

**SUBSTITUTE FOR  
HOUSE BILL NO. 5463**

A bill to amend 1976 PA 451, entitled  
"The revised school code,"  
by amending section 1278a (MCL 380.1278a), as amended by 2015 PA  
186.

**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, or 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, such as a  
14 program or curriculum in electronics, machining, construction,  
15 welding, engineering, computer science, or renewable energy, and in  
16 that program or curriculum successfully completing the same content  
17 as the algebra II benchmarks assessed on the department-prescribed  
18 state high school assessment, as determined by the department. The  
19 department shall post on its website guidelines for implementation  
20 of the immediately preceding sentence. Each pupil must successfully  
21 complete at least 1 mathematics course during his or her final year  
22 of high school enrollment. This subparagraph does not require  
23 completion of mathematics courses in any particular sequence.

24 (ii) At least 3 credits in social science that are aligned  
25 with subject area content expectations developed by the department  
26 and approved by the state board under section 1278b, including  
27 completion of at least 1 credit in United States history and

1 geography, 1 credit in world history and geography, 1/2 credit in  
2 economics, and the civics course described in section 1166(2). The  
3 1/2-credit economics requirement may be satisfied by completion of  
4 at least a 1/2-credit course in personal economics that includes a  
5 financial literacy component as described in section 1165, if that  
6 course covers the subject area content expectations for economics  
7 developed by the department and approved by the state board under  
8 section 1278b.

9 (iii) At least 1 credit in subject matter that includes both  
10 health and physical education aligned with guidelines developed by  
11 the department and approved by the state board under section 1278b,  
12 or at least 1/2 credit in health aligned with guidelines developed  
13 by the department and approved by the state board under section  
14 1278b and at least 1/2 credit awarded by the school district or  
15 public school academy for approved participation in extracurricular  
16 athletics or other extracurricular activities involving physical  
17 activity.

18 (iv) At least ~~1 credit in visual arts, performing arts, or~~  
19 ~~applied arts, as defined by the department, that is~~ **3 CREDITS IN**  
20 **21ST CENTURY SKILLS**, aligned with guidelines developed by the  
21 department and approved by the state board under section 1278b. **FOR**  
22 **THE PURPOSES OF THIS SUBPARAGRAPH, THE CREDITS IN 21ST CENTURY**  
23 **SKILLS MAY BE SATISFIED BY SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETING ANY COMBINATION**  
24 **OF 3 CREDITS IN THE FOLLOWING:**

25 (A) A LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH AS DESCRIBED IN SUBSECTION  
26 (2).

27 (B) VISUAL ARTS, PERFORMING ARTS, OR APPLIED ARTS, AS DEFINED

1 **BY THE DEPARTMENT.** A school district or public school academy is  
 2 strongly encouraged to offer visual arts and performing arts  
 3 courses.

4 (C) **COMPUTER SCIENCE OR COMPUTER CODING, OR A COMBINATION OF**  
 5 **THESE.**

6 (D) **A DEPARTMENT-APPROVED FORMAL CAREER AND TECHNICAL**  
 7 **EDUCATION PROGRAM.**

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 K to 12 at least 2~~ **A PUPIL**

1 **MAY COMPLETE 1 OR MORE CREDITS IN A LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH**  
2 **TOWARD FULFILLING THE REQUIREMENTS UNDER SUBSECTION (1) (A) (iv) BY**  
3 **COMPLETING AT ANY TIME DURING GRADES K TO 12 ONE OR MORE** credits  
4 that are grade-appropriate in a language other than English or  
5 course work or other learning experiences that are substantially  
6 equivalent to ~~2~~ credits in a language other than English, based on  
7 guidelines developed by the department. For pupils who graduate  
8 from high school in 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, or 2021 only, a  
9 pupil may partially or fully fulfill 1 credit ~~of this requirement~~  
10 **IN A LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH** by completing a department-  
11 approved formal career and technical education program or  
12 curriculum or by completing visual or performing arts instruction  
13 that is in addition to the requirements under subsection  
14 (1) (a) (iv). The board of a school district or board of directors of  
15 a public school academy is strongly encouraged to ensure that all  
16 pupils complete at least 1 credit in a language other than English  
17 in grades K to 6. For the purposes of this subsection, all of the  
18 following apply:

19 (a) American sign language is considered to be a language  
20 other than English.

21 (b) The pupil may ~~meet~~ **SATISFY** all or part of ~~this requirement~~  
22 **THE REQUIREMENTS FOR A CREDIT IN A LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH** with  
23 online course work.

24 (3) The requirements under this section and section 1278b for  
25 a high school diploma are in addition to any local requirements  
26 imposed by the board of a school district or board of directors of  
27 a public school academy. The board of a school district or board of

1 directors of a public school academy, as a local requirement for a  
2 high school diploma, may require a pupil to complete the Michigan  
3 merit examination under section 1279g or may require a pupil to  
4 participate in the MIAccess assessments if appropriate for the  
5 pupil.

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

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

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

24 (c) A school district or public school academy shall also  
25 grant a pupil a credit if the pupil earns a qualifying score, as  
26 determined by the department, on the assessments developed or  
27 selected for the subject area by the department under section 1278b

1 or the pupil earns a qualifying score, as determined by the school  
2 district or public school academy, on 1 or more assessments  
3 developed or selected by the school district or public school  
4 academy that measure a pupil's understanding of the subject area  
5 content expectations or guidelines that apply to the credit.

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

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

24 (b) The high school uses a specialized, innovative, and  
25 rigorous curriculum in such areas as performing arts, foreign  
26 language, extensive use of internships, or other learning  
27 innovations that conform to pioneering innovations among other

1 leading national or international high schools.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

11           Enacting section 1. This amendatory act takes effect 90 days  
12 after the date it is enacted into law.