

Success Academy Diploma Program Proposal
Saginaw Public Schools Board of Education Presentation
Proposed Implementation: 2025-2026 School Year

Introduction & Purpose

Success Academy is committed to providing students with a rigorous and supportive educational environment that ensures all students have the opportunity to earn a high school diploma. Currently, students attending Success Academy must transition back to a comprehensive high school to receive a diploma. Beginning in the 2025-2026 school year, we propose that Success Academy be authorized to award high school diplomas, providing a direct pathway to graduation for our students.

Rationale for the Change

1. **Equitable Access to Graduation** – Many students enrolled at Success Academy face unique challenges that make traditional high school settings difficult. Providing a diploma pathway at Success Academy ensures they receive the support needed to graduate on time.
 2. **Increased Retention & Engagement** – Keeping students enrolled at Success Academy throughout their educational journey will promote greater academic success and reduce dropout rates.
 3. **Credit Recovery & Alternative Pathways** – Success Academy already utilizes Edmentum Courseware and direct instruction, which aligns with state graduation requirements. Formalizing the diploma program strengthens these efforts.
 4. **Alignment with District Goals** – Offering diplomas aligns with Saginaw Public Schools’ strategic plan to improve graduation rates and expand post-secondary readiness opportunities.
-

Program Structure & Graduation Requirements

Success Academy will follow the **Michigan Merit Curriculum** graduation requirements, ensuring students earn a diploma comparable to their peers at comprehensive high schools. Graduation requirements include:

- **English Language Arts (ELA)** – 4 credits
- **Mathematics** – 4 credits (including Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, and one senior-year math course)
- **Science** – 3 credits (including Biology, Chemistry/Physics, and an additional science course)
- **Social Studies** – 3 credits (including U.S. History, World History, Government, and Economics)
- **Health & Physical Education** – 1 credit
- **Visual, Performing & Applied Arts** – 1 credit
- **World Language** – 2 credits (or equivalent CTE coursework)
- **Electives & Career Pathway Courses** – 4 credits

Additional Support Structures:

- Academic Intervention through **on-site educators and virtual coursework**
- **College & Career Readiness Programming** to prepare students for post-secondary options
- **Individualized Graduation Plans** for students requiring credit recovery

Anticipated Impact

- **Increase in Graduation Rates:** Providing a diploma option within Success Academy will result in higher retention and completion rates.
- **Enhanced Student Outcomes:** Students will gain access to career pathways, early college programs, and workforce readiness training.
- **Greater Family & Community Engagement:** Clear graduation pathways will provide reassurance to families seeking alternative educational models.

Conclusion & Board Approval Request

The Success Academy Diploma Program represents a **critical step forward** in our district's mission to provide equitable education for all students. By offering a diploma pathway at Success Academy, we remove barriers to success and strengthen our commitment to student achievement. We respectfully request the Board of Education's **approval** for the implementation of this initiative for the 2025-2026 school year.

Presented by:

Dr. Mit Foley

Assistant Superintendent, Secondary Curriculum & Instruction

Saginaw Public Schools

Date of Presentation: February 2025