

**SUBSTITUTE FOR
HOUSE BILL NO. 4410**

A bill to amend 1976 PA 451, entitled
"The revised school code,"
by amending section 1278a (MCL 380.1278a), as amended by 2008 PA
316.

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 1 CREDIT IN algebra I, 1 CREDIT IN geometry
4 **EARNED IN A GEOMETRY COURSE OR THE INTEGRATED EQUIVALENT IN A**
5 **CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION COURSE**, and ~~algebra II~~ 1 CREDIT
6 **EARNED IN EITHER A COURSE IN FINANCIAL LITERACY AS DESCRIBED IN**
7 **SECTION 1165 OR AN ALGEBRA II COURSE OR THE INTEGRATED EQUIVALENT**
8 **IN A CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION COURSE**, or an integrated
9 sequence of this course content that consists of 3 credits, and an
10 additional mathematics credit, such as trigonometry, statistics,
11 precalculus, calculus, applied math, accounting, business math, a
12 ~~retake of algebra II , a course in financial literacy as described~~
13 ~~in section 1165~~ **OR THE INTEGRATED EQUIVALENT IN A CAREER AND**
14 **TECHNICAL EDUCATION COURSE, A RETAKE OF ALGEBRA II, OR A CAREER AND**
15 **TECHNICAL EDUCATION COURSE WITH MATHEMATICS CONTENT APPROVED BY THE**
16 **DEPARTMENT**. A pupil may complete algebra II over 2 years with a
17 credit awarded for each of those years for the purposes of this
18 section and section 1278b. Each pupil must successfully complete at
19 least 1 mathematics course during his or her final year of high
20 school enrollment. This subparagraph does not require completion of
21 mathematics courses in any particular sequence.

22 (ii) At least 3 credits in social science that are aligned with
23 subject area content expectations developed by the department and
24 approved by the state board under section 1278b, including
25 completion of at least 1 credit in United States history and
26 geography, 1 credit in world history and geography, 1/2 credit in
27 economics, and the civics course described in section 1166(2).

1 (iii) At least 1 credit in subject matter that includes both
2 health and physical education aligned with guidelines developed by
3 the department and approved by the state board under section 1278b.

4 (iv) At least 1 credit in visual arts, performing arts, or
5 applied arts, as defined by the department, that is aligned with
6 guidelines developed by the department and approved by the state
7 board under section 1278b.

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

9 (b) Meets the online course or learning experience requirement
10 of this subsection. A school district or public school academy
11 shall provide the basic level of technology and internet access
12 required by the state board to complete the online course or
13 learning experience. For a pupil to meet this requirement, the
14 pupil shall meet either of the following, as determined by the
15 school district or public school academy:

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

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

23 (2) In addition to the requirements under subsection (1),
24 beginning with pupils entering grade 3 in 2006, the board of a
25 school district or board of directors of a public school academy
26 shall not award a high school diploma to a pupil unless the pupil
27 has successfully completed during grades 9 to 12 at least 2

1 credits, as determined by the department, in a language other than
2 English, or the pupil has successfully completed at any time during
3 grades K to 12 course work or other learning experiences that are
4 substantially equivalent to 2 credits in a language other than
5 English, based on guidelines developed by the department. For the
6 purposes of this subsection, all of the following apply:

7 (a) American sign language is considered to be a language
8 other than English.

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

11 (3) The requirements under this section and section 1278b for
12 a high school diploma are in addition to any local requirements
13 imposed by the board of a school district or board of directors of
14 a public school academy. The board of a school district or board of
15 directors of a public school academy, as a local requirement for a
16 high school diploma, may require a pupil to complete some or all of
17 the subject area assessments under section 1279 or the Michigan
18 merit examination under section 1279g, as applicable to the pupil
19 under section 1279g, or may require a pupil to participate in the
20 MIAccess assessments if appropriate for the pupil.

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

23 (a) A pupil is considered to have completed a credit if the
24 pupil successfully completes the subject area content expectations
25 or guidelines developed by the department that apply to the credit.

26 (b) A school district or public school academy shall base its
27 determination of whether a pupil has successfully completed the

1 subject area content expectations or guidelines developed by the
2 department that apply to a credit at least in part on the pupil's
3 performance on the assessments developed or selected by the
4 department under section 1278b or on 1 or more assessments
5 developed or selected by the school district or public school
6 academy that measure a pupil's understanding of the subject area
7 content expectations or guidelines that apply to the credit.

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

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

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

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

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

13 (6) A high school that is designated by the superintendent of
14 public instruction as a specialty school under subsection (5) is
15 only exempt from requirements as described under subsection (5) as
16 long as the superintendent of public instruction finds that the
17 high school continues to meet all of the following requirements:

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

27 (b) For the most recent year for which the data are available,

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

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

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

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

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