

# SENATE BILL No. 698

July 15, 2009, Introduced by Senator KUIPERS and referred to the Committee on Education.

A bill to amend 1976 PA 451, entitled  
"The revised school code,"  
by amending section 1278a (MCL 380.1278a), as amended by 2008 PA  
316.

**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, a course in  
8 financial literacy as described in section 1165. A pupil may  
9 complete algebra II over 2 years with a credit awarded for each of  
10 those years for the purposes of this section and section 1278b. **A**  
11 **PUPIL ALSO MAY FULFILL THE ALGEBRA II REQUIREMENT BY COMPLETING A**  
12 **DEPARTMENT-APPROVED FORMAL CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM**  
13 **OR CURRICULUM THAT HAS EMBEDDED MATHEMATICS CONTENT, SUCH AS A**  
14 **PROGRAM OR CURRICULUM IN ELECTRONICS, MACHINING, CONSTRUCTION,**  
15 **WELDING, ENGINEERING, OR RENEWABLE ENERGY. NOT LATER THAN 30 DAYS**  
16 **AFTER THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE AMENDATORY ACT THAT ADDED THE**  
17 **IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING SENTENCE, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL POST ON ITS**  
18 **WEBSITE AND SUBMIT TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEES ON**  
19 **EDUCATION GUIDELINES FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE IMMEDIATELY**  
20 **PRECEDING SENTENCE.** Each pupil must successfully complete at least  
21 1 mathematics course during his or her final year of high school  
22 enrollment. This subparagraph does not require completion of  
23 mathematics courses in any particular sequence.

24 (ii) At least 3 credits in social science that are aligned with  
25 subject area content expectations developed by the department and  
26 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).

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

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

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

11 (b) Meets the online course or learning experience requirement  
12 of this subsection. A school district or public school academy  
13 shall provide the basic level of technology and internet access  
14 required by the state board to complete the online course or  
15 learning experience. For a pupil to meet this requirement, the  
16 pupil shall meet either of the following, as determined by the  
17 school district or public school academy:

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

20 (ii) The pupil's school district or public school academy has  
21 integrated an online experience throughout the high school  
22 curriculum by ensuring that each teacher of each course that  
23 provides the required credits of the Michigan merit curriculum has  
24 integrated an online experience into the course.

25 (2) In addition to the requirements under subsection (1),  
26 beginning with pupils entering grade 3 in 2006, the board of a  
27 school district or board of directors of a public school academy

1 shall not award a high school diploma to a pupil unless the pupil  
2 has successfully completed during grades 9 to 12 at least 2  
3 credits, as determined by the department, in a language other than  
4 English, or the pupil has successfully completed at any time during  
5 grades K to 12 course work or other learning experiences that are  
6 substantially equivalent to 2 credits in a language other than  
7 English, based on guidelines developed by the department. For the  
8 purposes of this subsection, all of the following apply:

9 (a) American sign language is considered to be a language  
10 other than English.

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

13 (3) The requirements under this section and section 1278b for  
14 a high school diploma are in addition to any local requirements  
15 imposed by the board of a school district or board of directors of  
16 a public school academy. The board of a school district or board of  
17 directors of a public school academy, as a local requirement for a  
18 high school diploma, may require a pupil to complete ~~some or all of~~  
19 ~~the subject area assessments under section 1279 or the Michigan~~  
20 ~~merit examination under section 1279g, as applicable to the pupil~~  
21 ~~under section 1279g,~~ or may require a pupil to participate in the  
22 MIAccess assessments if appropriate for the pupil.

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

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

1 (b) A school district or public school academy shall base its  
2 determination of whether a pupil has successfully completed the  
3 subject area content expectations or guidelines developed by the  
4 department that apply to a credit at least in part on the pupil's  
5 performance on the assessments developed or selected by the  
6 department under section 1278b or on 1 or more assessments  
7 developed or selected by the school district or public school  
8 academy that measure a pupil's understanding of the subject area  
9 content expectations or guidelines that apply to the credit.

10 (c) A school district or public school academy shall also  
11 grant a pupil a credit if the pupil earns a qualifying score, as  
12 determined by the department, on the assessments developed or  
13 selected for the subject area by the department under section 1278b  
14 or the pupil earns a qualifying score, as determined by the school  
15 district or public school academy, on 1 or more assessments  
16 developed or selected by the school district or public school  
17 academy that measure a pupil's understanding of the subject area  
18 content expectations or guidelines that apply to the credit.

19 (5) If a high school is designated by the superintendent of  
20 public instruction as a specialty school and the high school meets  
21 the requirements of subsection (6), then the pupils of the high  
22 school are not required to successfully complete the 4 credits in  
23 English language arts required under section 1278b(1)(a) or the 3  
24 credits in social science required under subsection (1)(a)(ii) and  
25 the school district or public school academy is not required to  
26 ensure that each pupil is offered the curriculum necessary for  
27 meeting those English language arts or social science credit

1 requirements. The superintendent of public instruction may  
2 designate up to 15 high schools that meet the requirements of this  
3 subsection as specialty schools. Subject to this maximum number,  
4 the superintendent of public instruction shall designate a high  
5 school as a specialty school if the superintendent of public  
6 instruction finds that the high school meets all of the following  
7 criteria:

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

10 (b) The high school uses a specialized, innovative, and  
11 rigorous curriculum in such areas as performing arts, foreign  
12 language, extensive use of internships, or other learning  
13 innovations that conform to pioneering innovations among other  
14 leading national or international high schools.

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

20 (a) The high school clearly states to prospective pupils and  
21 their parents that it does not meet the requirements of the  
22 Michigan merit standard under this section and section 1278b but is  
23 a designated specialty school that is exempt from some of those  
24 requirements and that a pupil who enrolls in the high school and  
25 subsequently transfers to a high school that is not a specialty  
26 school meeting the requirements of this subsection will be required  
27 to comply with the requirements of the Michigan merit standard

1 under this section and section 1278b.

2 (b) For the most recent year for which the data are available,  
3 the mean scores on both the mathematics and science portions of the  
4 ACT examination for the pupils of the high school exceed by at  
5 least 10% the mean scores on the mathematics and science portions  
6 of the ACT examination for the pupils of the school district in  
7 which the greatest number of the pupils of the high school reside.

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

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

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

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