effect, the personal curriculum must be  
20 agreed to by the pupil's parent or legal guardian and by the  
21 superintendent of the school district or chief executive of the  
22 public school academy or his or her designee.

23 (d) The pupil's parent or legal guardian shall communicate  
24 with each of the pupil's teachers to monitor the pupil's progress  
25 toward the goals contained in the pupil's personal curriculum.

26 (e) Revisions may be made in the personal curriculum if the  
27 revisions are developed and agreed to in the same manner as the  
28 original personal curriculum.

29 (f) The English language arts credit requirements of

subsection (1)(a) and the science credit requirements of subsection (1)(b) are not subject to modification as part of a personal curriculum under this subsection.

(g) The mathematics credit requirements of section 1278a(1)(a)(i) may be modified as part of a personal curriculum if the pupil successfully completes at least ~~3-1/2~~ **3** total credits of the mathematics credits required under that section before completing high school, including algebra I and geometry, and successfully completes at least 1 mathematics credit during ~~his or her~~ **the pupil's** final 2 years of high school. ~~The algebra II credit required under that section may be modified as part of a personal curriculum under this subsection if the pupil meets 1 or more of the following:~~

~~(i) Successfully completes the same content as 1 semester of algebra II, as determined by the department.~~

~~(ii) Elects to complete the same content as algebra II over 2 years, with a credit awarded for each of those 2 years, and successfully completes that content.~~

~~(iii) Enrolls in a formal career and technical education program or curriculum and in that program or curriculum successfully completes the same content as the algebra II benchmarks assessed on the department-prescribed state high school assessment, as determined by the department.~~

~~(iv) Successfully completes 1 semester of statistics, functions and data analysis, or technical mathematics.~~

(h) The social science credit requirements of section 1278a(1)(a)(ii) may be modified as part of a personal curriculum only if all of the following are met:

(i) The pupil has successfully completed 2 credits of the

1 social science credits required under section 1278a(1), including  
2 the civics course described in section 1166(2).

3 (ii) The modification requires the pupil to complete 1  
4 additional credit in English language arts, mathematics, or science  
5 or 1 additional credit in a language other than English, or  
6 requires the pupil to complete a formal career and technical  
7 education program. This additional credit must be in addition to  
8 the number of those credits otherwise required under subsection (1)  
9 and section 1278a(1) or under section 1278a(2).

10 (i) The health and physical education credit requirement under  
11 section 1278a(1)(a)(iii) may be modified as part of a personal  
12 curriculum only if the modification requires the pupil to complete  
13 1 additional credit in English language arts, mathematics, or  
14 science or 1 additional credit in a language other than English, or  
15 requires the pupil to complete a formal career and technical  
16 education program. This additional credit must be in addition to  
17 the number of those credits otherwise required under subsection (1)  
18 and section 1278a(1) or under section 1278a(2).

19 (j) The visual arts, performing arts, or applied arts credit  
20 requirement under section 1278a(1)(a)(iv) may be modified as part of  
21 a personal curriculum only if the modification requires the pupil  
22 to complete 1 additional credit in English language arts,  
23 mathematics, or science or 1 additional credit in a language other  
24 than English, or requires the pupil to complete a formal career and  
25 technical education program. This additional credit must be in  
26 addition to the number of those credits otherwise required under  
27 subsection (1) and section 1278a(1) or under section 1278a(2).

28 (k) If the parent or legal guardian of a pupil requests as  
29 part of the pupil's personal curriculum a modification of the

Michigan merit standard requirements that would not otherwise be allowed under this section and demonstrates that the modification is necessary because the pupil is a child with a disability, the school district or public school academy may allow that additional modification to the extent necessary because of the pupil's disability if the group under subdivision (a) determines that the modification is consistent with both the pupil's educational development plan under subsection (11) and the pupil's individualized education program. If the superintendent of public instruction has reason to believe that a school district or a public school academy is allowing modifications inconsistent with the requirements of this subdivision, the superintendent of public instruction shall monitor the school district or public school academy to ensure that the school district's or public school academy's policies, procedures, and practices are in compliance with the requirements for additional modifications under this subdivision. As used in this subdivision, "child with a disability" means that term as defined in 20 USC 1401.

(l) If a pupil transfers to a school district or public school academy from out of state or from a nonpublic school, the pupil's parent or legal guardian may request, as part of the pupil's personal curriculum, a modification of the Michigan merit standard requirements that would not otherwise be allowed under this section. The school district or public school academy may allow this additional modification for a transfer pupil if all of the following are met:

(i) The transfer pupil has successfully completed at least the equivalent of 2 years of high school credit out of state or at a nonpublic school. The school district or public school academy may

1 use appropriate assessment examinations to determine what credits,  
 2 if any, the pupil has earned out of state or at a nonpublic school  
 3 that may be used to satisfy the curricular requirements of the  
 4 Michigan merit standard and this subdivision.

5 (ii) The transfer pupil's personal curriculum incorporates as  
 6 much of the subject area content expectations of the Michigan merit  
 7 standard as is practicable for the pupil.

8 (iii) The transfer pupil's personal curriculum requires the  
 9 pupil to successfully complete at least 1 mathematics course during  
 10 ~~his or her~~ **the transfer pupil's** final year of high school  
 11 enrollment. In addition, if the transfer pupil is enrolled in the  
 12 school district or public school academy for at least 1 full school  
 13 year, both of the following apply:

14 (A) The transfer pupil's personal curriculum must require that  
 15 this mathematics course is at least algebra I.

16 (B) If the transfer pupil demonstrates that ~~he or she~~ **the**  
 17 **transfer pupil** has mastered the content of algebra I, the transfer  
 18 pupil's personal curriculum must require that this mathematics  
 19 course is a course normally taken after completing algebra I.

20 (iv) The transfer pupil's personal curriculum includes the  
 21 civics course described in section 1166(2).

22 (m) If a pupil is at least age 18 or is an emancipated minor,  
 23 the pupil may act on ~~his or her~~ **the pupil's** own behalf under this  
 24 subsection.

25 (n) This subsection does not apply to a pupil enrolled in a  
 26 high school that is designated as a specialty school under section  
 27 ~~1278a(6)~~ **1278a(7)** and that is exempt under that section from the  
 28 English language arts requirement under subsection (1)(a) and the  
 29 social science credit requirement under section 1278a(1)(a)(ii).



1           (o) The department or a school district or public school  
2 academy shall not limit or discourage the number of pupils with a  
3 personal curriculum on any basis other than the best interests of  
4 each individual pupil.

5           (p) A school district or public school academy annually shall  
6 notify each of its pupils and a parent or legal guardian of each of  
7 its pupils that all pupils are entitled to a personal curriculum  
8 under this subsection. The annual notice must include an  
9 explanation of what a personal curriculum is and state that if a  
10 personal curriculum is requested, the public school or public  
11 school academy will grant that request. The school district or  
12 public school academy shall provide this annual notice to parents  
13 and legal guardians by sending a written notice to each pupil's  
14 home or by including the notice in a newsletter, student handbook,  
15 or similar communication that is sent to a pupil's home, and also  
16 shall post the notice on the school district's or public school  
17 academy's website.

18           (6) If a pupil receives special education services, the  
19 pupil's individualized education program, in accordance with the  
20 individuals with disabilities education act, title VI of Public Law  
21 91-230, must identify the appropriate course or courses of study  
22 and identify the supports, accommodations, and modifications  
23 necessary to allow the pupil to progress in the curricular  
24 requirements of this section and section 1278a, or in a personal  
25 curriculum as provided under subsection (5), and meet the  
26 requirements for a high school diploma.

27           (7) The board of a school district or board of directors of a  
28 public school academy that operates a high school shall ensure that  
29 each pupil is offered the curriculum necessary for the pupil to

1 meet the curricular requirements of this section and section 1278a.  
 2 The board or board of directors may provide this curriculum by  
 3 providing the credits specified in this section and section 1278a ~~7~~  
 4 by using alternative instructional delivery methods such as  
 5 alternative ~~course work~~, **coursework**, humanities course sequences,  
 6 career and technical education, industrial technology courses, or  
 7 vocational education, or by a combination of these. School  
 8 districts and public school academies that operate career and  
 9 technical education programs are encouraged to integrate the credit  
 10 requirements of this section and section 1278a into those programs.

11 (8) If the board of a school district or board of directors of  
 12 a public school academy wants its high school to be accredited  
 13 under section 1280, the board or board of directors shall ensure  
 14 that all elements of the curriculum required under this section and  
 15 section 1278a are made available to all affected pupils. If a  
 16 school district or public school academy does not offer all of the  
 17 required credits, the board of the school district or board of  
 18 directors of the public school academy shall ensure that the pupil  
 19 has access to the required credits by another means, such as  
 20 enrollment in a postsecondary course under the postsecondary  
 21 enrollment options act, 1996 PA 160, MCL 388.511 to 388.524;  
 22 enrollment in an online course; a cooperative arrangement with a  
 23 neighboring school district or with a public school academy; or  
 24 granting approval under section 6(6) of the state school aid act of  
 25 1979, MCL 388.1606, for the pupil to be counted in membership in  
 26 another school district.

27 (9) If a pupil is not successfully completing a credit  
 28 required for graduation under this section and section 1278a ~~7~~or  
 29 is identified as being at risk of withdrawing from high school,

1 then the pupil's school district or public school academy shall  
2 notify the pupil's parent or legal guardian or, if the pupil is at  
3 least age 18 or is an emancipated minor, the pupil, of the  
4 availability of tutoring or other supplemental educational support  
5 and counseling services that may be available to the pupil under  
6 existing state or federal programs, such as those programs or  
7 services available under section 31a of the state school aid act of  
8 1979, MCL 388.1631a, or under the no child left behind act of 2001,  
9 Public Law 107-110, or every student succeeds act, Public Law 114-  
10 95.

11 (10) To the extent required by the no child left behind act of  
12 2001, Public Law 107-110, or every student succeeds act, Public Law  
13 114-95, the board of a school district or public school academy  
14 shall ensure that all components of the curricular requirements  
15 under this section and section 1278a are taught by highly qualified  
16 teachers. If a school district or public school academy  
17 demonstrates to the department that the school district or public  
18 school academy is unable to meet the requirements of this section  
19 because the school district or public school academy is unable to  
20 hire enough highly qualified teachers, the department shall work  
21 with the school district or public school academy to develop a plan  
22 to allow the school district or public school academy to hire  
23 enough highly qualified teachers to meet the requirements of this  
24 section.

25 (11) The board of a school district or board of directors of a  
26 public school academy shall provide the opportunity for each pupil  
27 to develop an educational development plan during grade 7, and  
28 shall ensure that each pupil reviews ~~his or her~~ **the pupil's**  
29 educational development plan during grade 8 and revises it as

1 appropriate before he or she begins high school. The board of a  
2 school district or board of directors of a public school academy  
3 shall also ensure that each pupil reviews and revises ~~his or her~~  
4 **the pupil's** educational development plan as appropriate during each  
5 year of high school. An educational development plan must be  
6 developed, reviewed, and revised by the pupil under the supervision  
7 of the pupil's school counselor or another designee qualified to  
8 act in a counseling role under section 1233 or 1233a selected by  
9 the school principal and must be based on high school readiness  
10 scores and a career pathways program or similar career exploration  
11 program. An educational development plan must be designed to assist  
12 pupils to identify career development goals as they relate to  
13 academic requirements. During the process of developing and  
14 reviewing a pupil's educational development plan, the pupil must be  
15 advised that many of the curricular requirements of this section  
16 and section 1278a may be fulfilled through career and technical  
17 education. In addition, during the process of developing and  
18 reviewing an educational development plan, the pupil must be  
19 provided with all of the following:

20 (a) Information on various types of careers and current and  
21 projected job openings in this state and those jobs' actual and  
22 projected wages.

23 (b) An opportunity to explore careers specific to a pupil's  
24 interests and identify career pathways and goals for achieving  
25 success in those careers, including, but not limited to, the level  
26 and type of educational preparation necessary to accomplish those  
27 goals.

28 (c) An opportunity to develop a talent portfolio. A talent  
29 portfolio must be developed and revised throughout the

1 implementation of a pupil's educational development plan. A talent  
2 portfolio must include, but is not limited to, a record of the  
3 pupil's experiences, proficiencies, certifications, or  
4 accomplishments that demonstrate talents or marketable skills. The  
5 department, in conjunction with the department of labor and  
6 economic opportunity, shall develop and make available to the  
7 public schools model information materials that districts or public  
8 school academies may use to comply with this subdivision.

9 (12) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, if a  
10 school district or public school academy is unable to implement all  
11 of the curricular requirements of this section and section 1278a  
12 for pupils entering grade 9 in 2007 or is unable to implement  
13 another requirement of this section or section 1278a, the school  
14 district or public school academy may apply to the department for  
15 permission to phase in 1 or more of the requirements of this  
16 section or section 1278a. To apply, the school district or public  
17 school academy shall submit a proposed phase-in plan to the  
18 department. The department shall approve a phase-in plan if the  
19 department determines that the plan will result in the school  
20 district or public school academy making satisfactory progress  
21 toward full implementation of the requirements of this section and  
22 section 1278a. If the department disapproves a proposed phase-in  
23 plan, the department shall work with the school district or public  
24 school academy to develop a satisfactory plan that may be approved.  
25 This subsection does not apply to a high school that is designated  
26 as a specialty school under section ~~1278a(6)~~**1278a (7)** and that is  
27 exempt under that section from the English language arts  
28 requirement under subsection (1)(a) and the social science credit  
29 requirement under section 1278a(1)(a)(ii).

(13) This section and section 1278a do not prohibit a pupil from satisfying or exceeding the credit requirements of the Michigan merit standard under this section and section 1278a through advanced studies such as accelerated course placement, advanced placement, dual enrollment in a postsecondary institution, or participation in the international baccalaureate program or an early college/middle college program.

(14) Not later than April 1 of each year, the department shall submit an annual report to the legislature that evaluates the overall success of the curriculum required under this section and section 1278a, the rigor and relevance of the ~~course work~~ **coursework** required by the curriculum, the ability of public schools to implement the curriculum and the required ~~course work~~, **coursework**, and the impact of the curriculum on pupil success, and that details any activities the department has undertaken to implement this section and section 1278a or to assist public schools in implementing the requirements of this section and section 1278a.

**Sec. 1278e. (1) By not later than June 30, 2028, the department shall develop or adopt, and provide to schools, model programs of instruction for all courses described in sections 1278a and 1278b. The model programs of instruction must align with subject area content expectations and guidelines developed by the department and approved by the state board under section 1278b.**

**(2) The board of a school district or intermediate school district or board of directors of a public school academy is not required to adopt or implement the model programs of instruction developed or adopted by the department under subsection (1).**