

### Implementation Date

Requirements would first apply to the high school class of 2011.

### Credit Requirements/Opt-outs

- English – 4 credits; no opt-outs.
- Math – 4 credits; opt-outs include going into Career Tech after two credits in the Merit curriculum and getting at least the equivalent content of one semester of Algebra II, spreading Algebra II out over two years and getting two credits, or “successfully completing” at least one semester of an Algebra II class before graduating. This has the effect of requiring that no student can graduate unless he or she has had at least 3 ½ credits of math.
- Social studies – 3 credits. Opt-out is allowed only after 2 credits (including at least civics) and only if the third credit is taken in one of the following subject areas: English, Science, Math or Foreign Language.
- Science – 3 credits; no opt-outs.
- Foreign Language – 2 credits taken in high school or its equivalent in any of grades K-12. No opt-out allowed.
- Physical education/health – one credit. Opt-out is allowed, but only if the one credit is taken in one of the following areas: English, Science, Math or Foreign Language.
- The Arts (visual, performing and applied) – 1 credit. Opt-out is allowed, but only if the one credit is taken in one of the following areas: English, Science, Math or Foreign Language. This will first apply to next year’s third graders.
- On-line experience: One online course, as defined by the Department, or the student’s district must integrate an “online experience” throughout each of the components of the prescribed curriculum. The State Board of Education would be required to determine what basic level of technology is needed to complete this requirement.

### Credit Definition

Districts would determine whether students successfully complete credits. This determination would be based, at least in part, on the student's performance on one or more assessments aligned with that credit's content expectations either developed by the Department or the district.

There is also a “test-out” option. If the exam used for this option was developed by the Department, the qualifying score would be set by the Department. If the exam was chosen locally, the qualifying score would be determined by the district.

The Department would be required to develop end-of course exams within three years of the bill's enactment.

### Content Expectations

Requires the Department of Education to develop—and the State Board to approve—subject area content expectations or guidelines, as applicable, for the required credits.

The development of expectations/guidelines necessary for Algebra I and the on-line experience must be completed by August 1, 2006. The other expectations must be completed one year in advance of when they will be needed.

The expectations must be consistent with the State Board's model core academic curriculum content standards. The expectations must require students to demonstrate critical thinking skills.

The Department must implement a process for developing subject area content expectations or guidelines with input from national experts, teachers, school personnel, and parents. The Department must provide at least a 15-day period for the public to review and provide input before approval.

If the Department has not completed content expectations by the required dates, districts would be allowed to align their content with locally adopted standards. However, the Department would have to report to the House and Senate Education Committees every six months on the status of the content expectations. It would have to give reasons it has failed to meet prescribed deadlines, if applicable, until all of the content expectations are approved by the State Board.

#### High School Assessment

Districts would be permitted to establish additional graduation requirements. One of these requirements could be participation in the Michigan Merit Exam or MI-Access (for Special Education students), as applicable.

#### Format of Teaching Content

Allows the course content expectations to be taught in either traditional course sequences or alternative formats (i.e., career and technical formats, humanities sequences, voc ed, industrial tech, or a combination), if these methods are approved by the Department.

Encourages districts to incorporate expectations into career and technical education programs.

These requirements would not prevent students from satisfying or exceeding these requirements through advanced studies, dual enrollment, or the international baccalaureate program.

Requires high schools to ensure students have access to the required credits, by providing requisite coursework or through dual enrollment programs, online coursework, cooperative arrangements with other school districts, or other means in order to earn accreditation.

#### Highly Qualified Teachers

All components of the curriculum would be required to be taught by a highly qualified teacher, as required by the federal No Child Left Behind Act. If a district can demonstrate that it cannot hire enough highly qualified teachers to meet this bill's requirements, the

Department would be required to help the district develop a plan to hire enough highly qualified teachers.

#### Education Development Plan

Districts must provide students in grade 7 with the opportunity to develop an educational development plan. The plan would be developed by the student under the supervision of his or her counselor.

#### Special Education Students

If a student receives special education services, his or her individualized education program will identify the most appropriate course of study and necessary academic support for that pupil to proceed with either the requirements of this legislation or more personalized requirements.

#### Help for Struggling Students

If a student does not successfully complete a credit required for graduation, or is at risk of dropping out, the district would have to notify the pupil's parents of the availability of tutoring, counseling, and supplemental educational support programs that are currently provided under state and federal law.

#### Reporting

The Department must annually report to the Legislature, by April 1 of each year, on the overall success of the requirements of this legislation.