

# HOUSE BILL NO. 4556

June 05, 2025, Introduced by Reps. Kunse, Koleszar, Weiss and Johnsen and referred to Committee on Education and Workforce.

A bill to amend 1976 PA 451, entitled  
"The revised school code,"  
by amending section 1279g (MCL 380.1279g), as amended by 2016 PA  
170.

## **THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:**

1       Sec. 1279g. (1) The board of a school district or board of  
2 directors of a public school academy shall comply with this section  
3 and shall administer the Michigan merit examination to pupils in  
4 grade 11, and to pupils in grade 12 who did not take the complete  
5 Michigan merit examination in grade 11, as provided in this

1 section. **The Michigan merit examination consists of a college**  
2 **entrance test, work skills test, and the summative assessment known**  
3 **as the Michigan student test of educational progress (M-STEP).**

4 (2) For the purposes of this section, the department of  
5 technology, management, and budget shall contract with 1 or more  
6 providers to develop, supply, and score the Michigan merit  
7 examination. The Michigan merit examination ~~shall~~**must** consist of  
8 all of the following:

9 (a) Assessment instruments that measure English language arts,  
10 mathematics, reading, and science and are used by colleges and  
11 universities in this state for entrance or placement purposes. ~~This~~  
12 ~~shall include a writing component in which the pupil produces an~~  
13 ~~extended writing sample. The Michigan merit examination shall not~~  
14 ~~require any other extended writing sample.~~**In selecting assessment**  
15 **instruments to fulfill the requirements of this subdivision, the**  
16 **department may consider the degree to which those assessment**  
17 **instruments are aligned with this state's content standards.**

18 (b) One or more tests from 1 or more test developers that  
19 assess a pupil's ability to apply at least reading and mathematics  
20 skills in a manner that is intended to allow employers to use the  
21 results in making employment decisions. The department of  
22 technology, management, and budget and the superintendent of public  
23 instruction shall ensure that any test or tests selected under this  
24 subdivision have all the components necessary to allow a pupil to  
25 be eligible to receive the results of a nationally recognized  
26 evaluation of workforce readiness if the pupil's test performance  
27 is adequate.

28 (c) A social studies component.

29 (d) Any other component that is necessary to obtain the

1 approval of the United States Department of Education to use the  
2 Michigan merit examination for the purposes of the no child left  
3 behind act of 2001, Public Law 107-110, or the every student  
4 succeeds act, Public Law 114-95.

5 (3) In addition to all other requirements of this section, all  
6 of the following apply to the Michigan merit examination:

7 (a) The department of technology, management, and budget and  
8 the superintendent of public instruction shall ensure that any  
9 contractor used for scoring the Michigan merit examination supplies  
10 an individual report for each pupil that will identify for the  
11 pupil's parents **or legal guardians** and teachers whether the pupil  
12 met expectations or failed to meet expectations for each standard,  
13 to allow the pupil's parents and teachers to assess and remedy  
14 problems before the pupil moves to the next grade.

15 (b) The department of technology, management, and budget and  
16 the superintendent of public instruction shall ensure that any  
17 contractor used for scoring, developing, or processing the Michigan  
18 merit examination meets quality management standards commonly used  
19 in the assessment industry, including at least meeting level 2 of  
20 the capability maturity model developed by the Software Engineering  
21 Institute of Carnegie Mellon University for the first year the  
22 Michigan merit examination is offered to all grade 11 pupils and at  
23 least meeting level 3 of the capability maturity model for  
24 subsequent years.

25 (c) The department of technology, management, and budget and  
26 the superintendent of public instruction shall ensure that any  
27 contract for scoring, administering, or developing the Michigan  
28 merit examination includes specific deadlines for all steps of the  
29 assessment process, including, but not limited to, deadlines for

1 the correct testing materials to be supplied to schools and for the  
 2 correct results to be returned to schools, and includes penalties  
 3 for noncompliance with these deadlines.

4 (d) The superintendent of public instruction shall ensure that  
 5 the Michigan merit examination meets all of the following:

6 (i) Is designed to test pupils on grade level content  
 7 expectations or course content expectations **and this state's**  
 8 **content standards**, as appropriate, in all subjects tested.

9 (ii) Complies with requirements of the no child left behind act  
 10 of 2001, Public Law 107-110, or the every student succeeds act,  
 11 Public Law 114-95, as applicable.

12 (iii) Is consistent with the code of fair testing practices in  
 13 education prepared by the ~~joint committee~~ **Joint Committee** on  
 14 ~~testing practices~~ **Testing Practices** of the American Psychological  
 15 Association.

16 (iv) Is factually accurate. If the superintendent of public  
 17 instruction determines that a question is not factually accurate  
 18 and should be excluded from scoring, the state board and the  
 19 superintendent of public instruction shall ensure that the question  
 20 is excluded from scoring.

21 (4) A school district or public school academy that operates a  
 22 high school shall include **the number of school days a pupil was in**  
 23 **attendance at school each school year during high school and the**  
 24 **total number of school days in session for each of those school**  
 25 **years** on ~~each the~~ pupil's high school transcript. ~~all of the~~  
 26 ~~following:~~

27 ~~(a) For each high school graduate who has completed the~~  
 28 ~~Michigan merit examination under this section, the pupil's sealed~~  
 29 ~~score on each subject area component of the Michigan merit~~

1 ~~examination.~~

2 ~~(b) The number of school days the pupil was in attendance at~~  
 3 ~~school each school year during high school and the total number of~~  
 4 ~~school days in session for each of those school years.~~

5 (5) The superintendent of public instruction shall work with  
 6 the provider or providers of the Michigan merit examination to  
 7 produce Michigan merit examination subject area scores for each  
 8 pupil participating in the Michigan merit examination. ~~, including~~  
 9 ~~scaling and merging of test items for the different subject area~~  
 10 ~~components.~~ **To the extent that the department determines that**  
 11 **additional test items beyond those included in the college entrance**  
 12 **component of the Michigan merit examination are required in a**  
 13 **particular subject area, the department shall ensure that all test**  
 14 **items in that subject area are scaled and merged for the purposes**  
 15 **of producing a Michigan merit examination subject area score.** The  
 16 superintendent of public instruction shall design and distribute to  
 17 school districts, public school academies, intermediate school  
 18 districts, and nonpublic schools a simple and concise document that  
 19 describes the scoring for each subject area and indicates the  
 20 scaled score ranges for each subject area.

21 (6) The Michigan merit examination ~~shall~~ **must** be administered  
 22 ~~each year after March 1 and before June 1 to pupils in grade 11. in~~  
 23 **each school district and public school academy during the last 12**  
 24 **weeks of the school district's or public school academy's school**  
 25 **year.** The superintendent of public instruction shall ensure that  
 26 the Michigan merit examination is scored and the scores are  
 27 returned to pupils, ~~their~~ **pupils'** parents or legal guardians, and  
 28 schools not later than the beginning of the pupil's first semester  
 29 of grade 12. The returned scores ~~shall~~ **must** indicate at least the

pupil's scaled score for each subject area component and the range of scaled scores for each subject area. In reporting the scores to pupils, parents **or legal guardians**, and schools, the superintendent of public instruction shall provide standards-specific, meaningful, and timely feedback on the pupil's performance on the Michigan merit examination.

(7) A school district or public school academy shall administer the complete Michigan merit examination to a pupil only once and shall not administer the complete Michigan merit examination to the same pupil more than once. If a pupil does not take the complete Michigan merit examination in grade 11, the school district or public school academy shall administer the complete Michigan merit examination to the pupil in grade 12. If a pupil chooses to retake the college entrance examination component of the Michigan merit examination, as described in subsection (2)(a), the pupil may do so through the provider of the college entrance examination component and the cost of the retake is the responsibility of the pupil unless all of the following are met:

(a) The pupil has taken the complete Michigan merit examination.

(b) The pupil meets the income eligibility criteria for free breakfast, lunch, or milk, as determined under the Richard B. Russell national school lunch act, 42 USC 1751 to 1769j.

(c) The pupil has applied to the provider of the college entrance examination component for a scholarship or fee waiver to cover the cost of the retake and that application has been denied.

(d) After taking the complete Michigan merit examination, the pupil has not already received a free retake of the college entrance examination component paid for either by this state or

1 through a scholarship or fee waiver by the provider.

2 (8) The superintendent of public instruction shall ensure that  
3 the length of the Michigan merit examination and the combined total  
4 time necessary to administer all of the components of the Michigan  
5 merit examination are the shortest possible that will still  
6 maintain the degree of reliability and validity of the Michigan  
7 merit examination results determined necessary by the  
8 superintendent of public instruction. The superintendent of public  
9 instruction shall ensure that the maximum total combined length of  
10 time that schools are required to set aside for pupils to answer  
11 all test questions on the Michigan merit examination does not  
12 exceed 8 hours if the superintendent of public instruction  
13 determines that sufficient alignment ~~to~~**with** applicable Michigan  
14 merit curriculum content standards can be achieved within that time  
15 limit.

16 (9) A school district or public school academy shall provide  
17 accommodations to a pupil with disabilities for the Michigan merit  
18 examination, as provided under section 504 of title V of the  
19 rehabilitation act of 1973, 29 USC 794; ~~subtitle~~**part** A of title  
20 **subchapter** II of the Americans with disabilities act of 1990, 42  
21 USC 12131 to 12134; the individuals with disabilities education act  
22 amendments of 1997, Public Law 105-17; and the implementing  
23 regulations for those statutes. The provider or providers of the  
24 Michigan merit examination and the superintendent of public  
25 instruction shall mutually agree ~~upon~~**on** the accommodations to be  
26 provided under this subsection.

27 (10) To the greatest extent possible, the Michigan merit  
28 examination ~~shall~~**must** be based on grade level content expectations  
29 or course content expectations **and this state's content standards,**

1 as appropriate. ~~Not later than July 1, 2008, the department shall~~  
2 ~~identify specific grade level content expectations to be taught~~  
3 ~~before and after the middle of grade 11, so that teachers will know~~  
4 ~~what content will be covered within the Michigan merit~~  
5 ~~examination.~~ **Annually, after each administration of the Michigan**  
6 **merit examination, the department shall provide a report of the**  
7 **points per standard so that teachers will know what content will be**  
8 **covered within the Michigan merit examination. The department may**  
9 **augment the college entrance and work skills components of the**  
10 **Michigan merit examination to develop the assessment, depending on**  
11 **the alignment of those components to this state's content**  
12 **standards. If these components do not align with these standards,**  
13 **the department shall produce additional components as required by**  
14 **law, while minimizing the amount of time needed for assessments.**

15 (11) A child who is a student in a nonpublic school or home  
16 school may take the Michigan merit examination under this section.  
17 To take the Michigan merit examination, a child who is a student in  
18 a home school shall contact the school district in which the child  
19 resides, and that school district shall administer the Michigan  
20 merit examination, or the child may take the Michigan merit  
21 examination at a nonpublic school if allowed by the nonpublic  
22 school. Upon request from a nonpublic school, the superintendent of  
23 public instruction shall direct the provider or providers to supply  
24 the Michigan merit examination to the nonpublic school and the  
25 nonpublic school may administer the Michigan merit examination. If  
26 a school district administers the Michigan merit examination under  
27 this subsection to a child who is not enrolled in the school  
28 district, the scores for that child are not considered for any  
29 purpose to be scores of a pupil of the school district.



~~(12) In contracting under subsection (2), the department of technology, management, and budget shall consider a contractor that provides electronically-scored essays with the ability to score constructed response feedback in multiple languages and provide ongoing instruction and feedback.~~

**(12)** ~~(13)~~ The purpose of the Michigan merit examination is to assess pupil performance in mathematics, science, social studies, and English language arts for the purpose of improving academic achievement and establishing a statewide standard of competency. The assessment under this section provides a common measure of data that will contribute to the improvement of Michigan schools' curriculum and instruction by encouraging alignment with Michigan's curriculum framework standards and promotes pupil participation in higher level mathematics, science, social studies, and English language arts courses. These standards are based ~~upon~~ **on** the expectations of what pupils should learn through high school and are aligned with national standards.

**(13)** ~~(14)~~ In addition to the other requirements of this section and the requirements of 1970 PA 38, MCL 388.1081 to 388.1086, ~~beginning with assessments conducted during the 2016-2017 school year,~~ the superintendent of public instruction shall ensure that the Michigan merit examination social studies component and the M-STEP and any successor state assessment for social studies, as appropriate, include questions related to the learning objectives in the state board recommended model core academic curriculum standards concerning genocide, including, but not limited to, the Holocaust and the Armenian Genocide.

**(14)** For a pupil enrolled in a middle college program, other than a middle college operated as a shared educational entity or a

1 specialized shared educational entity, if the pupil receives at  
2 least 50% of the pupil's instruction at the high school while in  
3 grade 11, the Michigan merit examination must be administered to  
4 the pupil at the high school at which the pupil receives high  
5 school instruction, and the department shall include the pupil's  
6 scores on the Michigan merit examination in the scores for that  
7 high school for all purposes for which a school's or district's  
8 results are reported. The department shall allow the middle college  
9 program to use a 5-year graduation rate for determining adequate  
10 yearly progress. As used in this subsection, "middle college" means  
11 a program consisting of a series of courses and other requirements  
12 and conditions, including an early college or other program created  
13 under a memorandum of understanding, that allows a pupil to  
14 graduate from high school with both a high school diploma and a  
15 certificate or degree from a community college or state public  
16 university.

17 (15) For each report that the department issues that includes  
18 the statewide assessment results for a school building, the  
19 department shall include the scores for the statewide assessment  
20 and the graduation rate for consortium pupils with the scores for  
21 the school building in the participating district in which the  
22 consortium pupil is enrolled or would otherwise attend. The  
23 statewide assessment for a consortium pupil may be administered  
24 either at the consortium location or at the school building in the  
25 participating district in which the consortium pupil is enrolled or  
26 would otherwise attend. As used in this subsection, "consortium  
27 pupil" means a pupil who is enrolled or participating in a  
28 participating district in a school or program operated as a  
29 consortium or under a cooperative arrangement formed by 2 or more

1 districts or intermediate districts, including, but not limited to,  
2 a consortium or cooperative arrangement operated as a program, a  
3 shared educational entity, a specialized educational entity, or a  
4 special education center program.

5 (16) ~~(15)~~—As used in this section:

6 (a) "Armenian Genocide", "genocide", and "Holocaust" mean  
7 those terms as defined in section 1168.

8 (b) "English language arts" means reading and writing.

9 (c) "Social studies" means United States history, world  
10 history, world geography, economics, and American government.