

SENATE BILL No. 647

September 15, 2011, Introduced by Senators HUNTER, YOUNG, JOHNSON, GLEASON and EMMONS 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 2009 PA 205.

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, **COMPLETION OF A 1/2-CREDIT COURSE IN FINANCIAL LITERACY AS**
6 **DESCRIBED IN SECTION 1165**, and **COMPLETION OF** an additional
7 ~~mathematics~~ 1/2 credit **IN MATHEMATICS**, such as trigonometry,
8 statistics, precalculus, calculus, applied math, accounting,
9 business math, **OR** a retake of algebra II. ~~, a course in financial~~
10 ~~literacy as described in section 1165.~~ A pupil may complete algebra
11 II over 2 years with 2 credits awarded or over 1.5 years with 1.5
12 credits awarded for the purposes of this section and section 1278b.
13 A pupil also may partially or fully fulfill the algebra II
14 requirement by completing a department-approved formal career and
15 technical education program or curriculum that has appropriate
16 embedded mathematics content, such as a program or curriculum in
17 electronics, machining, construction, welding, engineering, or
18 renewable energy. ~~Not later than 30 days after the effective date~~
19 ~~of the amendatory act that added the immediately preceding~~
20 ~~sentence, the department shall post on its website and submit to~~
21 ~~the senate and house standing committees on education guidelines~~
22 ~~for implementation of the immediately preceding sentence.~~ Each
23 pupil must successfully complete at least 1 mathematics course
24 during his or her final year of high school enrollment. This
25 subparagraph does not require completion of mathematics courses in
26 any particular sequence.

27 (ii) At least 3 credits in social science 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 1 credit in United States history and
4 geography, 1 credit in world history and geography, 1/2 credit in
5 economics, and the civics course described in section 1166(2).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

12 (a) American sign language is considered to be a language
13 other than English.

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

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

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

27 (a) A pupil is considered to have completed a credit if the

1 pupil successfully completes the subject area content expectations
2 or guidelines developed by the department that apply to the credit.

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

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

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

1 ensure that each pupil is offered the curriculum necessary for
2 meeting those English language arts or social science credit
3 requirements. The superintendent of public instruction may
4 designate up to 15 high schools that meet the requirements of this
5 subsection as specialty schools. Subject to this maximum number,
6 the superintendent of public instruction shall designate a high
7 school as a specialty school if the superintendent of public
8 instruction finds that the high school meets all of the following
9 criteria:

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

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

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

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

1 school meeting the requirements of this subsection will be required
2 to comply with the requirements of the Michigan merit standard
3 under this section and section 1278b.

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

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

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

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

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