

SENATE BILL NO. 261

March 18, 2021, Introduced by Senators DALEY, HORN, THEIS, ZORN, VICTORY, BUMSTEAD, LASATA, SCHMIDT and VANDERWALL and referred to the Committee on Education and Career Readiness.

A bill to amend 1976 PA 451, entitled "The revised school code," by amending section 1279g (MCL 380.1279g), as amended by 2016 PA 170, and by adding sections 1279i and 1279j.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 1279g. (1) ~~The~~**Except as otherwise provided in this**
2 **subsection, the** board of a school district or board of directors of
3 a public school academy shall comply with this section and shall
4 administer the Michigan merit examination to pupils in grade 11,

1 and to pupils in grade 12 who did not take the complete Michigan
2 merit examination in grade 11, as provided in this section.

3 **However, subject to federal law and subsection (15), the board of a**
4 **school district or board of directors of a public school academy is**
5 **not required to administer the Michigan merit examination as**
6 **described in this subsection for the 2020-2021 school year.**

7 (2) For the purposes of this section, the department of
8 technology, management, and budget shall contract with 1 or more
9 providers to develop, supply, and score the Michigan merit
10 examination. The Michigan merit examination ~~shall~~**must** consist of
11 all of the following:

12 (a) Assessment instruments that measure English language arts,
13 mathematics, reading, and science and are used by colleges and
14 universities in this state for entrance or placement purposes. This
15 ~~shall~~**must** include a writing component in which the pupil produces
16 an extended writing sample. The Michigan merit examination ~~shall~~
17 **must** not require any other extended writing sample.

18 (b) One or more tests from 1 or more test developers that
19 assess a pupil's ability to apply at least reading and mathematics
20 skills in a manner that is intended to allow employers to use the
21 results in making employment decisions. The department of
22 technology, management, and budget and the superintendent of public
23 instruction shall ensure that any test or tests selected under this
24 subdivision have all the components necessary to allow a pupil to
25 be eligible to receive the results of a nationally recognized
26 evaluation of workforce readiness if the pupil's test performance
27 is adequate.

28 (c) A social studies component.

29 (d) Any other component that is necessary to obtain the

1 approval of the United States Department of Education to use the
2 Michigan merit examination for the purposes of the no child left
3 behind act of 2001, Public Law 107-110, or the every student
4 succeeds act, Public Law 114-95.

5 (3) In addition to all other requirements of this section, all
6 of the following apply to the Michigan merit examination:

7 (a) The department of technology, management, and budget and
8 the superintendent of public instruction shall ensure that any
9 contractor used for scoring the Michigan merit examination supplies
10 an individual report for each pupil that will identify for the
11 pupil's parents and teachers whether the pupil met expectations or
12 failed to meet expectations for each standard, to allow the pupil's
13 parents and teachers to assess and remedy problems before the pupil
14 moves to the next grade.

15 (b) The department of technology, management, and budget and
16 the superintendent of public instruction shall ensure that any
17 contractor used for scoring, developing, or processing the Michigan
18 merit examination meets quality management standards commonly used
19 in the assessment industry, including at least meeting level 2 of
20 the capability maturity model developed by the Software Engineering
21 Institute of Carnegie Mellon University for the first year the
22 Michigan merit examination is offered to all grade 11 pupils and at
23 least meeting level 3 of the capability maturity model for
24 subsequent years.

25 (c) The department of technology, management, and budget and
26 the superintendent of public instruction shall ensure that any
27 contract for scoring, administering, or developing the Michigan
28 merit examination includes specific deadlines for all steps of the
29 assessment process, including, but not limited to, deadlines for

1 the correct testing materials to be supplied to schools and for the
2 correct results to be returned to schools, and includes penalties
3 for noncompliance with these deadlines.

4 (d) The superintendent of public instruction shall ensure that
5 the Michigan merit examination meets all of the following:

6 (i) Is designed to test pupils on grade level content
7 expectations or course content expectations, as appropriate, in all
8 subjects tested.

9 (ii) Complies with requirements of the no child left behind act
10 of 2001, Public Law 107-110, or the every student succeeds act,
11 Public Law 114-95, as applicable.

12 (iii) Is consistent with the code of fair testing practices in
13 education prepared by the joint committee on testing practices of
14 the American Psychological Association.

15 (iv) Is factually accurate. If the superintendent of public
16 instruction determines that a question is not factually accurate
17 and should be excluded from scoring, the state board and the
18 superintendent of public instruction shall ensure that the question
19 is excluded from scoring.

20 (4) A school district or public school academy that operates a
21 high school shall include on each pupil's high school transcript
22 all of the following:

23 (a) For each high school graduate who has completed the
24 Michigan merit examination under this section, the pupil's scaled
25 score on each subject area component of the Michigan merit
26 examination.

27 (b) The number of school days the pupil was in attendance at
28 school each school year during high school and the total number of
29 school days in session for each of those school years.

1 (5) The superintendent of public instruction shall work with
 2 the provider or providers of the Michigan merit examination to
 3 produce Michigan merit examination subject area scores for each
 4 pupil participating in the Michigan merit examination, including
 5 scaling and merging of test items for the different subject area
 6 components. The superintendent of public instruction shall design
 7 and distribute to school districts, public school academies,
 8 intermediate school districts, and nonpublic schools a simple and
 9 concise document that describes the scoring for each subject area
 10 and indicates the scaled score ranges for each subject area.

11 (6) ~~The~~ **Except as otherwise provided in this section, the**
 12 Michigan merit examination ~~shall~~ **must** be administered each year
 13 after March 1 and before June 1 to pupils in grade 11. The
 14 superintendent of public instruction shall ensure that the Michigan
 15 merit examination is scored and the scores are returned to pupils,
 16 their parents or legal guardians, and schools not later than the
 17 beginning of the pupil's first semester of grade 12. The returned
 18 scores ~~shall~~ **must** indicate at least the pupil's scaled score for
 19 each subject area component and the range of scaled scores for each
 20 subject area. In reporting the scores to pupils, parents, and
 21 schools, the superintendent of public instruction shall provide
 22 standards-specific, meaningful, and timely feedback on the pupil's
 23 performance on the Michigan merit examination.

24 (7) A school district or public school academy shall
 25 administer the complete Michigan merit examination to a pupil only
 26 once and shall not administer the complete Michigan merit
 27 examination to the same pupil more than once. ~~If~~ **Except as**
 28 **otherwise provided in this section, if** a pupil does not take the
 29 complete Michigan merit examination in grade 11, the school

1 district or public school academy shall administer the complete
2 Michigan merit examination to the pupil in grade 12. If a pupil
3 chooses to retake the college entrance examination component of the
4 Michigan merit examination, as described in subsection (2)(a), the
5 pupil may do so through the provider of the college entrance
6 examination component and the cost of the retake is the
7 responsibility of the pupil unless all of the following are met:

8 (a) The pupil has taken the complete Michigan merit
9 examination.

10 (b) The pupil meets the income eligibility criteria for free
11 breakfast, lunch, or milk, as determined under the Richard B.
12 Russell national school lunch act, 42 USC 1751 to 1769j.

13 (c) The pupil has applied to the provider of the college
14 entrance examination component for a scholarship or fee waiver to
15 cover the cost of the retake and that application has been denied.

16 (d) After taking the complete Michigan merit examination, the
17 pupil has not already received a free retake of the college
18 entrance examination component paid for either by this state or
19 through a scholarship or fee waiver by the provider.

20 (8) The superintendent of public instruction shall ensure that
21 the length of the Michigan merit examination and the combined total
22 time necessary to administer all of the components of the Michigan
23 merit examination are the shortest possible that will still
24 maintain the degree of reliability and validity of the Michigan
25 merit examination results determined necessary by the
26 superintendent of public instruction. The superintendent of public
27 instruction shall ensure that the maximum total combined length of
28 time that schools are required to set aside for pupils to answer
29 all test questions on the Michigan merit examination does not

1 exceed 8 hours if the superintendent of public instruction
2 determines that sufficient alignment to applicable Michigan merit
3 curriculum content standards can be achieved within that time
4 limit.

5 (9) A school district or public school academy shall provide
6 accommodations to a pupil with disabilities for the Michigan merit
7 examination, as provided under section 504 of title V of the
8 rehabilitation act of 1973, 29 USC 794; ~~subtitle-part~~ **part** A of title
9 **subchapter** II of the Americans with disabilities act of 1990, 42
10 USC 12131 to 12134; the individuals with disabilities education act
11 amendments of 1997, Public Law 105-17; and the implementing
12 regulations for those statutes. The provider or providers of the
13 Michigan merit examination and the superintendent of public
14 instruction shall mutually agree upon the accommodations to be
15 provided under this subsection.

16 (10) To the greatest extent possible, the Michigan merit
17 examination ~~shall-must~~ be based on grade level content expectations
18 or course content expectations, as appropriate. Not later than July
19 1, 2008, the department shall identify specific grade level content
20 expectations to be taught before and after the middle of grade 11,
21 so that teachers will know what content will be covered within the
22 Michigan merit examination.

23 (11) A child who is a student in a nonpublic school or home
24 school may take the Michigan merit examination under this section.
25 ~~To-Except~~ **Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, to** take the
26 Michigan merit examination, a child who is a student in a home
27 school shall contact the school district in which the child
28 resides, and that school district shall administer the Michigan
29 merit examination, or the child may take the Michigan merit

1 examination at a nonpublic school if allowed by the nonpublic
2 school. **If a school district is contacted by a child who is a**
3 **student in a home school as described in the immediately preceding**
4 **sentence, the school district is not required to administer the**
5 **Michigan merit examination to that child for the 2020-2021 school**
6 **year if the school district is not administering the Michigan merit**
7 **examination to pupils enrolled in the school district for the 2020-**
8 **2021 school year.** Upon request from a nonpublic school, the
9 superintendent of public instruction shall direct the provider or
10 providers to supply the Michigan merit examination to the nonpublic
11 school and the nonpublic school may administer the Michigan merit
12 examination. If a school district administers the Michigan merit
13 examination under this subsection to a child who is not enrolled in
14 the school district, the scores for that child are not considered
15 for any purpose to be scores of a pupil of the school district.

16 (12) In contracting under subsection (2), the department of
17 technology, management, and budget shall consider a contractor that
18 provides ~~electronically-scored~~ **electronically scored** essays with
19 the ability to score constructed response feedback in multiple
20 languages and provide ongoing instruction and feedback.

21 (13) The purpose of the Michigan merit examination is to
22 assess pupil performance in mathematics, science, social studies,
23 and English language arts for the purpose of improving academic
24 achievement and establishing a statewide standard of competency.
25 The assessment under this section provides a common measure of data
26 that will contribute to the improvement of Michigan schools'
27 curriculum and instruction by encouraging alignment with Michigan's
28 curriculum framework standards and promotes pupil participation in
29 higher level mathematics, science, social studies, and English

1 language arts courses. These standards are based upon the
2 expectations of what pupils should learn through high school and
3 are aligned with national standards.

4 (14) In addition to the other requirements of this section and
5 the requirements of 1970 PA 38, MCL 388.1081 to 388.1086, ~~beginning~~
6 ~~with assessments conducted during the 2016-2017 school year,~~ the
7 superintendent of public instruction shall ensure that the Michigan
8 merit examination social studies component and the M-STEP and any
9 successor state assessment for social studies, as appropriate,
10 include questions related to the learning objectives in the state
11 board recommended model core academic curriculum standards
12 concerning genocide, including, but not limited to, the Holocaust
13 and the Armenian Genocide.

14 (15) **For the 2020-2021 school year, the board of a school**
15 **district or board of directors of a public school academy shall**
16 **offer the college entrance examination component of the Michigan**
17 **merit examination, as described in subsection (2) (a), to all pupils**
18 **in grade 11, and to pupils in grade 12 who did not take the**
19 **examination component described in this subsection in grade 11, who**
20 **are enrolled in the school district or public school academy, and**
21 **shall administer the examination component described in this**
22 **subsection, upon request by a pupil described in this subsection,**
23 **to the requesting pupil.**

24 (16) ~~(15)~~As used in this section:

25 (a) "Armenian Genocide", "genocide", and "Holocaust" mean
26 those terms as defined in section 1168.

27 (b) "English language arts" means reading and writing.

28 (c) "Social studies" means United States history, world
29 history, world geography, economics, and American government.

1 Sec. 1279i. Notwithstanding any provision of this act to the
2 contrary, for the 2020-2021 school year, the progress of the pupils
3 in a public school academy and the pupil performance of a public
4 school academy is not required to be assessed using the Michigan
5 student test of educational progress (M-STEP) or the Michigan merit
6 examination under section 1279g.

7 Sec. 1279j. (1) If the college board offers the administration
8 of the college entrance examination component of the Michigan merit
9 examination, as described in section 1279g(2)(a), during the
10 summer, the board of a school district or board of directors of a
11 public school academy shall ensure that the examination component
12 described in this subsection is offered in the summer to all pupils
13 who were enrolled in grade 11 or 12 in the school district or
14 public school academy in the immediately preceding school year and
15 who did not take the examination component described in this
16 subsection in grade 11 or 12. If the college board offers the
17 administration of the examination component described in this
18 subsection during the summer, upon request by a pupil described in
19 this subsection, the board of the offering school district or board
20 of directors of the offering public school academy shall ensure
21 that the examination component described in this subsection is
22 administered to the pupil during the summer.

23 (2) If the college board offers the administration of the
24 college entrance examination component of the Michigan merit
25 examination, as described in section 1279g(2)(a), during the fall
26 of the 2021-2022 school year, the board of a school district or
27 board of directors of a public school academy shall ensure that the
28 examination component described in this subsection is offered in
29 the fall of the 2021-2022 school year to all pupils who were

1 enrolled in grade 11 or 12 in the school district or public school
2 academy in the immediately preceding school year and who did not
3 take the examination component described in this subsection in
4 grade 11 or 12. If the college board offers the administration of
5 the examination component described in this subsection during the
6 fall of the 2021-2022 school year, upon request by a pupil
7 described in this subsection, the board of the offering school
8 district or board of directors of the offering public school
9 academy shall ensure that the examination component described in
10 this subsection is administered to the pupil during the fall of the
11 2021-2022 school year.

12 (3) If the college board offers the administration of the
13 preliminary scholastic assessment test (PSAT) during the summer,
14 the board of a school district or board of directors of a public
15 school academy shall ensure that the preliminary scholastic
16 assessment test (PSAT) is offered in the summer to all pupils who
17 were enrolled in grade 8, 9, or 10 in the school district or public
18 school academy in the immediately preceding school year and who did
19 not take the preliminary scholastic assessment test (PSAT) while in
20 those grades. If the college board offers the administration of the
21 preliminary scholastic assessment test (PSAT) during the summer,
22 upon request by a pupil described in this subsection, the board of
23 the offering school district or board of directors of the offering
24 public school academy shall ensure that the preliminary scholastic
25 assessment test (PSAT) is administered to the pupil during the
26 summer.

27 (4) If the college board offers the administration of the
28 preliminary scholastic assessment test (PSAT) during the fall of
29 the 2021-2022 school year, the board of a school district or board

1 of directors of a public school academy shall ensure that the
2 preliminary scholastic assessment test (PSAT) is offered in the
3 fall of the 2021-2022 school year to all pupils who were enrolled
4 in grades 8, 9, and 10 in the school district or public school
5 academy in the immediately preceding school year and who did not
6 take the preliminary scholastic assessment test (PSAT) while in
7 those grades. If the college board offers the administration of the
8 preliminary scholastic assessment test (PSAT) during the fall of
9 the 2021-2022 school year, upon request by a pupil described in
10 this subsection, the board of a school district or board of
11 directors of a public school academy shall ensure that the
12 preliminary scholastic assessment test (PSAT) is administered to
13 the pupil during the fall of the 2021-2022 school year.

14 (5) As used in this section:

15 (a) "College board" means the organization that is the
16 provider of the preliminary scholastic assessment test (PSAT) and
17 the scholastic assessment test (SAT).

18 (b) "Fall of the 2021-2022 school year" means the period
19 beginning on the first school day of the 2021-2022 school year and
20 ending December 17, 2021.

21 (c) "Summer" means the period beginning the day after the last
22 school day of the 2020-2021 school year and ending the day before
23 the first school day of the 2021-2022 school year.

24 Enacting section 1. This amendatory act does not take effect
25 unless all of the following bills of the 101st Legislature are
26 enacted into law:

27 (a) Senate Bill No. 56.

28 (b) Senate Bill No. 260.

29

- 1 (c) Senate Bill No. 57.
- 2 (d) Senate Bill No. 267.
- 3
- 4 (e) Senate Bill No. 268.
- 5
- 6 (f) Senate Bill No. 262.
- 7
- 8 (g) Senate Bill No. 263.
- 9
- 10 (h) Senate Bill No. 264.
- 11
- 12 (i) Senate Bill No. 266.
- 13
- 14 (j) Senate Bill No. 265.
- 15