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Vol. 41, No. 1 - September 2026 Revised GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

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5460 - **GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

It shall be the policy of the Board of Education to acknowledge each student's successful completion of the instructional program or a personal curriculum appropriate to the achievement of District goals and objectives as well as personal proficiency, by the awarding of a diploma at graduation ceremonies.

The Board shall annually notify each of its students and a parent or legal guardian of each of its students that all students are entitled to a personal curriculum. The annual notice shall include an explanation of what a personal curriculum is and state that if a personal curriculum is requested, the public school or public school academy will grant that request. The District shall provide this annual notice to parents and legal guardians by sending a written notice to each student's home or by including the notice in a newsletter, student handbook, or similar communication that is sent to a student's home, and also shall post the notice on the District website.

Michigan Merit Examination

The Board shall administer the Michigan Merit Examination ("MME") to all students in grade eleven (11) and to students in grade twelve (12) who did not take the complete MME in grade eleven (11), in accordance with M.C.L. 380.1279g as amended. The complete MME shall be administered to a student only once and during the last twelve (12) weeks of the District's school year. The MME consists of:

1. a college entrance test;
2. an optional work skills test; and
3. the M-STEP assessment.

A student may elect not to take the work skills test if the student's parent or legal guardian signs and submits the MDE waiver form to the District by February 28 of the testing school year. The District shall provide the MDE informational letter regarding the purpose and benefits of the workforce readiness assessment to applicable students and their parents or legal guardians by December 31 of the testing school year.

The District shall provide accommodations for the MME to students with disabilities as required under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act ("IDEA"), and applicable implementing regulations.

For a student enrolled in an MDE-approved Early Middle College program other than one operated as a shared educational entity or specialized shared educational entity, if the student receives at least fifty percent (50%) of instruction at the high school while in grade eleven (11), the MME shall be administered at the high school where the student receives high school instruction, and MDE shall include that student's MME scores in the high school's reported scores and allow the EMC program to use a five (5) year graduation rate

The Superintendent is authorized to provide each student in grade twelve (12) and the parent of each student in grade twelve (12) a notice regarding the existence of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid ("FAFSA") and a description of the process, benefits, and requirements of completing the FAFSA. This notice also shall include approximate annual tuition costs of each State educational institution of higher education in Michigan and State scholarships, grants, or other assistance available to students in Michigan. The Superintendent may use the model notice prepared by the Commission of Higher Education or develop a local notice containing the required information.

[ ] [OPTIONAL LANGUAGE]

The Superintendent is authorized to provide each student in grade twelve (12) and the parent of each student in grade twelve (12) a notice regarding the existence of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid ("FAFSA") and a description of the process, benefits, and requirements of completing the FAFSA. This notice also shall include approximate annual tuition costs of each State educational institution of higher education in Michigan and State scholarships, grants, or other assistance available to students in Michigan. The Superintendent may use the model notice prepared by the Commission of Higher Education or develop a local notice containing the required information.

Beginning with the Class of ____, each student in grade twelve (12) shall be required to complete one (1) of the following:

1. a Free Application for Federal Student Aid ("FAFSA");

2. a District waiver form indicating that the student and family understand what these aid opportunities are and has chosen not to complete an application;

   If the student is not at least eighteen (18) years of age or legally emancipated, the student's parent/guardian must complete one (1) of these documents on the student's behalf.

3. school or District exemption that certifies to the Board that good-faith efforts were made to assist the student or the student's parent/guardian in either completing the FAFSA or obtaining a District waiver.

The District shall exempt a student from the requirement to complete the FAFSA if any of the following are met:

1. The student's parent or legal guardian, or the student if the student is eighteen (18) years of age or older, is an emancipated minor, or is an unaccompanied youth, has submitted a parental waiver (obtained by a standard form provided by MiLEAP) to the District exempting the student from completing the FAFSA.

2. The student is unable to complete the FAFSA because of privacy concerns.

3. All of the following are met:

    1. After a good-faith effort, the student's parent or legal guardian refuses to sign the parental waiver, is unresponsive, or cannot sign the parental waiver.

    2. The student is unable to complete the FAFSA as an independent student.

3. The student agrees to opt out of completing the FAFSA.

4. Other than the requirements in subsection (2) of Sec. 67f of Public Act 120 of 2024, the student is on track to graduate.

[END OF OPTIONAL LANGUAGE]

The Board shall award a regular high school diploma to every student enrolled in this District who meets the requirements of graduation established by this Board, the Michigan Department of Education ("MDE"), and as provided by State law.

Credit may be earned by:

A. traditional course work;

B. demonstrating mastery of subject area content expectations or guidelines for the credit;

C. related course work in which content standards are embedded;

D. non-traditional course work;

E. independent teacher-guided study;

F. testing out;

G. dual enrollment;

H. advanced placement courses;

I. international baccalaureate, ~~or~~ MDE-approved Early Middle College, or other "early college" programs;

J. Michigan Department of Education ("MDE") approved formal career and technical ("CTE") program or curriculum; or

K. online class.

Early Middle College

An Early Middle College ("EMC") is an MDE-approved five (5) year program of study that works closely with one (1) or more postsecondary partners to provide students an opportunity to earn a high school diploma and one (1) or more of the following: sixty (60) transferable college credits, an associate degree, a professional certification, a Michigan Early Middle College Association ("MEMCA") technical certificate, or participation in a registered apprenticeship. Students participating in an MDE-approved EMC program shall be permitted to extend their high school enrollment through a fifth year while actively pursuing the MDE-approved five (5) year Program of Study and shall meet applicable Michigan Merit Curriculum requirements, including the final-year mathematics requirement unless modified by a personal curriculum, local District graduation requirements, and applicable EMC program requirements.

Students shall successfully complete an online course or learning experience OR shall have the online learning experience incorporated into each of the required credits of the Michigan Merit Curriculum.

Special education students who properly complete the programs specified in their I.E.P., or in a personal curriculum, meet the requirements for a high school diploma, and have received the recommendation of the I.E.P.C. may participate in graduation activities as recommended by the student's I.E.P.C. Reasonable accommodation shall be made for students with disabilities, as defined under State or Federal law, to assist them in taking any required tests or assessments for graduation.

For State-mandated curriculum requirements, a student shall be granted credit toward graduation if the student successfully completes the subject area content expectations or guidelines developed by the department that apply to the credit. A student may also receive credit if the student earns a qualifying score, as determined by the State on the assessments developed or selected for the subject area by the State or the student earns a qualifying score, as determined by the District on one (1) or more assessments developed or selected by the School District that measure a student's understanding of the subject area content expectations or guidelines that apply to the credit. For subject areas and courses in which a final examination is used as the assessment for successful attainment of the subject area content, a grade of C+ or better is required.

The Board shall grant credit toward high school graduation for any student who successfully completes, prior to entering high school, a State-mandated curriculum requirement, provided the student completes the same content requirements as the high school subject area, and the student has demonstrated the same level of proficiency on the material as required of the high school students.

For elective courses, which are not State-mandated curriculum requirements, the Board shall grant credit to any high school student who is not enrolled in the course, but has exhibited a reasonable level of knowledge of the subject matter of the course by achieving C+ or better in the final exam for the course or, if there is no final exam, through the basic assessment used for the course, which may consist of a portfolio, paper, project, presentation, or other established means.

Such credit shall be counted toward the required number of credits needed for graduation. Mastery credits shall be counted toward any subject area requirement and any course sequence requirement. Once mastery credit is earned in a subject area, a student may not receive further credit for a lower sequence course in the same subject area.

A high school student shall be granted credit in any foreign language not offered by the District providing the that student meets the competency criteria established by the Superintendent.

A high school student shall be granted credit for completion of an internship or work experience that meets all of the requirements of M.C.L. 380.1279h, subject to the Board's right to deny credit for the reasons and in the manner set out in M.C.L. 380.1279h. The appeal rights set out in this statute apply in the event of a denial.

A student engaging in an internship or work experience under M.C.L. 380.1279h must complete a reflection projection. The reflection project shall include:

A. A copy of the student's time card from the internship or work experience.

B. A resume that includes the internship or work experience.

C. A written summary of the internship or work experience.

D. Evaluation from workplace.

E. Recommendation from counselor.

The career and technical education credits may include work-based learning by a student working at a business or other work setting with appropriate oversight by the District over the student's experience and learning in the work setting in which the work-based learning occurs.

Commencement exercises will include only those students who have successfully completed requirements as certified by the high school principal. No student who has completed the requirements for graduation shall be denied a diploma as a disciplinary measure. A student may be denied participation in the ceremony of graduation, however, when personal conduct so warrants.

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Legal
M.C.L. 380.1166, 380.1278a, 380.1278a(1), 380.1278a(2), 380.1278a(4)(c), 380.1279b
M.C.L. 380.1278d, 380.1279h

M.C.L. 388.1606(4)(m)
20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.
20 U.S.C. 1401 et seq.

29 U.S.C. 794
42 U.S.C. 12131 et seq.