


Macomb Intermediate School District



Michigan's
High School
 **Graduation**
requirements
Guide for Parents

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Information is subject to change.

For the most current information, go to www.misd.net.
Under Quick Links, click on HS Graduation Requirements.



Macomb Intermediate School District
44001 Garfield Road
Clinton Township, MI 48038-1100
www.misd.net

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MISSION

Macomb Intermediate School District:
Service, Support and Leadership

VISION

We are the Macomb Intermediate School District.

We provide quality service to special education and general education students, instructional and technical support to school staff, and cutting-edge educational leadership in Macomb County.

We are committed to all the students of Macomb County. To serve them well, we are resolute in involving parents, school personnel, and the community at large, including business, government, and civic organizations, as active partners in planning, delivering and evaluating our services.

We work directly with individuals with disabilities who reside in Macomb County School Districts. We serve students of all ages, from newborns to adults, meeting their unique learning needs and supporting their families all along the way.

Within the twenty-one local districts and public charter schools, we focus our efforts on building capacity with school staff. Through quality training and instructional support, we increase their knowledge, skills and abilities, so all students receive a rigorous and effective educational experience.

We promote all aspects of the educational process through our development and support of technology. We provide training in the use of essential technology tools that enhance curricular, instructional and administrative services in our schools and, as a result, opportunities are expanded for all.

We work collaboratively with colleges and universities, and are leaders in state and national programs. We anticipate needs and opportunities, all with the single purpose of identifying, developing and implementing programs and practices that, through education, improve the quality of life in Macomb County.

It is the policy of the MISD that no person, on the basis of race, creed, color, religion, national origin or ancestry, age, sex, height, weight, marital status, or disability shall be discriminated against, excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or otherwise subjected to discrimination in any program or activity for which it is responsible.

What you need to know about Michigan's

High School Graduation requirements

Introduction

The Class of 2011 was the first of Michigan's graduates to complete high school having met the graduation requirements set forth in Michigan's Merit Curriculum (MMC). Introduced by the State Board of Education in 2005 and signed into law by the Governor in 2006, the MMC became mandated requirements for all high school students.

Since that time, several new legislation revisions have affected these requirements, with the most recent being passed in June 2014. All of these mandatory changes are reflected in this revised guide.

The state's requirements are among the most rigorous in the nation and are a cornerstone for high school reform in Michigan. In satisfying these requirements, graduates will meet and often surpass the most stringent entry requirements for all colleges and universities in the state and will provide the academic and applied learning skills business and industry leaders state they need in their workforce.

The MMC sets the number of credits in each subject and, in many cases, determines the specific courses to be taken in English, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Health/Physical Education, the Arts (Visual, Performing and Applied), World Language (required beginning with the class of 2016), and Online Learning. Local districts can establish additional requirements for the students graduating from their schools. It is essential that you fully understand all the state and local requirements so you can guide your child toward high school graduation by making sound academic decisions.

This parent guide outlines the current MMC requirements and provides basic information. **However, the issue of high school graduation requirements is complex and, as addressed in this guide, there already have been several changes since the requirements were enacted. The Michigan Department of Education continues to address the most recent changes.**

As updates occur, you will be able to find the new information on the MISD's website, www.misd.net. Under Quick Links, click on HS Graduation Requirements.

For questions specific to your child or further information, contact your school district's curriculum administrator or assistant superintendent of instruction, your building principal, or call MISD at 586.228.3471.

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Under Quick Links, click on HS Graduation Requirements.

Key concepts

to help you understand the high school graduation requirements

Listed below are ten key concepts to help you understand the high school graduation requirements. This is the lens through which to focus on the requirements and understand how to help all children succeed in school.

Terms that are in **bold type** throughout this booklet can be found in a glossary at the back of this guide.

1. These requirements apply to all students in public schools. Special education students must satisfy these same standards to receive a high school diploma with the **Individualized Education Plan (IEP)** and, possibly, a **Personal Curriculum (PC)** determining the appropriate course or courses of study.
2. Local boards of education may add to the requirements, but cannot reduce them. Local boards determine the total number of individual district requirements.
3. While, in very limited cases, **modifications** through a personal curriculum can be made to some class selections, there is no “opt out” provision.
4. Students can meet the requirements in any type of school day schedule set by the district (i.e., six-period day, seven-period day, block schedule, trimesters).
5. There is room left in your child’s high school schedule for electives.
6. Accelerated, honors, **advanced placement**, **dual enrollment**, **early college** and **International Baccalaureate** classes will count toward meeting the graduation requirements, if the content matches the **Michigan Merit Curriculum** course expectations.

7. Students struggling with or failing required classes can get help to succeed. Parents are encouraged to check with the school about support opportunities available for students (i.e., intervention strategies, credit recovery and tutoring).
8. After the student has completed grade 9 and all other options have been attempted, a meeting to determine if a **Personal Curriculum (PC)** is necessary may be requested by the parents, the student or a teacher.
9. As of June 2006, all public school teachers in their designated content areas were required to meet the *No Child Left Behind* federal certification and degree standards for **highly qualified teachers**.
10. Your child should be prepared to take the classes for these requirements. All Macomb districts have a comprehensive plan for K–12 curriculum that is based on the **Michigan Academic Standards**. These can be reviewed online at www.michigan.gov/mde. Enter **Michigan Academic Standards** in the search engine at the top and then click on [MDE–Standards–SOM–State of Michigan](#).

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*This publication supports the MISD's
countywide School Improvement Plan.*

Michigan Merit Curriculum HB 4465 and 4466 – June 12, 2014

Enrolled: Public Acts 208 and 209 of 2014; Effective: Begins 2014-15 School Year with 2015 Graduates

Diploma Requirement	Total # of Credits	Alternative Options without a Personal Curriculum	Alternative Options with a Personal Curriculum
Mathematics	4 credits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 cr Algebra • 1 cr Geometry • 1 cr Algebra II • Flexibility in 4th credit • At least one experience in Final Year of HS (Final two years with a PC) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • List of Mathematics courses could be substituted including Financial Literacy. • Algebra II can be taken over two years for two credits; or 1 ½ years for 1 ½ credits. • Algebra II can be substituted with a State approved formal CTE Program* provided that a student successfully completes the same content as Algebra II benchmarks assessed on State Assessment in that program. • Completes same content as Algebra II in two years. 	<p>Personal Curriculum can be used for the student to attain at least 3 ½ credits in Mathematics including Algebra, Geometry, and one experience during the final two years of High School. Modifications can also be made in the Algebra II requirement as stated in MCL 380.1278b:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completes 1 semester of Algebra II (as determined by MDE; over 2 years OR in formal CTE Program*). • Completes 1 semester of Statistics, Functions and Data Analysis • Completes Technical Math (District defined). <p>Cannot be modified by a Personal Curriculum except for students with an IEP.</p>
English Language Arts	4 credits		
Science	3 credits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 cr Biology • 1 cr Chemistry, • Physics, Anatomy or Ag Science • 1 additional credit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chemistry or Physics may be substituted with a course that covers the same content as the Chemistry or Physics benchmarks assessed on State Assessment in that course. • The 1 additional credit may be an MDE-approved Computer Science or formal State approved CTE Program* (regardless of the CTE program content). 	<p>Cannot be modified by a Personal Curriculum except for students with an IEP.</p>
Social Studies	3 credits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 cr US History and Geography • 1 cr World History and Geography • ½ cr Economics • ½ cr Civics 		<p>Personal Curriculum can be used to modify the requirements if the student has:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Completed 2 cr including Civics AND b) The modification requires the student to complete 1 add'l cr in ELA, Math, Science, Language other than English, OR a department-approved formal CTE Program.*
Health and Physical Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ½ cr Health • ½ cr Physical Education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ½ cr in Physical Education is allowed for participation in extra-curricular athletics or related physical activity — note this is already allowed under MCL 380.1502. 	<p>Personal Curriculum can be used to modify the requirements if the student completes 1 add'l cr in ELA, Math, Science, Language other than English, OR a department-approved formal CTE Program* AND still meets the requirement of MCL 380.1502.</p>

Visual, Performing and Applied Arts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 1 cr 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A school district or PSA is “strongly encouraged” to offer Visual, Performing and Applied Arts courses. 	Personal Curriculum can be used to modify the requirements if the student completes 1 add'l cr in ELA, Math, Science, Language other than English, OR a department-approved formal CTE Program.*
World Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 2 cr in Grades K–12 Course content must be grade appropriate (not HS equivalent). 	For 2015–16 through 2019–20: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 cr may be substituted with a State approved formal CTE Program/Curriculum* OR 1 cr may be substituted with additional Visual, Performing and Applied Arts instruction. Board is “strongly encouraged” to provide at least 1 cr in Language other than English in Grades K–6.	
Online Course or Learning Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> At least 1 course or online learning experience as MDE approved, OR An integrated online experience. 		

Changed Requirements include:

- If a Personal Curriculum is requested, the school district/PSA shall develop a Personal Curriculum. An in-person meeting is not required. However, the parent and school official must still agree on the implementation of a Personal Curriculum. Quarterly follow-ups are no longer required.
- School districts or PSAs shall not discourage pupils seeking and receiving a Personal Curriculum modification.
- A school district and PSA annually shall notify pupils and parents of the Michigan Merit Curriculum and Personal Curriculum modifications; such notice can be provided in a newsletter, student handbook or similar communication that is sent to pupil’s home.
- During the process of developing a student’s Education Development Plan (EDP), school districts and PSAs shall advise students of the curricular requirements and how those requirements can be fulfilled in CTE programs.

*A formal CTE Program is defined in the *Michigan Administrative Code*. According to R 395.241, Rule 11, a **“Department-approved formal CTE program or curriculum”** consists of:

- A coherent sequence of courses so that students gain academic, technical, and work behavior skills.
 - Instruction that includes classroom, laboratory, work based learning, and leadership opportunities.
 - Instruction that is supervised, directed, or coordinated by an appropriately certificated career and technical education teacher.
 - Consists of standards approved by the state board (R395.243, Rule 13)
 - Must receive approval from MDE/OCTE through an application process (R 395.244, Rule 14)
- According to R 395.243, Rule 13, “Successful Completion” means:
- Complete coursework covering all state program standards
 - Take any required technical assessment

Information from the MDE can be found in the FAQ at http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Complete_MMC_FAQ_August_2014_467323_7.pdf.

What you need to know about
the

Mathematics requirements



Requirement	Specifics
<p>4 credits</p>	<p>1 credit – Algebra I 3 credits – 1 credit – Geometry OR Integrated Sequence with 1 credit – Algebra II same course content</p> <p>Flexibility in 4th credit At least one experience in Final Year of HS (Final two years with a PC)</p>
<p>Alternative Options without a Personal Curriculum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ List of Mathematics courses could be substituted, including Financial Literacy. ■ Algebra II can be taken over two years for two credits; or 1 ½ years for 1 ½ credits. ■ Algebra II can be substituted with a department-approved formal CTE Program provided that the student successfully completes the same content as Algebra II benchmarks assessed on State Assessment in that program. ■ Completes same content as Algebra II in two years. <p>Personal Curriculum Modification - if applicable</p> <p>Personal Curriculum can be used for the student to attain at least 3 ½ credits in Mathematics including Algebra, Geometry and one experience during the final two years of High School.</p> <p>Modifications can be made also in the Algebra II requirement as stated in MCL 380.1278b:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Completes 1 semester of Algebra II (as determined by MDE, over 2 years OR in formal CTE Program). ■ Completes 1 semester of Statistics, Functions and Data Analysis. ■ Completes Technical Math (District defined). 	

- A Mathematics course must be taken in the final year, with no exceptions. Taking four credits of Mathematics prior to the final year, including 8th grade, does not satisfy the requirement of having to take a Mathematics course in the final year.
- It will satisfy the requirement if a student takes a Mathematics course in the final year through **dual enrollment** or **early college** at a college.
- The 4th credit in Mathematics may be earned in a math-related class as determined by the local district. Examples might include: Business Mathematics, Accounting, Engineering, Medical Careers, Construction Trades or Math Support Class.

What you need to know about the

Mathematics

requirements

- Please Note: As enacted, Public Act 80 is effective July 1, 2011. Guidance from the Michigan Department of Education acknowledges that local boards of education may offer the new Mathematics options (Statistics and Functions and Data Analysis) during the 2010–2011 school year, if the local board determines that early implementation would be in the best interest of students.
- * The State of Michigan Standards for the required courses can be viewed online at: www.michigan.gov/mde; type ***MMC High School Graduation Requirements*** in the Search engine at the top on the right; click on ***MMC High School Graduation Requirements Complete MMC FAQ August 2014*** and then click on ***Mathematics*** on page 1.

What you need to know about the

English Language Arts requirements



Requirement	Specifics
4 credits	Aligned with subject area content expectations developed by the Michigan Department of Education and approved by the State Board of Education. English 9, 10, 11, and 12 courses should include opportunities for students to meet the 91 expectations included in the 14 standards and four strands toward the grade-designated disposition.
Personal Curriculum Modification - if applicable No modification allowed except for students with an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) and transfer students who have completed two years of high school out-of-state or at a non-public school.	

- An English Language Arts (ELA) class can include writing, speaking, representing, viewing, literature, and culture and language.
- English Language Arts (ELA) courses can use the grade level Michigan ELA Standards model units of instruction developed by MAISA (Michigan Association of Intermediate School Administrators) at: <http://gomaisa.org/career-and-college-readiness-standards-project/ela-CCRS-materials> or <http://gomaisa.rubiconatlas.org>.
- Local curriculum will need to consider the capacities of a literate individual as described in the *ELA and Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science and Technical Subjects*. These capacities define what it means for students to be career- and college-ready in ELA. Key characteristics of the Michigan ELA Standards include:
 - 1) Building knowledge through content-rich nonfiction;
 - 2) Reading, writing and speaking grounded in evidence from text, both literary and informational; and
 - 3) Regular practice with complex text and its academic language.

* The State of Michigan Standards for the required courses can be viewed online at: www.michigan.gov/mde; type **MMC High School Graduation Requirements** in the Search engine at the top on the right; click on **MMC High School Graduation Requirements Complete MMC FAQ August 2014** and then click on **English Language Arts** on page 1.

What you need to know about the

Science

requirements



Requirement	Specifics
<p>3 credits</p>	<p>1 credit – Biology 1 credit – Chemistry, Physics, Anatomy or Ag Science 1 additional credit, such as: Physics, Chemistry, Anatomy, Ag Science, Astronomy, Earth Science, Geology, Environmental Science, Physiology, Microbiology</p>
<p>Alternative Options without a Personal Curriculum Chemistry or Physics may be substituted with a course that covers the same content as the Chemistry or Physics benchmarks assessed on State Assessment in that course. The 1 credit may be an MDE-approved Computer Science or department-approved formal CTE Program (regardless of the CTE program content).</p> <p>Personal Curriculum Modification - if applicable No modification allowed except for students with an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) and transfer students who have completed two years of high school out-of-state or at a non-public school.</p>	

- The required Science classes—Biology and Chemistry, Physics, Anatomy or Ag Science—may be offered by the district in any order and taken by the student in any sequence.
- The Science courses are specified because they are most often the prerequisite courses for additional study in Science, Mathematics, or Engineering.
- Colleges strongly encourage 4 credits.
- The Michigan Science Standards remain the Grade Level Content Expectations (GLCE) and the High School Content Expectations (HSCE).
- There also is a part of the ELA Standards called *Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects* which describes the literacy skills and understandings required for career and college readiness in multiple disciplines.
- Districts are responsible for ensuring that students have an opportunity to learn the standards for science as outlined in the High School Essential Science Content Expectations.

✦ The State of Michigan Standards for the required courses can be viewed online at: www.michigan.gov/mde; type *MMC High School Graduation Requirements* in the Search engine at the top on the right; click on *MMC High School Graduation Requirements Complete MMC FAQ August 2014* and then click on *Science* on page 1.

What you need to know about
the


Social Studies

requirements



Requirement	Specifics
3 credits	1 credit – U.S. History & Geography 1 credit – World History & Geography .5 credit – Economics .5 credit – Civics
Personal Curriculum Modification - if applicable <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ After 2 credits, including Civics, may substitute with: 1 additional credit in ELA, Mathematics, Science, World Language OR a department-approved formal CTE Program.■ Additional modifications allowed for students with an IEP and transfer students who have completed two years of high school out-of-state or at a non-public school.	

- The Michigan Social Studies Standards remain the Grade Level Content Expectations (GLCE) and the High School Content Expectations (HSCE).
- There also is a part of the ELA Standards called *Literacy in History/Social Studies, Science, and Technical Subjects* which describes the literacy skills and understandings required for career and college readiness in multiple disciplines.
- The Civics requirement cannot be modified.

 The State of Michigan Standards for the required courses can be viewed online at: www.michigan.gov/mde; type *MMC High School Graduation Requirements* in the Search engine at the top on the right; click on *MMC High School Graduation Requirements Complete MMC FAQ August 2014* and then click on *Social Studies* on page 1.

What you need to know about
the

Health and Physical Education requirements



Requirement	Specifics
<p>1 credit</p>	<p>.5 credit – Health .5 credit – Physical Education</p>
<p>Alternative Options without a Personal Curriculum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> .5 credit in Physical Education is allowed for participation in extracurricular athletics or related physical activity — note this already allowed under MCL 380.1502. <p>Personal Curriculum Modification - if applicable</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> May substitute with: 1 additional credit in ELA, Mathematics, Science, World Language OR a department-approved formal CTE Program AND still meets the requirement of MCL 380.1502. Additional modifications allowed for students with an IEP and transfer students who have completed two years of high school out-of-state or at a non-public school. 	

- The state mandate allows a modification for the Health and Physical Education requirements. However, local boards of education may still require students to take classes in Health and Physical Education.
- Consideration: A previous law remains in effect requiring students who are physically fit and capable to take a Physical Education course (*MCL 380.1502, Sec. 1502(1) Health and physical education for pupils of both sexes shall be established and provided in all public schools of this state. Subject to subsection (2), each pupil attending public school in this state who is physically fit and capable of doing so shall take the course in physical education.*)
- Districts may credit a student’s participation in athletics and other extracurricular activities involving physical activity as meeting the Physical Education requirement.

* The State of Michigan Standards for the required courses can be viewed online at: www.michigan.gov/mde; type *MMC High School Graduation Requirements* in the Search engine at the top on the right; click on *MMC High School Graduation Requirements Complete MMC FAQ August 2014* and then click on *Physical Education/Health* on page 1.

What you need to know about
the


Visual, Performing and Applied Arts

requirement



Requirement	Specifics
1 At least 1 credit	At least 1 credit in any one category of arts
<p>Alternative Options without a Personal Curriculum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ A school district or PSA is “strongly encouraged” to offer Visual, Performing and Applied Arts courses. <p>Personal Curriculum Modification - if applicable</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ May substitute with: 1 completed additional credit in ELA, Mathematics, Science, World Language OR a department-approved formal CTE Program.■ Additional modifications allowed for students with an IEP and transfer students who have completed two years of high school out-of-state or at a non-public school.	

- Students will have room in their schedules to take electives in the visual, performing, and applied arts.

 The State of Michigan Standards for the required courses can be viewed online at: www.michigan.gov/mde; type **MMC High School Graduation Requirements** in the Search engine at the top on the right; click on **MMC High School Graduation Requirements Complete MMC FAQ August 2014** and then click on **Visual, Performing and Applied Arts** on page 1.

What you need to know about
the

World Language requirement



Requirement	Specifics
2 credits	At least 2 credits in Grades K–12 Course content must be grade appropriate (not high school equivalent)
<p>Alternative Options without a Personal Curriculum For 2015–16 through 2019–20:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 1 credit may be substituted with a department-approved formal CTE Program/ Curriculum OR 1 credit may be substituted with additional Visual, Performing or Applied Arts instruction. ■ A school district or PSA is “strongly encouraged” to provide at least 1 credit in World Language in Grades K–6. <p>Personal Curriculum Modification - if applicable No modification allowed except for students with an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) and transfer students who have completed two years of high school out-of-state or at a non-public school.</p>	

- This requirement does not go into effect until the Class of 2016—students entering 3rd grade in the 2006–2007 school year.
- The board of a school district or board of directors of a public school academy may request as an option that pupils graduating in 2015 meet the World Language requirement, but are not bound by law to require that pupils graduating in 2015 meet the World Language requirement.
- American Sign Language will satisfy this requirement.

* The State of Michigan Standards for the required courses can be viewed online at: www.michigan.gov/mde; type **MMC High School Graduation Requirements** in the Search engine at the top on the right; click on **MMC High School Graduation Requirements Complete MMC FAQ August 2014** and then click on **World Language** on page 1.

What you need to know about
the

Online Experience

requirement



Requirement	Specifics
Online Learning Experience	Credit may be earned in at least one course or online learning experience, as MDE approved, OR an integrated online experience.
Personal Curriculum Modification - if applicable No modification allowed except for students with an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) and transfer students who have completed two years of high school out-of-state or at a non-public school.	

- Students must take an online course or learning experience, or have the online experience incorporated into one or more of the required credits of the Michigan Merit Curriculum.
- Every student will have meaningful technology-enabled learning opportunities based on research and best practice that include virtual learning experiences.
- As technology quickly advances, there will be expanded opportunities for districts to meet this online learning requirement.
- Online learning is defined as “a structured learning activity that utilizes technology with intranet/internet-based tools and resources as the delivery method for instruction, research, assessment, and communication.”

* The State of Michigan Standards for the required courses can be viewed online at: www.michigan.gov/mde; type *MMC High School Graduation Requirements* in the Search engine at the top on the right; click on *MMC High School Graduation Requirements Complete MMC FAQ August 2014* and then click on *Online Course and Learning Experience* on page 1.

Career and Technical Education opportunities

- Department-approved formal **Career and Technical Education (CTE)** programs* consist of one or more courses often taken in a specific sequence. Completing such a program may allow students to substitute these CTE credits in place of:
 - 1 credit of Science AND
 - 1 credit of World Language AND
 - 1 credit of Algebra II--only if the CTE program includes the same Algebra II benchmarks addressed on the State assessment.
 - The local school district can tell you which CTE programs qualify for this substitution.
- CTE courses also may satisfy the following graduation requirements:
 - 1 credit of Visual, Performing and Applied Arts (VPAA) AND
 - 1 credit of a math-related experience required in final year of high school.
 - Note that the local school district is responsible for awarding credit in both of these areas.
- Completing a formal **Personal Curriculum** may allow students to substitute courses in a department-approved CTE program for additional required credits, such as:
 - ½ credit of Health
 - ½ credit of Physical Education
 - 1 credit of Social Studies
 - ½ to 1 credit of Algebra II/Mathematics
- Graduation requirements taken prior to high school, such as Algebra I and World Language, will allow more opportunity for students to complete a CTE program of study before graduating.
- Many CTE programs allow students to earn articulated college credit, industry-recognized certification or both while still in high school.
- Eligible students in a CTE program, as determined by local districts, may be able to gain valuable career experience by participating in work-based learning opportunities, such as job shadowing, internship, externship and/or school-to-registered apprenticeship.
- CTE programs include student leadership opportunities, business/industry partnerships and related local, regional, state and national student competitions.
- Department-approved CTE programs are staffed with professionals who have relevant industry work experience in the program area in which they are instructing.


- * A formal CTE Program is defined in the Michigan Administrative Code. According to R 395.241, Rule 11, a “Department-approved formal CTE program or curriculum” consists of:
 - a.) A coherent sequence of courses so that students gain academic, technical and work behavior skills.
 - b.) Instruction that includes classroom, laboratory, work-based learning and leadership opportunities.
 - c.) Instruction that is supervised, directed or coordinated by an appropriately certificated career and technical education teacher.
 - d.) Consists of standards approved by the state board (R 395.243, Rule 13).
 - e.) Must receive approval from MDE/OCTE through an application process (R 395.244, Rule 201414).

According to R 395.243, Rule 13, “Successful Completion” means:

- a.) Complete coursework covering all state program standards.
- b.) Take any required technical assessment.

More information and CTE-related resources can be found at

http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-6530_2629_70047---,00.html

-  The State of Michigan Standards for the required courses can be viewed online at: **www.michigan.gov/mde**; type ***MMC High School Graduation Requirements*** in the Search engine at the top on the right; click on ***MMC High School Graduation Requirements Complete MMC FAQ August 2014*** and then click on ***Career/Technical Education*** on page 1.

What you need to know about an

Educational Development Plan

- An **Educational Development Plan (EDP)** is required to be completed by all students before they enter high school. During this process, the school will include discussions about **Career Pathways** and how **Career and Technical Education (CTE)** Programs can fulfill **MMC** requirements.
- It is in the best interest of a student to use an EDP to focus and plan in order to successfully complete the graduation requirements, and prepare for the transition to the world of work. Since parental guidance is critical, a parent should check with the school to determine the procedure for reviewing a child's EDP.

What you need to know about a

Personal Curriculum

- If a **Personal Curriculum (PC)** is requested, the School district or PSA shall develop a Personal Curriculum. An in-person meeting is not required. However, the parent and school official must still agree on the implementation of a Personal Curriculum. Quarterly follow-ups are no longer required.
- A school district or PSA shall not discourage pupils seeking and receiving a Personal Curriculum modification.
- A school district or PSA annually shall notify pupils and parents of the **Michigan Merit Curriculum** and Personal Curriculum modifications; such notice can be provided in a newsletter, student handbook or similar communication that is sent to the pupil's home.

The essential elements of the Personal Curriculum:

- The **PC** must be consistent with the **EDP** and **IEP**. All three should be consistent with student goals and supports.
- The PC must include as much of the MMC as possible.
- Measurable goals and an evaluation process must be clearly stated in the PC.
- The PC must contain a plan for on-going communication in which a parent communicates with each teacher in the modified content area(s).

Districts **MUST** offer the PC option and respond to PC requests, but are **NOT** required to approve all PC requests.

NEED HELP with Personal Curriculum? Go to the Personal Curriculum Planner at www.misd.net and click on *Personal Curriculum Decision Software* under Quick Links, and then click on **Personal Curriculum Planner v2.4**.

Special Education and a Personal Curriculum

The **PC** is a process to modify specific credit requirements and/or content expectations based on the individual learning needs of a student. It is designed to serve a variety of students who need to individualize learning to meet the **MMC** requirements.

Parents of students with an **IEP** can begin to explore the PC option as early as the 7th or 8th grade when the **EDP** is being developed. If granted, the PC goes into effect when the student enters high school. Parents of students with an IEP may also request a PC at any point during the student's high school career.

This Michigan Merit Curriculum Law was amended in 2007 to add Subsection (k) [MCL 380.1278(b)(5)(k) (emphasis added)] which states that if the parent or legal guardian of a pupil requests ... a modification of the Michigan merit standard requirements **that would not otherwise be allowed** under this section and demonstrates that the modification is necessary because the pupil is a child with a disability, the school district or public school academy **may allow that additional modification to the extent necessary because of the pupil's disability** if ... (a) determines that the modification is **consistent with both the pupil's educational development plan ... and the pupil's individualized education program.**

What does “not otherwise be allowed” mean under this law?

It means that exceptions to the limitations on the Personal Curriculum stated in the law for students without an IEP (e.g., no modifications of ELA, Science, online, etc.) may be allowable for a student with an IEP.

Ultimately, decisions regarding performance standards for earning MMC credit (i.e., the definition of proficiency in meeting the content expectations that define required MMC credits) and determination of the credit associated with each course, are local district/board decisions.

Allowable Modifications for a Student With an Individualized Education Program

The parent or legal guardian of a student with an Individualized Education Program (IEP) may request a Personal Curriculum (PC) to modify the

requirements of the Michigan Merit Curriculum (MMC) not otherwise allowed, providing the PC:

1. Incorporates as much of the Michigan Academic Standards as practicable for the student within the context of the MMC requirements.
2. Aligns with the EDP and is consistent with the IEP.
3. Modifications directly address the effect the student’s disability has on his or her ability to access and/or demonstrate progress in the content.

Additionally, the PC:

May modify components of the content expectations within each credit requirement.

May modify the credit requirements.

Should reflect student strengths and outline how those strengths will be enhanced and utilized.

What you need to know about

How credit is granted

- A student is considered to have completed a credit if the student successfully completes the Michigan Academic Standards or Guidelines developed by the Michigan Department of Education. Credit can be granted in a variety of ways (e.g., end-of-course exams; **dual enrollment**; **early college**; **testing out**; accelerated, honors, **advanced placement (AP)**, and/or **International Baccalaureate (IB)** courses; summer school make-up classes) or under rules of Michigan’s Expanded Online Learning Options.
- A student will be given graduation credit for a requirement that is successfully completed prior to high school, as long as it is of the same level of content and rigor associated with the corresponding high school required course. Taking qualifying classes before high school will make room in the student’s schedule to take more electives.
- If a student fails a required course for graduation, no credit is granted and the class must be made up. Since there is little room in a student’s schedule each year for make-up classes, the failed credit can be recovered in various ways, such as summer school or online.

Key terms

Advanced Placement (AP) Advanced Placement classes are accelerated classes that, when successfully completed in high school, help determine placement in college. Although a student would not get college credit for the class, by passing the class the student would not have to take that class in college, but could move ahead to the next required class.

NOTE: Successful completion of certain AP classes counts toward meeting the high school graduation requirements.

Career Pathways Broad groupings of careers that share similar characteristics and whose employment requirements call for many common interests, strengths, and competencies. Students opting for Career and Technical Education elective courses will most likely choose courses that fit the career pathway they have chosen as a general area of interest they wish to pursue.

NOTE: Some of these courses, if taught by a teacher meeting the highly qualified standards set by the federal No Child Left Behind initiative, can be applied toward the high school graduation requirements.

CTE Career and Technical Education

Dual Enrollment When a high school student successfully completes a course as part of dual enrollment through a college or university, the student will get credit for that class at either the high school or higher education level or, in some cases, both.

NOTE: Successful completion of certain dual enrollment classes counts toward meeting the high school graduation requirements.

Early College A stand-alone public high school, a school within a school, a Public School Academy (PSA) or a Shared Educational Entity (SEE) designed to allow a pupil to earn a high school diploma and either an associate's degree, the Michigan Early/Middle College Association (MEMCA) technical certification or up to 60 transferable college credits at the same time.

Educational Development Plan (EDP) An educational development plan documents an ongoing process in which a learner identifies both career goals and a plan of action to achieve them. Every seventh grade student must have an opportunity to develop an EDP and one must be on file before high school. The EDP should be revised periodically, throughout the secondary educational experience, to reflect the student's career interests and options.

Key terms

ELA English Language Arts

Equivalent Learning Experience Content expectations and guidelines provide a useful framework for designing curriculum, assessments, scheduling instructional models, and relevant learning experiences that will allow the student to attain the level necessary to earn the required credits.

Grade Level Content Expectations (GLCE) The standards and benchmarks that K–8th grade students are expected to know and be able to do by the satisfactory completion of a course of study. The expectations provide a framework for designing curriculum, assessments, and relevant learning experiences for the student.

High School Content Expectations (HSCE) Content expectations were developed to provide a description of what 9th–12th grade students should know and be able to do by the end of high school for postsecondary success — college, careers, and community. The expectations provide a foundation for curriculum and assessment development that represents rigorous and relevant learning for all high school students.

Highly Qualified Teacher To be deemed highly qualified, teachers must have: 1) Bachelor’s degree, 2) Full state certification or licensure, and 3) Proof that they know each subject that they teach.

Individualized Education Plan (IEP) A document created by an IEP team for special education eligible students identifying what programs and services they need to progress in the curriculum. The IEP document is required by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

International Baccalaureate (IB) The International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme is designed as an academically challenging and balanced program of education with final examinations that prepare students for success at university and life beyond. The International Academy of Macomb (IAM) and the Utica Academy for International Studies (UAIS) are authorized IB World Schools and offer a full-day IB curriculum.

NOTE: Successful completion of IB classes counts toward meeting the high school graduation requirements.

Key terms

Michigan Academic Standards The state academic standards serve to outline learning expectations for Michigan’s students and are intended to guide local curriculum development. They should be used as a framework by schools for curriculum development with the curriculum itself prescribing instructional resources, methods, progressions, and additional knowledge valued by the local community. These standards provide a platform for state assessments, which are used to measure how well schools are providing opportunities for all students to learn the content outlined by the standards.

Michigan Merit Curriculum (MMC) The official title for the current high school graduation requirements is the Michigan Merit Curriculum. To earn a high school diploma from a Michigan high school, students must successfully complete all the elements in the Michigan Merit Curriculum. The curriculum is shown in full on pages 2–3.

Michigan Merit Exam (MME) The Michigan Merit Exam tests English, Mathematics, Science, U.S. History, Government, World History, and Geography in the 11th grade, including a college entrance assessment used by colleges for admission purposes. The required curriculum is designed so that students will have taken the appropriate courses in preparation for this test.

Modification Modifications to a student’s curriculum do not allow for an “opt out” of any requirement. However, in certain instances, modifications can be made to adjust the curriculum in Mathematics, Social Studies, Health and Physical Education, Visual, Performing and Applied Arts, and World Language. **NO** modifications are allowed in meeting the English, Science and Online requirements, except for students with an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) and for transfer students who have completed two years of high school.

Modification allowances must be made as part of a Personal Curriculum requested by the parent/guardian or staff member.

Online Learning Options Michigan’s Expanded Online Learning Options as provided for in Section 21f of the State School Aid Act passed in 2013.

Personal Curriculum (PC) The parent/guardian of a student or staff member may request a Personal Curriculum for the student that modifies certain of the MMC standard requirements. If all of the requirements for a Personal Curriculum are met, then the board of a

Key terms

school district may award a high school diploma to a student who successfully completes his or her Personal Curriculum, even if it does not meet the requirements of the MMC standard.

The use of a Personal Curriculum (PC) modification is allowed by state statute for only four reasons:

- A student wishes to modify the Mathematics requirement.
 - A student wishes to go beyond the academic credit requirements by adding more Math, Science, English Language Arts, or World Language credits.
- A student with a disability needs to modify the credit requirements based on his or her disability.
- A student transferring to a district from out of state or from a nonpublic school.

Testing Out High school students may “test out” or be given credit for a high school course that they are not enrolled in by exhibiting a certain level of mastery in the course. The student must receive a grade of not less than a C+ on a final exam, and/or other means of basic assessment, in order to receive credit.

World Language Any language other than English, including American Sign Language.



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