

Series 5000: Students, Curriculum, and Academic Matters

5400 Curriculum, Instruction, and ParentInvolvement

5409 Academic Credits and Graduation

A. Graduation Requirements

A student must successfully complete all graduation requirements to earn a high school diploma. The Superintendent will ensure that the District’s required credits and graduation criteria are consistent with state law and annually published in applicable student handbooks.

Michigan Merit Curriculum – Personal Curriculum Modification Options

Subject Area Credit Requirements	Personal Curriculum Modification
<p><i>Requirements may be fulfilled in a variety of ways, including but not limited to Career/Technical Education, college credit courses, online learning, project-based learning, traditional courses, and work-based learning.</i></p>	
<p>4 English Language Arts Credits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 credit in 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th grade • All credits aligned to state content expectations 	<p>√ No modification except for students with an IEP and for transfer students who have completed 2 years of High School.</p>
<p>4 Mathematics Credits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 credits aligned with the required state content expectations (i.e., Geometry, Algebra I, and Algebra II) • 1 math or math-related credit (not required to be aligned with state content expectations) • 1 math or math-related credit required in the final year which could include any of the 4 credits described above or may be an additional district credit • Note: Students may earn 2 math credits for Algebra II when the credit is earned over 2 years without requesting a personal curriculum. 	<p>√ Minimum of 2 credits aligned to math content expectations prior to any modification</p> <p>√ ½ credit of Algebra II can be exchanged for a math or math-related course</p> <p>√ Additional modifications allowed for students with an IEP and transfer students who have completed 2 years of high school</p>
<p>3 Science Credits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Biology credit • 1 Chemistry or Physics credit • 1 additional science credit • All credits aligned to state content expectations 	<p>√ No modification except for students with an IEP and transfer students who have completed 2 years of High School.</p>
<p>3 Social Studies Credits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ½ Civics credit 	<p>√ No modification of Civics</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ½ Economics credit • 1 U.S. History and Geography credit • 1 World History and Geography credit • All credits aligned to state content expectations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> √ Minimum of 2 social studies credits prior to modification √ 1 social studies credit (other than Civics) can be exchanged for an additional English language arts, math science, or world languages credit √ Additional modification allowed for students with an IEP and transfer students who have completed 2 years of high school
<p>1 Physical Education and Health Credit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Credit aligned to state guidelines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> √ Credit can be exchanged for an additional English language arts, math, science, or world languages credit √ Additional modifications allowed for students with an IEP and transfer students who have completed 2 years of high school
<p>1 Visual, Performing, and Applied Arts Credit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Credit aligned to state guidelines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> √ Credit can be exchanged for an additional English language arts, math, science, or world languages credit √ Additional modifications allowed for students with an IEP and transfer students who have completed 2 years of high school
<p>Online Learning Experience or Credit Online course, learning experience or Online experience is incorporated into one or more required credits</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> √ No modification except for students with an IEP and transfer students who have completed 2 years of High School.
<p>2 World Languages Credits (Begins with Class of 2016)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Credits earned in grades 9-12 or an equivalent learning experience in grades K-12 • Credits aligned to state guidelines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> √ No modification except for students with an IEP and transfer students who have completed 2 years of High School.

**Math requirements may be subject to change under the review of Michigan Legislature.*

B. Personal Curriculum

In some cases, it may be appropriate to modify the Michigan Merit Curriculum for a student. Modifications may only be made in accordance with state law. The Parent of a student who has completed grade 9 or a student who has reached age 18 may request a personal curriculum. A Parent of a student with a disability under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act may request a personal curriculum before the student has completed grade 9.

A teacher or school counselor may request that the District consider providing a student with a personal curriculum. If requested by a teacher, the teacher must currently teach or have expertise in a subject area proposed to be modified by the personal curriculum or the building principal must determine that the teacher has qualifications relevant to developing a personal curriculum.

In all cases, a student's personal curriculum must be developed in accordance with state law.

The District will annually notify Parents of their ability to request a personal curriculum.

C. Earning Credit

The District will grant credit to a student who successfully completes a course commensurate with the amount of time the course meets. Successful completion means that the student has met content expectations of the state- or District-approved subject area content standards for the course by obtaining a D- or higher grade in the course based, in part, on at least 1 state or District-approved assessment.

Alternatively, the District will grant equivalent credit for a required Michigan Merit Curriculum course if the student earns a qualifying score, as determined by MDE or by the District, on a state- or District-approved assessment (i.e., "testing out").

The District will grant equivalent credit for a course if the student demonstrates a reasonable level of mastery by achieving a C+ or better on the final examination for the course or, if there is no final examination, by demonstrating subject area content knowledge by obtaining a C+ or better on an alternative assessment, such as a portfolio, performance, paper, project, presentation, or other established means. A student who earns credit in a course by "testing out" will not earn a grade in the course, and the credit will not be considered for determining grade point average or any honors earned based on grade point average.

The District will grant a student credit toward a diploma or alternative certificate if the student successfully completes, before entering high school, a state-mandated curriculum requirement by demonstrating proficiency on the content expectations for that curriculum requirement, either through successfully completing the course or by testing out.

Once a student earns credit in a course, either by successfully completing the course or by testing out, the student may not earn additional credit for the course or for a lower level course in the same subject.

The Board will recognize credits earned at other public schools and at accredited nonpublic schools. For students transferring from a home school program, the Superintendent or designee will assess whether the home school credit reflects

proficiency in state and District content expectations for each course for which the student seeks to transfer credit. If the Superintendent or designee determines that the student is proficient in the subject area content, the District will award transfer credit.

Legal authority: MCL 380.1278a, 380.1278b, 380.1279b

Date adopted: December 13, 2021

Date revised: