

**SUBSTITUTE FOR
HOUSE BILL NO. 5384**

A bill to amend 1976 PA 451, entitled
"The revised school code,"
by amending section 1278a (MCL 380.1278a), as amended by 2020 PA
158.

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:



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

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



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

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

17 (iv) At least 1 credit in visual arts, performing arts, or
 18 applied arts, as defined by the department, that is aligned with
 19 guidelines developed by the department and approved by the state
 20 board under section 1278b. A school district or public school
 21 academy is strongly encouraged to offer visual arts and performing
 22 arts courses.

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

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



1 school district or public school academy:

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

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

9 (2) In addition to the requirements under subsection (1),
10 ~~beginning with pupils entering grade 3 in 2006,~~ the board of a
11 school district or board of directors of a public school academy
12 shall not award a high school diploma to a pupil unless the pupil
13 has successfully completed during grades K to 12 at least 2 credits
14 that are grade-appropriate in a language other than English or
15 course work or other learning experiences that are substantially
16 equivalent to 2 credits in a language other than English, based on
17 guidelines developed by the department. A pupil may partially or
18 fully fulfill 1 credit of this requirement by completing a
19 department-approved formal career and technical education program
20 or curriculum or by completing visual or performing arts
21 instruction that is in addition to the requirements under
22 subsection (1) (a) (iv). The board of a school district or board of
23 directors of a public school academy is strongly encouraged to
24 ensure that all pupils complete at least 1 credit in a language
25 other than English in grades K to 6. For the purposes of this
26 subsection, both of the following apply:

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

29 (b) The pupil may meet all or part of this requirement with



1 online course work.

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

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

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

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

29 (c) A school district or public school academy shall also



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

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

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

27 (b) The high school uses a specialized, innovative, and
 28 rigorous curriculum in such areas as performing arts, foreign
 29 language, extensive use of internships, or other learning



1 innovations that conform to pioneering innovations among other
2 leading national or international high schools.

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

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

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

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

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



1 **serving in the Armed Forces of the United States.**

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

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

12 **(7) As used in this section, "Armed Forces of the United**
13 **States" means the United States Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine**
14 **Corps, Space Force, or Coast Guard or other military force**
15 **designated by Congress as part of the Armed Forces of the United**
16 **States, including the reserve and national guard components.**

