

DRAFT 4

A bill to amend 1976 PA 451, entitled  
"The revised school code,"  
by amending section 1278a (MCL 380.1278a), as amended by 2009 PA  
205.

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

1           Sec. 1278a. (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section  
2 or section 1278b, beginning with pupils entering grade 8 in 2006,  
3 the board of a school district or board of directors of a public  
4 school academy shall not award a high school diploma to a pupil  
5 unless the pupil meets all of the following:

6           (a) Has successfully completed all of the following credit  
7 requirements of the Michigan merit standard before graduating from  
8 high school:

9           (i) At least 4 credits in mathematics that are aligned with



1 subject area content expectations developed by the department and  
 2 approved by the state board under section 1278b, including  
 3 completion of at least algebra I, geometry, and algebra II, or an  
 4 integrated sequence of this course content that consists of 3  
 5 credits, and an additional mathematics credit, such as  
 6 trigonometry, statistics, precalculus, calculus, applied math,  
 7 accounting, business math, a retake of algebra II, a course in  
 8 financial literacy as described in section 1165. A pupil may  
 9 complete algebra II over 2 years with 2 credits awarded or over 1.5  
 10 years with 1.5 credits awarded for the purposes of this section and  
 11 section 1278b. A pupil also may partially or fully fulfill the  
 12 algebra II requirement by completing a ~~department-approved~~ formal  
 13 career and technical education program or curriculum that has  
 14 ~~appropriate embedded mathematics content, such as a program or~~  
 15 ~~curriculum in electronics, machining, construction, welding,~~  
 16 ~~engineering, or renewable energy. Not later than 30 days after the~~  
 17 ~~effective date of the amendatory act that added the immediately~~  
 18 ~~preceding sentence, the department shall post on its website and~~  
 19 ~~submit to the senate and house standing committees on education~~  
 20 ~~guidelines for implementation of the immediately preceding~~  
 21 ~~sentence.~~ **AN ASSIGNED CLASSIFICATION OF INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAMS**

22 **CODE.** Each pupil must successfully complete at least 1 mathematics  
 23 course during his or her final year of high school enrollment. This  
 24 subparagraph does not require completion of mathematics courses in  
 25 any particular sequence.

26 (ii) At least 3 credits in social science that are aligned with  
 27 subject area content expectations developed by the department and



1 approved by the state board under section 1278b, including  
2 completion of at least 1 credit in United States history and  
3 geography, 1 credit in world history and geography, 1/2 credit in  
4 economics, and the civics course described in section 1166(2).

5 (iii) At least 1 credit in subject matter that includes both  
6 health and physical education aligned with guidelines developed by  
7 the department and approved by the state board under section 1278b,  
8 **OR AT LEAST 1/2 CREDIT IN HEALTH ALIGNED WITH GUIDELINES DEVELOPED**  
9 **BY THE DEPARTMENT AND APPROVED BY THE STATE BOARD UNDER SECTION**  
10 **1278B AND AT LEAST 1/2 CREDIT AWARDED BY THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OR**  
11 **PUBLIC SCHOOL ACADEMY FOR APPROVED PARTICIPATION IN EXTRACURRICULAR**  
12 **ATHLETICS OR OTHER EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES INVOLVING PHYSICAL**  
13 **ACTIVITY.**

14 (iv) At least 1 credit in visual arts, performing arts, or  
15 applied arts, as defined by the department, that is aligned with  
16 guidelines developed by the department and approved by the state  
17 board under section 1278b. **A SCHOOL DISTRICT OR PUBLIC SCHOOL**  
18 **ACADEMY IS STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO OFFER VISUAL ARTS AND PERFORMING**  
19 **ARTS COURSES.**

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

21 (b) Meets the online course or learning experience requirement  
22 of this subsection. A school district or public school academy  
23 shall provide the basic level of technology and internet access  
24 required by the state board to complete the online course or  
25 learning experience. For a pupil to meet this requirement, the  
26 pupil shall meet either of the following, as determined by the  
27 school district or public school academy:



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

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

8 (2) In addition to the requirements under subsection (1),  
9 beginning with pupils entering grade 3 in 2006, the board of a  
10 school district or board of directors of a public school academy  
11 shall not award a high school diploma to a pupil unless the pupil  
12 has successfully completed during grades 9 to 12 at least 2  
13 credits, as determined by the department, in a language other than  
14 English, or the pupil has successfully completed at any time during  
15 grades K to 12 course work or other learning experiences that are  
16 substantially equivalent to 2 credits in a language other than  
17 English, based on guidelines developed by the department. **HOWEVER,**  
18 **THIS REQUIREMENT DOES NOT APPLY TO A PUPIL IF THE PUPIL'S PARENT OR**  
19 **LEGAL GUARDIAN, OR THE PUPIL IF THE PUPIL IS AT LEAST AGE 18 OR IS**  
20 **AN EMANCIPATED MINOR, SUBMITS A WRITTEN NOTIFICATION TO THE SCHOOL**  
21 **DISTRICT OR PUBLIC SCHOOL ACADEMY INDICATING THAT HE OR SHE HAS**  
22 **CHOSEN TO HAVE THE PUPIL EXEMPTED FROM THIS REQUIREMENT.** For the  
23 purposes of this subsection, all of the following apply:

24 (a) American sign language is considered to be a language  
25 other than English.

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



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

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

12 (a) A pupil is considered to have completed a credit if the  
13 pupil successfully completes the subject area content expectations  
14 or guidelines developed by the department that apply to the credit  
15 **OR, FOR A CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION CREDIT, THE PUPIL**  
16 **SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETES THE SUBJECT AREA CONTENT EXPECTATIONS OR**  
17 **GUIDELINES DEVELOPED BY THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OR PUBLIC SCHOOL**  
18 **ACADEMY THAT APPLY TO THE CREDIT.**

19 (b) A school district or public school academy shall base its  
20 determination of whether a pupil has successfully completed the  
21 subject area content expectations or guidelines developed by the  
22 department that apply to a credit at least in part on the pupil's  
23 performance on the assessments developed or selected by the  
24 department under section 1278b or on 1 or more assessments  
25 developed or selected by the school district or public school  
26 academy that measure a pupil's understanding of the subject area  
27 content expectations or guidelines that apply to the credit.



1 (c) A school district or public school academy shall also  
2 grant a pupil a credit if the pupil earns a qualifying score, as  
3 determined by the department, on the assessments developed or  
4 selected for the subject area by the department under section 1278b  
5 or the pupil earns a qualifying score, as determined by the school  
6 district or public school academy, on 1 or more assessments  
7 developed or selected by the school district or public school  
8 academy that measure a pupil's understanding of the subject area  
9 content expectations or guidelines that apply to the credit.

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

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



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

6 (6) A high school that is designated by the superintendent of  
7 public instruction as a specialty school under subsection (5) is  
8 only exempt from requirements as described under subsection (5) as  
9 long as the superintendent of public instruction finds that the  
10 high school continues to meet all of the following requirements:

11 (a) The high school clearly states to prospective pupils and  
12 their parents that it does not meet the requirements of the  
13 Michigan merit standard under this section and section 1278b but is  
14 a designated specialty school that is exempt from some of those  
15 requirements and that a pupil who enrolls in the high school and  
16 subsequently transfers to a high school that is not a specialty  
17 school meeting the requirements of this subsection will be required  
18 to comply with the requirements of the Michigan merit standard  
19 under this section and section 1278b.

20 (b) For the most recent year for which the data are available,  
21 the mean scores on both the mathematics and science portions of the  
22 ACT examination for the pupils of the high school exceed by at  
23 least 10% the mean scores on the mathematics and science portions  
24 of the ACT examination for the pupils of the school district in  
25 which the greatest number of the pupils of the high school reside.

26 (c) For the most recent year for which the data are available,  
27 the high school had a graduation rate of at least 85%, as



1 determined by the department.

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

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

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

15 Enacting section 1. This amendatory act does not take effect  
16 unless Senate Bill No.\_\_\_\_ or House Bill No.\_\_\_\_ (request no.  
17 01852'13) of the 97th Legislature is enacted into law.

