

**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 **servicing 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.**