

SENATE BILL No. 812

September 24, 2007, Introduced by Senators JELINEK, SWITALSKI, GLEASON, PAPPAGEORGE and KAHN and referred to the Committee on Education.

A bill to amend 1976 PA 451, entitled "The revised school code," by amending sections 1278a and 1278b (MCL 380.1278a and 380.1278b), section 1278a as added by 2006 PA 124 and section 1278b as amended by 2006 PA 623.

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, or a retake of algebra II. Each pupil
9 must successfully complete at least 1 mathematics course during his
10 or her final year of high school enrollment.

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

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

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

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

25 (b) Meets the online course or learning experience requirement
26 of this subsection. A school district or public school academy
27 shall provide the basic level of technology and internet access

1 required by the state board to complete the online course or
2 learning experience. For a pupil to meet this requirement, the
3 pupil shall meet either of the following, as determined by the
4 school district or public school academy:

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

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

12 (2) In addition to the requirements under subsection (1),
13 beginning with pupils entering grade 3 in 2006, the board of a
14 school district or board of directors of a public school academy
15 shall not award a high school diploma to a pupil unless the pupil
16 has successfully completed during grades 9 to 12 at least 2
17 credits, as determined by the department, in a language other than
18 English, or the pupil has successfully completed at any time during
19 grades K to 12 course work or other learning experiences that are
20 substantially equivalent to 2 credits in a language other than
21 English, based on guidelines developed by the department. For the
22 purposes of this subsection, all of the following apply:

23 (a) American sign language is considered to be a language
24 other than English.

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

27 (3) The requirements under this section and section 1278b for

1 a high school diploma are in addition to any local requirements
2 imposed by the board of a school district or board of directors of
3 a public school academy. The board of a school district or board of
4 directors of a public school academy, as a local requirement for a
5 high school diploma, may require a pupil to complete some or all of
6 ~~the subject area assessments under section 1279 or the Michigan~~
7 ~~merit examination under section 1279g, as applicable to the pupil~~
8 ~~under section 1279g,~~ or may require a pupil to participate in the
9 MIAccess assessments if appropriate for the pupil.

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

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

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 Sec. 1278b. (1) Except as otherwise provided in this section
12 or section 1278a, beginning with pupils entering grade 8 in 2006,
13 as part of the requirements under section 1278a the board of a
14 school district or board of directors of a public school academy
15 shall not award a high school diploma to a pupil unless the pupil
16 has successfully completed all of the following credit requirements
17 of the Michigan merit standard before graduating from high school:

18 (a) At least 4 credits in English language arts that are
19 aligned with subject area content expectations developed by the
20 department and approved by the state board under this section.

21 (b) At least 3 credits in science that are aligned with
22 subject area content expectations developed by the department and
23 approved by the state board under this section, including
24 completion of at least biology and either chemistry or physics. The
25 legislature strongly encourages pupils to complete a fourth credit
26 in science, such as forensics, astronomy, Earth science,
27 agricultural science, environmental science, geology, physics or

1 chemistry, physiology, or microbiology.

2 (c) The credit requirements specified in section 1278a(1) (a) (i)
3 to (iv).

4 (2) If a pupil successfully completes 1 or more of the high
5 school credits required under subsection (1) or under section
6 1278a(1) before entering high school, the pupil shall be given high
7 school credit for that credit.

8 (3) For the purposes of this section and section 1278a, the
9 department shall do all of the following:

10 (a) Develop subject area content expectations that apply to
11 the credit requirements of the Michigan merit standard that are
12 required under subsection (1) (a) and (b) and section 1278a(1) (a) (i)
13 and (ii) and develop guidelines for the remaining credit
14 requirements of the Michigan merit standard that are required under
15 this section and section 1278a(1) (a), for the online course or
16 learning experience required under section 1278a(1) (b), and for the
17 requirements for a language other than English under section
18 1278a(2). All of the following apply to these subject area content
19 expectations and guidelines:

20 (i) All subject area content expectations shall be consistent
21 with the state board recommended model core academic curriculum
22 content standards under section 1278. Subject area content
23 expectations or guidelines shall not include attitudes, beliefs, or
24 value systems that are not essential in the legal, economic, and
25 social structure of our society and to the personal and social
26 responsibility of citizens of our society. The subject area content
27 expectations shall require pupils to demonstrate critical thinking

1 skills.

2 (ii) The subject area content expectations and the guidelines
3 must be approved by the state board under subsection (4).

4 (iii) The subject area content expectations shall state in clear
5 and measurable terms what pupils are expected to know upon
6 completion of each credit.

7 (iv) The department shall complete the development of the
8 subject area content expectations that apply to algebra I and the
9 guidelines for the online course or learning experience under
10 section 1278a(1)(b) not later than August 1, 2006.

11 (v) The department shall complete development of the subject
12 area content expectations or guidelines that apply to each of the
13 other credits required in the Michigan merit standard under
14 subsection (1) and section 1278a(1)(a) not later than 1 year before
15 the beginning of the school year in which a pupil entering high
16 school in 2007 would normally be expected to complete the credit.

17 (vi) If the department has not completed development of the
18 subject area content expectations that apply to a particular credit
19 required in the Michigan merit standard under subsection (1) or
20 section 1278a(1)(a) by the date required under this subdivision, a
21 school district or public school academy may align the content of
22 the credit with locally adopted standards.

23 (vii) Until all of the subject area content expectations and
24 guidelines have been developed by the department and approved by
25 the state board, the department shall submit a report at least
26 every 6 months to the senate and house standing committees
27 responsible for education legislation on the status of the

1 development of the subject area content expectations and
2 guidelines. The report shall detail any failure by the department
3 to meet a deadline established under subparagraph (iv) or (v) and
4 the reasons for that failure.

5 (b) Develop and implement a process for developing the subject
6 area content expectations and guidelines required under this
7 section. This process shall provide for all of the following:

8 (i) Soliciting input from all of the following groups:

9 (A) Recognized experts in the relevant subject areas.

10 (B) Representatives from 4-year colleges or universities,
11 community colleges, and other postsecondary institutions.

12 (C) Teachers, administrators, and school personnel who have
13 specialized knowledge of the subject area.

14 (D) Representatives from the business community.

15 (E) Representatives from vocational and career and technical
16 education providers.

17 (F) Government officials, including officials from the
18 legislature.

19 (G) Parents of public school pupils.

20 (ii) A review of the subject area content expectations or
21 guidelines by national experts.

22 (iii) An opportunity for the public to review and provide input
23 on the proposed subject area content expectations or guidelines
24 before they are submitted to the state board for approval. The time
25 period allowed for this review and input shall be at least 15
26 business days.

27 (c) Determine the basic level of technology and internet

1 access required for pupils to complete the online course or
2 learning experience requirement of section 1278a(1)(b), and submit
3 that determination to the state board for approval.

4 ~~—— (d) Not later than 3 years after the effective date of this~~
5 ~~section, develop or select and approve assessments that may be used~~
6 ~~by school districts and public school academies to determine~~
7 ~~whether a pupil has successfully completed a credit required under~~
8 ~~the Michigan merit standard under subsection (1) or section~~
9 ~~1278a(1)(a). The assessments for each credit shall measure a~~
10 ~~pupil's understanding of the subject area content expectations or~~
11 ~~guidelines that apply to the credit. The department shall develop~~
12 ~~or select and approve assessments for at least each of the~~
13 ~~following credits: algebra I, geometry, algebra II, Earth science,~~
14 ~~biology, physics, chemistry, grade 9 English, grade 10 English,~~
15 ~~grade 11 English, grade 12 English, world history, United States~~
16 ~~history, economics, and civics.~~

17 (D) ~~(e)~~ Develop and make available material to assist school
18 districts and public school academies in implementing the
19 requirements of this section and section 1278a. This shall include
20 developing guidelines for alternative instructional delivery
21 methods as described in subsection (7).

22 (4) The state board shall approve subject area content
23 expectations and guidelines developed by the department under
24 subsection (3) before those subject area content expectations and
25 guidelines may take effect. The state board also shall approve the
26 basic level of technology and internet access required for pupils
27 to complete the online course or learning experience requirement of

1 section 1278a(1)(b).

2 (5) The parent or legal guardian of a pupil may request a
3 personal curriculum for the pupil that modifies certain of the
4 Michigan merit standard requirements under subsection (1) or
5 section 1278a(1)(a). If all of the requirements under this
6 subsection for a personal curriculum are met, then the board of a
7 school district or board of directors of a public school academy
8 may award a high school diploma to a pupil who successfully
9 completes his or her personal curriculum even if it does not meet
10 the requirements of the Michigan merit standard required under
11 subsection (1) and section 1278a(1)(a). All of the following apply
12 to a personal curriculum:

13 (a) The personal curriculum shall be developed by a group that
14 includes at least the pupil, at least 1 of the pupil's parents or
15 the pupil's legal guardian, and the pupil's high school counselor
16 or another designee qualified to act in a counseling role under
17 section 1233 or 1233a selected by the high school principal. In
18 addition, for a pupil who receives special education services, a
19 school psychologist should also be included in this group.

20 (b) The personal curriculum shall incorporate as much of the
21 subject area content expectations of the Michigan merit standard
22 required under subsection (1) and section 1278a(1)(a) as is
23 practicable for the pupil; shall establish measurable goals that
24 the pupil must achieve while enrolled in high school and shall
25 provide a method to evaluate whether the pupil achieved these
26 goals; and shall be aligned with the pupil's educational
27 development plan developed under subsection (11).

1 (c) Before it takes effect, the personal curriculum must be
2 agreed to by the pupil's parent or legal guardian and by the
3 superintendent of the school district or chief executive of the
4 public school academy or his or her designee.

5 (d) The pupil's parent or legal guardian shall be in
6 communication with each of the pupil's teachers at least once each
7 calendar quarter to monitor the pupil's progress toward the goals
8 contained in the pupil's personal curriculum.

9 (e) Revisions may be made in the personal curriculum if the
10 revisions are developed and agreed to in the same manner as the
11 original personal curriculum.

12 (f) The English language arts credit requirements of
13 subsection (1) (a) and the science credit requirements of subsection
14 (1) (b) are not subject to modification as part of a personal
15 curriculum under this subsection.

16 (g) Except as otherwise provided in this subdivision, the
17 mathematics credit requirements of section 1278a(1) (a) (i) may be
18 modified as part of a personal curriculum only after the pupil has
19 successfully completed at least 2-1/2 credits of the mathematics
20 credits required under that section and only if the pupil
21 successfully completes at least 3-1/2 total credits of the
22 mathematics credits required under that section before completing
23 high school. The requirement under that section that a pupil must
24 successfully complete at least 1 mathematics course during his or
25 her final year of high school enrollment is not subject to
26 modification as part of a personal curriculum under this
27 subsection. The algebra II credit required under that section may

1 be modified as part of a personal curriculum under this subsection
2 only if the pupil has successfully completed at least 2 credits of
3 the mathematics credits required under section 1278a(1)(a)(i) and
4 meets 1 or more of the following:

5 (i) Has successfully completed the same content as 1 semester
6 of algebra II, as determined by the department.

7 (ii) Elects to complete the same content as algebra II over 2
8 years, with a credit awarded for each of those 2 years, and
9 successfully completes that content.

10 (iii) Enrolls in a formal career and technical education program
11 or curriculum and in that program or curriculum successfully
12 completes the same content as 1 semester of algebra II, as
13 determined by the department.

14 (h) The social science credit requirements of section
15 1278a(1)(a)(ii) may be modified as part of a personal curriculum
16 only if all of the following are met:

17 (i) The pupil has successfully completed 2 credits of the
18 social science credits required under section 1278a(1), including
19 the civics course described in section 1166(2).

20 (ii) The modification requires the pupil to complete 1
21 additional credit in English language arts, mathematics, or science
22 or 1 additional credit in a language other than English. This
23 additional credit must be in addition to the number of those
24 credits otherwise required under subsection (1) and section
25 1278a(1) or under section 1278a(2).

26 (i) The health and physical education credit requirement under
27 section 1278a(1)(a)(iii) may be modified as part of a personal

1 curriculum only if the modification requires the pupil to complete
2 1 additional credit in English language arts, mathematics, or
3 science or 1 additional credit in a language other than English.
4 This additional credit must be in addition to the number of those
5 credits otherwise required under subsection (1) and section
6 1278a(1) or under section 1278a(2).

7 (j) The visual arts, performing arts, or applied arts credit
8 requirement under section 1278a(1)(a)(iv) may be modified as part of
9 a personal curriculum only if the modification requires the pupil
10 to complete 1 additional credit in English language arts,
11 mathematics, or science or 1 additional credit in a language other
12 than English. This additional credit must be in addition to the
13 number of those credits otherwise required under subsection (1) and
14 section 1278a(1) or under section 1278a(2).

15 (k) If the parent or legal guardian of a pupil requests as
16 part of the pupil's personal curriculum a modification of the
17 Michigan merit standard requirements that would not otherwise be
18 allowed under this section and demonstrates that the modification
19 is necessary because the pupil is a child with a disability, the
20 school district or public school academy may allow that additional
21 modification to the extent necessary because of the pupil's
22 disability if the group under subdivision (a) determines that the
23 modification is consistent with both the pupil's educational
24 development plan under subsection (11) and the pupil's
25 individualized education program. If the superintendent of public
26 instruction has reason to believe that a school district or a
27 public school academy is allowing modifications inconsistent with

1 the requirements of this subdivision, the superintendent of public
2 instruction shall monitor the school district or public school
3 academy to ensure that the school district's or public school
4 academy's policies, procedures, and practices are in compliance
5 with the requirements for additional modifications under this
6 subdivision. As used in this subdivision, "child with a disability"
7 means that term as defined in 20 USC 1401.

8 (l) If a pupil is at least age 18 or is an emancipated minor,
9 the pupil may act on his or her own behalf under this subsection.

10 (m) This subsection does not apply to a pupil enrolled in a
11 high school that is designated as a specialty school under section
12 1278a(5) and that is exempt under that section from the English
13 language arts requirement under subsection (1)(a) and the social
14 science credit requirement under section 1278a(1)(a)(ii).

15 (6) If a pupil receives special education services, the
16 pupil's individualized education program, in accordance with the
17 individuals with disabilities education act, title VI of Public Law
18 91-230, shall identify the appropriate course or courses of study
19 and identify the supports, accommodations, and modifications
20 necessary to allow the pupil to progress in the curricular
21 requirements of this section and section 1278a, or in a personal
22 curriculum as provided under subsection (5), and meet the
23 requirements for a high school diploma.

24 (7) The board of a school district or board of directors of a
25 public school academy that operates a high school shall ensure that
26 each pupil is offered the curriculum necessary for the pupil to
27 meet the curricular requirements of this section and section 1278a.

1 The board or board of directors may provide this curriculum by
2 providing the credits specified in this section and section 1278a,
3 by using alternative instructional delivery methods such as
4 alternative course work, humanities course sequences, career and
5 technical education, industrial technology courses, or vocational
6 education, or by a combination of these. School districts and
7 public school academies that operate career and technical education
8 programs are encouraged to integrate the credit requirements of
9 this section and section 1278a into those programs.

10 (8) If the board of a school district or board of directors of
11 a public school academy wants its high school to be accredited
12 under section 1280, the board or board of directors shall ensure
13 that all elements of the curriculum required under this section and
14 section 1278a are made available to all affected pupils. If a
15 school district or public school academy does not offer all of the
16 required credits, the board of the school district or board of
17 directors of the public school academy shall ensure that the pupil
18 has access to the required credits by another means, such as
19 enrollment in a postsecondary course under the postsecondary
20 enrollment options act, 1996 PA 160, MCL 388.511 to 388.524;
21 enrollment in an online course; a cooperative arrangement with a
22 neighboring school district or with a public school academy; or
23 granting approval under section 6(6) of the state school aid act of
24 1979, MCL 388.1606, for the pupil to be counted in membership in
25 another school district.

26 (9) If a pupil is not successfully completing a credit
27 required for graduation under this section and section 1278a, or is

1 identified as being at risk of withdrawing from high school, then
2 the pupil's school district or public school academy shall notify
3 the pupil's parent or legal guardian or, if the pupil is at least
4 age 18 or is an emancipated minor, the pupil, of the availability
5 of tutoring or other supplemental educational support and
6 counseling services that may be available to the pupil under
7 existing state or federal programs, such as those programs or
8 services available under section 31a of the state school aid act of
9 1979, MCL 388.1631a, or under the no child left behind act of 2001,
10 Public Law 107-110.

11 (10) To the extent required by the no child left behind act of
12 2001, Public Law 107-110, the board of a school district or public
13 school academy shall ensure that all components of the curricular
14 requirements under this section and section 1278a are taught by
15 highly qualified teachers. If a school district or public school
16 academy demonstrates to the department that the school district or
17 public school academy is unable to meet the requirements of this
18 section because the school district or public school academy is
19 unable to hire enough highly qualified teachers, the department
20 shall work with the school district or public school academy to
21 develop a plan to allow the school district or public school
22 academy to hire enough highly qualified teachers to meet the
23 requirements of this section.

24 (11) The board of a school district or board of directors of a
25 public school academy shall ensure that each pupil in grade 7 is
26 provided with the opportunity to develop an educational development
27 plan, and that each pupil has developed an educational development

1 plan before he or she begins high school. An educational
2 development plan shall be developed by the pupil under the
3 supervision of the pupil's school counselor or another designee
4 qualified to act in a counseling role under section 1233 or 1233a
5 selected by the high school principal and shall be based on a
6 career pathways program or similar career exploration program. In
7 addition, if the pupil receives special education services, a
8 school psychologist should also participate in developing the
9 pupil's educational development plan.

10 (12) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, if a
11 school district or public school academy is unable to implement all
12 of the curricular requirements of this section and section 1278a
13 for pupils entering grade 9 in 2007 or is unable to implement
14 another requirement of this section or section 1278a, the school
15 district or public school academy may apply to the department for
16 permission to phase in 1 or more of the requirements of this
17 section or section 1278a. To apply, the school district or public
18 school academy shall submit a proposed phase-in plan to the
19 department. The department shall approve a phase-in plan if the
20 department determines that the plan will result in the school
21 district or public school academy making satisfactory progress
22 toward full implementation of the requirements of this section and
23 section 1278a. If the department disapproves a proposed phase-in
24 plan, the department shall work with the school district or public
25 school academy to develop a satisfactory plan that may be approved.
26 However, if legislation is enacted that adds section 1290 to allow
27 school districts and public school academies to apply for a

1 contract that waives certain state or federal requirements, then
2 this subsection does not apply but a school district or public
3 school academy may take action as described in subsection (13).
4 This subsection does not apply to a high school that is designated
5 as a specialty school under section 1278a(5) and that is exempt
6 under that section from the English language arts requirement under
7 subsection (1)(a) and the social science credit requirement under
8 section 1278a(1)(a)(ii).

9 (13) If a school district or public school academy does not
10 offer all of the required credits or provide options to have access
11 to the required credits as provided under subsection (8) and if
12 legislation is enacted that adds section 1290 to allow school
13 districts and public school academies to apply for a contract that
14 waives certain state or federal requirements, then the school
15 district or public school academy is encouraged to apply for a
16 contract under section 1290. The purpose of a contract described in
17 this subsection is to improve pupil performance.

18 (14) This section and section 1278a do not prohibit a pupil
19 from satisfying or exceeding the credit requirements of the
20 Michigan merit standard under this section and section 1278a
21 through advanced studies such as accelerated course placement,
22 advanced placement, dual enrollment in a postsecondary institution,
23 or participation in the international baccalaureate program or an
24 early college/middle college program.

25 (15) Not later than April 1 of each year, the department shall
26 submit an annual report to the legislature that evaluates the
27 overall success of the curriculum required under this section and

1 section 1278a, the rigor and relevance of the course work required
2 by the curriculum, the ability of public schools to implement the
3 curriculum and the required course work, and the impact of the
4 curriculum on pupil success, and that details any activities the
5 department has undertaken to implement this section and section
6 1278a or to assist public schools in implementing the requirements
7 of this section and section 1278a.