

## Michigan Merit High School Graduation Requirement Overview

**Goal:** To ensure that Michigan's high school graduates have the necessary skills to succeed either in postsecondary education or in the workplace.

### Components:

- Sixteen mandatory credits, which are aligned with recommended college- and work-ready curriculum:
  - Four credits in English language arts.
  - Four credits in math, including Geometry and Algebra I and II. At least one math course must be taken during the student's senior year.
  - Three credits in science, with use of labs, including biology and chemistry or physics.
  - Three credits in social sciences including U.S. History & Geography, World History & Geography, .5 Civics, .5 Economics.
  - One credit in Visual, Performing and Applied Arts.
  - One credit in Physical Education and Health.
  - All high school students must also participate in an online course or learning experience.
  - Effective for the class of 2016, the credit requirement will increase to 18 credits, to include two credits in world languages. Students may receive credit if they have had a similar learning experience in grades K-12.
- Awarding credit is based on proficiency in expectations, not seat time and can be earned prior to a student entering high school or by testing-out.
- Credit may be earned through one or more of the following: alternative course work, humanities course sequences, career and technical education, industrial technology courses, or vocational education.
- Credit can be earned through advanced studies such as accelerated course placement, advanced placement, dual enrollment, or international baccalaureate program or an early college/middle college program.
- Requirement that the department of education develops subject area content expectations and subject area assessments to evaluate whether students have met those expectations.
- Option for a student's parent to request a personal curriculum for the student which is developed with the high school counselor or other designee selected by the high school principal. The personal curriculum is for that *small percentage* of students who seek to exceed the requirements of the MMC or for students with disabilities who need special accommodation and modifications.
- Beginning with students entering 8th grade in 2006 (Class of 2011), schools must give 7th grade students the opportunity to create an educational development plan based on a career pathways program or similar career exploration program. All students must create a plan before entering high school.
- The superintendent of public instruction may designate up to 15 specialty high schools that are exempt from certain requirements of the Michigan Merit High School Graduation Requirements. These specialty schools are eligible for exemptions if the school:
  - Incorporates a significant reading and writing component throughout its curriculum.
  - Uses a specialized, innovative and rigorous curriculum in areas such as performing arts, world language, and extensive use of internships or other learning innovations.
  - Demonstrates the following: mean scores from ACT math and science exams that exceed by 10% the district average; an 85% graduation rate; and enrollment of 75% of graduates into a postsecondary institution.

