

SENATE BILL NO. 377

June 10, 2025, Introduced by Senators ALBERT, DAMOOSE, JOHNSON, WEBBER, THEIS, BELLINO, HAUCK and NESBITT and referred to Committee on Education.

A bill to amend 1976 PA 451, entitled
"The revised school code,"
by amending sections 1278a, 1278b, and 1531e (MCL 380.1278a, 380.1278b, and 380.1531e), sections 1278a and 1278b as amended by 2022 PA 105 and section 1531e as added by 2024 PA 147, and by adding sections 1278e and 1526c.

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

1 diploma to a pupil unless the pupil meets all of the following:

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

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

(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) 1/2 credit in accounting.

(H) 1/2 credit in business mathematics.

(I) 1/2 credit in construction mathematics.

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

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

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

(M) 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.

(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

1 **is enrolled.**

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

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

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

~~academy is strongly encouraged to offer visual arts and performing arts courses.~~ The credit in visual arts, performing arts, or applied arts under this subparagraph may be fulfilled through completion of any of the following courses. This subparagraph does not require the board of a school district or intermediate school district or the board of directors of a public school academy to offer all of the following courses. However, each high school operated by the board or board of directors must offer at least sufficient courses for pupils to be able to complete the requirements of this subparagraph:

- (A) 1 credit in general music.
- (B) 1 credit in marching band.
- (C) 1 credit in concert band.
- (D) 1 credit in orchestra.
- (E) 1 credit in choral music.
- (F) 1 credit in strings.
- (G) 1 credit in music theory.
- (H) 1 credit in keyboard.
- (I) 1 credit in jazz ensemble.
- (J) 1 credit in wind ensemble.
- (K) 1 credit in choir.
- (L) 1 credit in art.
- (M) 1 credit in visual arts.
- (N) 1 credit in visual studies.
- (O) 1 credit in drawing.
- (P) 1 credit in painting.
- (Q) 1 credit in ceramics and pottery.
- (R) 1 credit in design.
- (S) 1 credit in art appreciation.

(T) 1 credit in illustration.

(U) 1 credit in computer graphics and design.

(V) 1 credit in video.

(W) 1 credit in photography and film.

(X) 1 credit in art history.

(Y) 1 credit in art criticism.

(Z) 1 credit in fiber arts.

(AA) 1 credit in jewelry.

(BB) 1 credit in yearbook.

(CC) 1 credit in theater.

(DD) 1 credit in graphic design.

(EE) 1 credit in shop.

(FF) 1 credit in culinary studies.

(GG) 1 credit in computer science. A course in computer science may not be used to fulfill both the visual arts credit required under this section and the mathematics requirement of subparagraph (i).

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

(II) 1 credit in a visual arts 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 pupil is enrolled.

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

(b) Meets the online course or learning experience requirement 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 in a language other than English in grades K to 6. For the purposes of this subsection, ~~both~~ **all** of the following apply:

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

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

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

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

23 (4) The requirements under this section and section 1278b for
24 a high school diploma are in addition to any local requirements
25 imposed by the board of a school district or board of directors of
26 a public school academy. The board of a school district or board of
27 directors of a public school academy, as a local requirement for a
28 high school diploma, may require a pupil to complete the Michigan
29 merit examination under section 1279g or may require a pupil to

1 participate in the MIAccess assessments if appropriate for the
2 pupil.

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

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

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

21 (c) A school district or public school academy shall also
22 grant a pupil a credit if the pupil earns a qualifying score, as
23 determined by the department, on assessments developed or selected
24 for the subject area by the department or the pupil earns a
25 qualifying score, as determined by the school district or public
26 school academy, on 1 or more assessments developed or selected by
27 the school district or public school academy that measure a pupil's
28 understanding of the subject area content expectations or
29 guidelines that apply to the credit.

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

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

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

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

(a) The high school clearly states to prospective pupils and ~~their~~ **prospective pupils'** parents that it does not meet the

1 requirements of the Michigan merit standard under this section and
2 section 1278b but is a designated specialty school that is exempt
3 from some of those requirements and that a pupil who enrolls in the
4 high school and subsequently transfers to a high school that is not
5 a specialty school meeting the requirements of this subsection will
6 be required to comply with the requirements of the Michigan merit
7 standard under this section and section 1278b.

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

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

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

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

25 (f) All pupils of the high school are required to meet the
26 science credit requirements of section 1278b(1)(b) and are also
27 required to successfully complete at least 1 additional science
28 credit, for a total of at least 4 science credits, with no
29 modification of these requirements under section 1278b(5), and each

1 pupil is offered the curriculum necessary to meet this requirement.

2 Sec. 1278b. (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section
3 or section 1278a, as part of the requirements under section 1278a
4 the board of a school district or board of directors of a public
5 school academy shall not award a high school diploma to a pupil
6 unless the pupil has successfully completed all of the following
7 credit requirements of the Michigan merit standard before
8 graduating from high school:

9 (a) At least 4 credits in English language arts that are
10 aligned with subject area content expectations developed by the
11 department and approved by the state board under this section.

12 (b) At least 3 credits in science that are aligned with
13 subject area content expectations developed by the department and
14 approved by the state board under this section, including
15 ~~completion of at least 1 credit in biology and either 1 credit in~~
16 ~~chemistry, earth science, agricultural science, anatomy or physics.~~
17 ~~, anatomy, or agricultural science, or successfully completing a~~
18 ~~program or curriculum that provides the same content as the~~
19 ~~chemistry or physics benchmarks, as determined by the department. A~~
20 student may fulfill the requirement for the third science credit by
21 completing a department-approved computer science program or
22 curriculum or formal career and technical education program or
23 curriculum. The legislature strongly encourages pupils to complete
24 a fourth credit in science, such as forensics, astronomy, Earth
25 science, agricultural science, environmental science, geology,
26 physics, chemistry, physiology, or microbiology.

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

29 (2) If a pupil successfully completes 1 or more of the high

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

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

6 (a) Develop subject area content expectations that apply to
7 the credit requirements of the Michigan merit standard that are
8 required under subsection (1)(a) and (b) and section 1278a(1)(a)(i)
9 and (ii), and the 1/2 credit course in personal finance required
10 under section 1278a(3) and develop guidelines for the remaining
11 credit requirements of the Michigan merit standard that are
12 required under this section and section 1278a(1)(a), for the online
13 course or learning experience required under section 1278a(1)(b),
14 and for the requirements for a language other than English under
15 section 1278a(2). All of the following apply to these subject area
16 content expectations and guidelines:

17 (i) All subject area content expectations must be consistent
18 with the state board recommended model core academic curriculum
19 content standards under section 1278. Subject area content
20 expectations or guidelines must not include attitudes, beliefs, or
21 value systems that are not essential in the legal, economic, and
22 social structure of our society and to the personal and social
23 responsibility of citizens of our society. The subject area content
24 expectations must require pupils to demonstrate critical thinking
25 skills.

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

28 (iii) The subject area content expectations must state in clear
29 and measurable terms what pupils are expected to know upon

1 completion of each credit.

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

6 (v) The department shall complete development of the subject
7 area content expectations or guidelines that apply to each of the
8 other credits required in the Michigan merit standard under
9 subsection (1) and section 1278a(1)(a) not later than 1 year before
10 the beginning of the school year in which a pupil entering high
11 school in 2007 would normally be expected to complete the credit.

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

18 (vii) Until all of the subject area content expectations and
19 guidelines have been developed by the department and approved by
20 the state board, the department shall submit a report at least
21 every 6 months to the senate and house standing committees
22 responsible for education legislation on the status of the
23 development of the subject area content expectations and
24 guidelines. The report must detail any failure by the department to
25 meet a deadline established under subparagraph (iv) or (v) and the
26 reasons for that failure.

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

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

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

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

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

7 (D) Representatives from the business community.

8 (E) Representatives from vocational and career and technical
9 education providers.

10 (F) Government officials, including officials from the
11 legislature.

12 (G) Parents of public school pupils.

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

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

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

24 (d) Develop and make available material to assist school
25 districts and public school academies in implementing the
26 requirements of this section and section 1278a. This must include
27 developing guidelines for alternative instructional delivery
28 methods as described in subsection (7).

29 (4) The state board shall approve subject area content

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

7 (5) The parent or legal guardian of a pupil who has completed
8 grade 9, a teacher who is currently teaching the pupil, who
9 currently teaches in or whose expertise is in a subject area
10 proposed to be modified by the personal curriculum, or who is
11 determined by the principal to have qualifications otherwise
12 relevant to developing a personal curriculum, or a school counselor
13 or school employee qualified to act in a counseling role under
14 section 1233 or 1233a may request a personal curriculum under this
15 subsection for the pupil that modifies certain of the Michigan
16 merit standard requirements under subsection (1) or section
17 1278a(1) (a) . If the request for a personal curriculum is made by
18 the pupil's parent or legal guardian or, if the pupil is at least
19 age 18 or is an emancipated minor, by the pupil, the school
20 district or public school academy shall develop a personal
21 curriculum for the pupil. A teacher, school counselor, or school
22 employee qualified to act in a counseling role under section 1233
23 or 1233a may contact a pupil's parent or legal guardian to discuss
24 the possibility and potential benefits of a personal curriculum
25 under this subsection for the pupil. If all of the requirements
26 under this subsection for completing a personal curriculum are met,
27 then the board of a school district or board of directors of a
28 public school academy may award a high school diploma to a pupil
29 who successfully completes ~~his or her~~ **the pupil's** personal

1 curriculum even if it does not meet the requirements of the
2 Michigan merit standard required under subsection (1) and section
3 1278a(1)(a). All of the following apply to a personal curriculum:

4 (a) The personal curriculum must be developed by a group that
5 includes at least the pupil, at least 1 of the pupil's parents or
6 the pupil's legal guardian, and a teacher described in this
7 subdivision or the pupil's high school counselor or another
8 designee qualified to act in a counseling role under section 1233
9 or 1233a selected by the high school principal. In addition, for a
10 pupil who receives special education services, a school
11 psychologist should also be included in this group. The teacher
12 included in the group developing the personal curriculum must be a
13 teacher who is currently teaching the pupil, who currently teaches
14 in or whose expertise is in a subject area being modified by the
15 personal curriculum, or who is determined by the principal to have
16 qualifications otherwise relevant to the group. This subdivision
17 does not require an in-person meeting of the group.

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

19 (i) Incorporate as much of the subject area content
20 expectations of the Michigan merit standard required under
21 subsection (1) and section 1278a(1)(a) as is practicable for the
22 pupil.

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

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

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

29 (c) Before it takes effect, the personal curriculum must be

1 agreed to by the pupil's parent or legal guardian and by the
2 superintendent of the school district or chief executive of the
3 public school academy or his or her designee.

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

7 (e) Revisions may be made in the personal curriculum if the
8 revisions are developed and agreed to in the same manner as the
9 original personal curriculum.

10 (f) The English language arts credit requirements of
11 subsection (1)(a) and the science credit requirements of subsection
12 (1)(b) are not subject to modification as part of a personal
13 curriculum under this subsection.

14 (g) The mathematics credit requirements of section
15 1278a(1)(a)(i) may be modified as part of a personal curriculum if
16 the pupil successfully completes at least ~~3-1/2~~ **3** total credits of
17 the mathematics credits required under that section before
18 completing high school, including algebra I and geometry, and
19 successfully completes at least 1 mathematics credit during ~~his or~~
20 ~~her~~ **the pupil's** final 2 years of high school. ~~The algebra II credit~~
21 ~~required under that section may be modified as part of a personal~~
22 ~~curriculum under this subsection if the pupil meets 1 or more of~~
23 ~~the following:~~

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

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

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

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

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

(j) The visual arts, performing arts, or applied arts credit

1 requirement under section 1278a(1)(a)(iv) may be modified as part of
2 a personal curriculum only if the modification requires the pupil
3 to complete 1 additional credit in English language arts,
4 mathematics, or science or 1 additional credit in a language other
5 than English, or requires the pupil to complete a formal career and
6 technical education program. This additional credit must be in
7 addition to the number of those credits otherwise required under
8 subsection (1) and section 1278a(1) or under section 1278a(2).

9 (k) If the parent or legal guardian of a pupil requests as
10 part of the pupil's personal curriculum a modification of the
11 Michigan merit standard requirements that would not otherwise be
12 allowed under this section and demonstrates that the modification
13 is necessary because the pupil is a child with a disability, the
14 school district or public school academy may allow that additional
15 modification to the extent necessary because of the pupil's
16 disability if the group under subdivision (a) determines that the
17 modification is consistent with both the pupil's educational
18 development plan under subsection (11) and the pupil's
19 individualized education program. If the superintendent of public
20 instruction has reason to believe that a school district or a
21 public school academy is allowing modifications inconsistent with
22 the requirements of this subdivision, the superintendent of public
23 instruction shall monitor the school district or public school
24 academy to ensure that the school district's or public school
25 academy's policies, procedures, and practices are in compliance
26 with the requirements for additional modifications under this
27 subdivision. As used in this subdivision, "child with a disability"
28 means that term as defined in 20 USC 1401.

29 (l) If a pupil transfers to a school district or public school

1 academy from out of state or from a nonpublic school, the pupil's
2 parent or legal guardian may request, as part of the pupil's
3 personal curriculum, a modification of the Michigan merit standard
4 requirements that would not otherwise be allowed under this
5 section. The school district or public school academy may allow
6 this additional modification for a transfer pupil if all of the
7 following are met:

8 (i) The transfer pupil has successfully completed at least the
9 equivalent of 2 years of high school credit out of state or at a
10 nonpublic school. The school district or public school academy may
11 use appropriate assessment examinations to determine what credits,
12 if any, the pupil has earned out of state or at a nonpublic school
13 that may be used to satisfy the curricular requirements of the
14 Michigan merit standard and this subdivision.

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

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

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

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

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

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

6 (n) This subsection does not apply to a pupil enrolled in a
7 high school that is designated as a specialty school under section
8 1278a(6) and that is exempt under that section from the English
9 language arts requirement under subsection (1)(a) and the social
10 science credit requirement under section 1278a(1)(a) *(ii)*.

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

15 (p) A school district or public school academy annually shall
16 notify each of its pupils and a parent or legal guardian of each of
17 its pupils that all pupils are entitled to a personal curriculum
18 under this subsection. The annual notice must include an
19 explanation of what a personal curriculum is and state that if a
20 personal curriculum is requested, the public school or public
21 school academy will grant that request. The school district or
22 public school academy shall provide this annual notice to parents
23 and legal guardians by sending a written notice to each pupil's
24 home or by including the notice in a newsletter, student handbook,
25 or similar communication that is sent to a pupil's home, and also
26 shall post the notice on the school district's or public school
27 academy's website.

28 (6) If a pupil receives special education services, the
29 pupil's individualized education program, in accordance with the

1 individuals with disabilities education act, title VI of Public Law
2 91-230, must identify the appropriate course or courses of study
3 and identify the supports, accommodations, and modifications
4 necessary to allow the pupil to progress in the curricular
5 requirements of this section and section 1278a, or in a personal
6 curriculum as provided under subsection (5), and meet the
7 requirements for a high school diploma.

8 (7) The board of a school district or board of directors of a
9 public school academy that operates a high school shall ensure that
10 each pupil is offered the curriculum necessary for the pupil to
11 meet the curricular requirements of this section and section 1278a.
12 The board or board of directors may provide this curriculum by
13 providing the credits specified in this section and section 1278a ~~and~~
14 by using alternative instructional delivery methods such as
15 alternative ~~course work~~, **coursework**, humanities course sequences,
16 career and technical education, industrial technology courses, or
17 vocational education, or by a combination of these. School
18 districts and public school academies that operate career and
19 technical education programs are encouraged to integrate the credit
20 requirements of this section and section 1278a into those programs.

21 (8) If the board of a school district or board of directors of
22 a public school academy wants its high school to be accredited
23 under section 1280, the board or board of directors shall ensure
24 that all elements of the curriculum required under this section and
25 section 1278a are made available to all affected pupils. If a
26 school district or public school academy does not offer all of the
27 required credits, the board of the school district or board of
28 directors of the public school academy shall ensure that the pupil
29 has access to the required credits by another means, such as

1 enrollment in a postsecondary course under the postsecondary
2 enrollment options act, 1996 PA 160, MCL 388.511 to 388.524;
3 enrollment in an online course; a cooperative arrangement with a
4 neighboring school district or with a public school academy; or
5 granting approval under section 6(6) of the state school aid act of
6 1979, MCL 388.1606, for the pupil to be counted in membership in
7 another school district.

8 (9) If a pupil is not successfully completing a credit
9 required for graduation under this section and section 1278a ~~or~~
10 is identified as being at risk of withdrawing from high school,
11 then the pupil's school district or public school academy shall
12 notify the pupil's parent or legal guardian or, if the pupil is at
13 least age 18 or is an emancipated minor, the pupil, of the
14 availability of tutoring or other supplemental educational support
15 and counseling services that may be available to the pupil under
16 existing state or federal programs, such as those programs or
17 services available under section 31a of the state school aid act of
18 1979, MCL 388.1631a, or under the no child left behind act of 2001,
19 Public Law 107-110, or every student succeeds act, Public Law 114-
20 95.

21 (10) To the extent required by the no child left behind act of
22 2001, Public Law 107-110, or every student succeeds act, Public Law
23 114-95, the board of a school district or public school academy
24 shall ensure that all components of the curricular requirements
25 under this section and section 1278a are taught by highly qualified
26 teachers. If a school district or public school academy
27 demonstrates to the department that the school district or public
28 school academy is unable to meet the requirements of this section
29 because the school district or public school academy is unable to

1 hire enough highly qualified teachers, the department shall work
2 with the school district or public school academy to develop a plan
3 to allow the school district or public school academy to hire
4 enough highly qualified teachers to meet the requirements of this
5 section.

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

1 (a) Information on various types of careers and current and
2 projected job openings in this state and those jobs' actual and
3 projected wages.

4 (b) An opportunity to explore careers specific to a pupil's
5 interests and identify career pathways and goals for achieving
6 success in those careers, including, but not limited to, the level
7 and type of educational preparation necessary to accomplish those
8 goals.

9 (c) An opportunity to develop a talent portfolio. A talent
10 portfolio must be developed and revised throughout the
11 implementation of a pupil's educational development plan. A talent
12 portfolio must include, but is not limited to, a record of the
13 pupil's experiences, proficiencies, certifications, or
14 accomplishments that demonstrate talents or marketable skills. The
15 department, in conjunction with the department of labor and
16 economic opportunity, shall develop and make available to the
17 public schools model information materials that districts or public
18 school academies may use to comply with this subdivision.

19 (12) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, if a
20 school district or public school academy is unable to implement all
21 of the curricular requirements of this section and section 1278a
22 for pupils entering grade 9 in 2007 or is unable to implement
23 another requirement of this section or section 1278a, the school
24 district or public school academy may apply to the department for
25 permission to phase in 1 or more of the requirements of this
26 section or section 1278a. To apply, the school district or public
27 school academy shall submit a proposed phase-in plan to the
28 department. The department shall approve a phase-in plan if the
29 department determines that the plan will result in the school

1 district or public school academy making satisfactory progress
 2 toward full implementation of the requirements of this section and
 3 section 1278a. If the department disapproves a proposed phase-in
 4 plan, the department shall work with the school district or public
 5 school academy to develop a satisfactory plan that may be approved.
 6 This subsection does not apply to a high school that is designated
 7 as a specialty school under section 1278a(6) and that is exempt
 8 under that section from the English language arts requirement under
 9 subsection (1)(a) and the social science credit requirement under
 10 section 1278a(1)(a)(ii).

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

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

29 **Sec. 1278e. (1) By not later than June 30, 2027, the**

1 department shall develop or adopt, and provide to schools, model
2 programs of instruction for all courses described in section 1278a
3 and 1278b. The model programs of instruction must align with
4 subject area content expectations and guidelines developed by the
5 department and approved by the state board under section 1278b.

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

10 Sec. 1526c. (1) By not later than June 30, 2027, the
11 department shall develop or adopt, and provide to public schools, a
12 list containing model programs of professional development training
13 in the science of reading.

14 (2) Beginning with the 2027-2028 school year, the board of a
15 school district or intermediate school district or board of
16 directors of a public school academy shall require all teachers in
17 grades K to 5 to receive training in the science of reading through
18 a model program contained in the list under subsection (1). The
19 training in the science of reading may be provided as part of the
20 professional development described in section 1527.

21 (3) As used in this section, "science of reading" means that
22 term as defined in section 1280f.

23 Sec. 1531e. (1) In addition to the requirements under sections
24 1538a and 1531i, as applicable, and subject to subsection (2), the
25 department shall not, beginning September 30, 2027, approve a
26 teacher preparation program or an alternative teaching program and,
27 by September 30, 2027, shall revoke the approval of a teacher
28 preparation program or an alternative teaching program unless the
29 teacher preparation program or alternative teaching program offers

1 instruction regarding all of the following:

2 (a) The characteristics of dyslexia and underlying factors
3 that place pupils at risk for difficulties in learning to decode
4 accurately and efficiently.

5 (b) The secondary consequences of dyslexia, such as problems
6 in reading comprehension and a reduced reading experience that can
7 impede the growth of vocabulary and background knowledge and that
8 can lead to social, emotional, and behavioral difficulties.

9 (c) Instructional adjustments for pupils with dyslexia and
10 instructional adjustments for addressing underlying factors that
11 place pupils at risk for difficulties in learning to decode
12 accurately and efficiently.

13 (d) Methods for developing schoolwide and classroom
14 infrastructure that meet the collective and individual needs of
15 pupils using a multi-tiered system of support (MTSS).

16 (e) For a teacher preparation program or an alternative
17 teaching program that prepares individuals for certification or
18 endorsements that involve reading instruction, language arts, or
19 special education, as appropriate, or for school psychologist
20 licensure, in addition to the requirements in subdivisions (a) to
21 (d), both of the following:

22 (i) Evidence-based instructional methods and features of
23 evidence-based interventions that are grounded in the science of
24 reading and principles of structured literacy that are designed for
25 pupils with characteristics of dyslexia and pupils at risk for
26 difficulties in learning to decode accurately and efficiently.

27 (ii) Evidence-based instructional methods and features of
28 evidence-based interventions that are grounded in the science of
29 reading and principles of structured literacy that are designed to

1 effectively meet the needs of most pupils.

2 (2) If a teacher preparation program or alternative teaching
3 program does not prepare individuals for certification or
4 endorsements that involve reading instruction, language arts, or
5 special education, or for school psychologist licensure, the
6 department may issue a waiver for 1 or more of the requirements in
7 subsection (1)(a) to (d). A waiver issued by the department under
8 this subsection must be reviewed at least every 2 years to ensure
9 the waiver is still appropriate and aligned with the department's
10 goals for teacher preparation.

11 ~~(3) As used in this section, "dyslexia", "evidence-based",~~
12 ~~"multi-tiered system of support (MTSS)", "science of reading", and~~
13 ~~"structured literacy" mean those terms as defined in section 1280f.~~

14 (3) Beginning September 30, 2027, if a teacher preparation
15 program or alternative teaching program prepares individuals for
16 certifications or endorsements that involve mathematics, the
17 department shall not approve the teacher preparation program or
18 alternative teaching program and, by September 30, 2027, shall
19 revoke the approval of a teacher preparation program or alternative
20 teaching program unless the mathematics curriculum offered by the
21 teacher preparation program or alternative teaching program was
22 developed in consultation with a professor who specializes in
23 mathematics.

24 (4) Beginning September 30, 2027, if a teacher preparation
25 program or alternative teaching program prepares individuals for
26 certifications or endorsements that involve science, the department
27 shall not approve the teacher preparation program or alternative
28 teaching program and, by September 30, 2027, shall revoke the
29 approval of a teacher preparation program or alternative teaching

1 program unless the science curriculum offered by the teacher
2 preparation program or alternative teaching program was developed
3 in consultation with a professor who specializes in science.

4 (5) As used in this section, "dyslexia", "evidence-based",
5 "multi-tiered system of support (MTSS)", "science of reading", and
6 "structured literacy" mean those terms as defined in section 1280f.