

SENATE BILL NO. 350

June 04, 2025, Introduced by Senators POLEHANKI, GEISS, MCMORROW and IRWIN and referred to Committee on Education.

A bill to amend 1979 PA 94, entitled
"The state school aid act of 1979,"
by amending section 104b (MCL 388.1704b), as amended by 2018 PA
265.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 104b. (1) In order to receive state aid under this
2 article, a district shall comply with this section and shall
3 administer the Michigan merit examination to pupils in grade 11,
4 and to pupils in grade 12 who did not take the complete Michigan
5 merit examination in grade 11, as provided in this section. The

1 Michigan merit examination consists of a college entrance test, **an**
2 **optional** work skills test, and the summative assessment known as
3 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 consist of all of
8 the following:

9 (a) Assessment instruments that measure English language arts,
10 mathematics, reading, and science, and are used by the majority of
11 colleges and universities in this state for entrance purposes. This
12 may include 1 or more writing components. In selecting assessment
13 instruments to fulfill the requirements of this subdivision, the
14 department may consider the degree to which those assessment
15 instruments are aligned to this state's content standards.

16 (b) One or more tests from 1 or more test developers that
17 assess a pupil's ability to apply at least reading and mathematics
18 skills in a manner that is intended to allow employers to use the
19 results in making employment decisions. The department of
20 technology, management, and budget and the superintendent shall
21 ensure that any test or tests selected under this subdivision have
22 all the components necessary to allow a pupil to be eligible to
23 receive the results of a nationally recognized evaluation of
24 workforce readiness if the pupil's test performance is adequate.
25 **Beginning with the 2025-2026 school year, a pupil may elect not to**
26 **take a test described in this subdivision through a waiver that is**
27 **developed by the department and signed by the pupil's parent or**
28 **legal guardian. The department shall consult with an individual who**
29 **represents business in this state, an individual who represents**

1 manufacturing in this state, and an individual who represents
2 skilled trades organizations in this state to develop the waiver. A
3 school district, intermediate school district, or public school
4 academy shall ensure that the waiver is provided to all pupils
5 described in subsection (1) and the parents or legal guardians of
6 those pupils by not later than January 1 of the calendar year in
7 which the test will be administered. The signed waiver must be
8 submitted to the school district, intermediate school district, or
9 public school academy by not later than 2 weeks before the test is
10 administered.

11 (c) A social studies component.

12 (d) Any other component that is necessary to obtain the
13 approval of the United States Department of Education to use the
14 Michigan merit examination for the purposes of the no child left
15 behind act of 2001, Public Law 107-110, or the every student
16 succeeds act, Public Law 114-95.

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

19 (a) The department of technology, management, and budget and
20 the superintendent shall ensure that any contractor used for
21 scoring the Michigan merit examination supplies an individual
22 report for each pupil that will identify for the pupil's parents **or**
23 **legal guardians** and teachers whether the pupil met expectations or
24 failed to meet expectations for each standard, to allow the pupil's
25 parents **or legal guardians** and teachers to assess and remedy
26 problems before the pupil moves to the next grade.

27 (b) The department of technology, management, and budget and
28 the superintendent shall ensure that any contractor used for
29 scoring, developing, or processing the Michigan merit examination

1 meets quality management standards commonly used in the assessment
2 industry, including at least meeting level 2 of the capability
3 maturity model developed by the Software Engineering Institute of
4 Carnegie Mellon University for the first year the Michigan merit
5 examination is offered to all grade 11 pupils and at least meeting
6 level 3 of the capability maturity model for subsequent years.

7 (c) The department of technology, management, and budget and
8 the superintendent shall ensure that any contract for scoring,
9 administering, or developing the Michigan merit examination
10 includes specific deadlines for all steps of the assessment
11 process, including, but not limited to, deadlines for the correct
12 testing materials to be supplied to schools and for the correct
13 results to be returned to schools, and includes penalties for
14 noncompliance with these deadlines.

15 (d) The superintendent shall ensure that the Michigan merit
16 examination meets all of the following:

17 (i) Is designed to test pupils on this state's content
18 standards in all subjects tested.

19 (ii) Complies with requirements of the no child left behind act
20 of 2001, Public Law 107-110 or the every student succeeds act,
21 Public Law 114-95.

22 (iii) Is consistent with the code of fair testing practices in
23 education prepared by the Joint Committee on Testing Practices of
24 the American Psychological Association.

25 (iv) Is factually accurate. If the superintendent determines
26 that a question is not factually accurate and should be excluded
27 from scoring, the state board and the superintendent shall ensure
28 that the question is excluded from scoring.

29 (4) A district shall include on each pupil's high school

1 transcript all of the following:

2 (a) For each high school graduate who has completed the
3 Michigan merit examination under this section, the pupil's scaled
4 score on each subject area component of the Michigan merit
5 examination.

6 (b) The number of school days the pupil was in attendance at
7 school each school year during high school and the total number of
8 school days in session for each of those school years.

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

23 (6) The Michigan merit examination ~~shall~~**must** be administered
24 in each district during the last 12 weeks of the district's school
25 year. The superintendent shall ensure that the Michigan merit
26 examination is scored and the scores are returned to pupils, their
27 parents or legal guardians, and districts not later than the
28 beginning of the pupil's first semester of grade 12. The returned
29 scores ~~shall~~**must** indicate at least the pupil's scaled score for

1 each subject area component and the range of scaled scores for each
2 subject area. In reporting the scores to pupils, parents, and
3 schools, the superintendent shall provide standards-specific,
4 meaningful, and timely feedback on the pupil's performance on the
5 Michigan merit examination.

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

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

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

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

25 (d) After taking the complete Michigan merit examination, the
26 pupil has not already received a free retake of the college
27 entrance examination component paid for either by this state or
28 through a scholarship or fee waiver by the provider.

29 (8) The superintendent shall ensure that the length of the

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

12 (9) A district shall provide accommodations to a pupil with
13 disabilities for the Michigan merit examination, as provided under
14 section 504 of title V of the rehabilitation act of 1973, 29 USC
15 794; subtitle A of title II of the Americans with disabilities act
16 of 1990, 42 USC 12131 to 12134; the individuals with disabilities
17 education act amendments of 1997, Public Law 105-17; and the
18 implementing regulations for those statutes. The provider or
19 providers of the Michigan merit examination and the superintendent
20 shall mutually agree ~~upon~~**on** the accommodations to be provided
21 under this subsection.

22 (10) To the greatest extent possible, the Michigan merit
23 examination ~~shall~~**must** be based on this state's content standards,
24 as appropriate. Annually, after each administration of the Michigan
25 merit examination, the department shall provide a report of the
26 points per standard so that teachers will know what content will be
27 covered within the Michigan merit examination. The department may
28 augment the college entrance and work skills components of the
29 Michigan merit examination to develop the assessment, depending on

1 the alignment of those components to this state's content
2 standards. If these components do not align to these standards, the
3 department shall produce additional components as required by law,
4 while minimizing the amount of time needed for assessments.

5 (11) A child who is a student in a nonpublic school or home
6 school may take the Michigan merit examination under this section.
7 To take the Michigan merit examination, a child who is a student in
8 a home school shall contact the district in which the child
9 resides, and that district shall administer the Michigan merit
10 examination, or the child may take the Michigan merit examination
11 at a nonpublic school if allowed by the nonpublic school. Upon
12 request from a nonpublic school, the superintendent shall direct
13 the provider or providers to supply the Michigan merit examination
14 to the nonpublic school and the nonpublic school may administer the
15 Michigan merit examination. If a district administers the Michigan
16 merit examination under this subsection to a child who is not
17 enrolled in the district, the scores for that child are not
18 considered for any purpose to be scores of a pupil of the district.

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

24 (13) The purpose of the Michigan merit examination is to
25 assess pupil performance in mathematics, science, social studies,
26 and English language arts for the purpose of improving academic
27 achievement and establishing a statewide standard of competency.
28 The assessment under this section provides a common measure of data
29 that will contribute to the improvement of Michigan schools'

1 curriculum and instruction by encouraging alignment with Michigan's
2 curriculum framework standards and promotes pupil participation in
3 higher level mathematics, science, social studies, and English
4 language arts courses. These standards are based ~~upon~~**on** the
5 expectations of what pupils should learn through high school and
6 are aligned with national standards.

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

25 (15) As used in this section:

26 (a) "English language arts" means reading and writing.

27 (b) "Social studies" means United States history, world
28 history, world geography, economics, and American government.

29 (16) For each report made by the department that includes the

1 statewide assessment results for a school building, the department
2 shall include the scores for the statewide assessment and the
3 graduation rate for consortium pupils with the scores for the
4 school building in the participating district in which the
5 consortium pupil is enrolled or would otherwise attend. The
6 statewide assessment for a consortium pupil may be administered
7 either at the consortium location or at the school building in the
8 participating district in which the consortium pupil is enrolled or
9 would otherwise attend. For the purposes of this subsection, a
10 consortium pupil is a pupil who is enrolled or participating in a
11 participating district in a school or program operated as a
12 consortium or under a cooperative arrangement formed by 2 or more
13 districts or intermediate districts, including, but not limited to,
14 a consortium or cooperative arrangement operated as a program, a
15 shared educational entity, a specialized educational entity, or a
16 special education center program.

17 Enacting section 1. This amendatory act does not take effect
18 unless Senate Bill No. ____ (request no. S02337'25) or House Bill
19 No. ____ (request no. H02337'25) of the 103rd Legislature is
20 enacted into law.