

MICHIGAN
CAREER
EDUCATION
CONFERENCE
January 27th, 2020

**WHAT IF THE GRADUATION
REQUIREMENTS DO NOT MAKE
SENSE FOR SOME STUDENTS?
USING THE PERSONAL
CURRICULUM TO
INDIVIDUALIZE THE MMC**

MICHIGAN MERIT CURRICULUM (MMC)

STARTED WITH 8TH GR IN 2006

Michigan Merit Curriculum High School Graduation Requirements (18 credits)

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS (ELA) - 4 Credits

Proficiency in State Content Standards for ELA (4 credits)

MATHEMATICS - 4 Credits

Proficiency in State Content Standards for Mathematics (3 credits)

Proficiency in district approved 4th mathematics credit options (1 credit)
(Student must have a math experience in their final year of high school.)

ONLINE LEARNING EXPERIENCE

Course, Learning or Integrated Learning Experience

PHYSICAL EDUCATION & HEALTH - 1 Credit

Proficiency in State Content Standards for Physical Education and Health (1 credit); *Or*

Proficiency with State Content Standards for Health (1/2 credit) and district approved extra-curricular activities involving physical activities (1/2 credit)

SCIENCE - 3 Credits

Proficiency in State Content Standards for Science (3 credits); *Or beginning with the class of 2015:*

Proficiency in some State Content Standards for Science (2 credits) and completion of a department approved formal career and technical education program (1 credit)

SOCIAL STUDIES - 3 Credits

Proficiency in State Content Standards for Social Studies (3 credits)

VISUAL, PERFORMING AND APPLIED ARTS - 1 Credit

Proficiency in State Content Standards for Visual, Performing and Applied Arts (1 credit)

WORLD LANGUAGE - 2 Credits

(Effective beginning with students graduating in 2016)

Formal coursework OR an equivalent learning experience in grades K-12 (2 credits); *Or*

Formal coursework or an equivalent learning experience in grades (1 credit) and completion of a department approved formal career and technical education program or an additional visual, performing and applied arts credit (1 credit)

COURSES VS. CREDITS

The Michigan Merit Curriculum reimagines what the diploma represents. With credit based on student proficiency instead of seat time, the diploma represents what the students know and can do, not the courses that they took. Credits don't have to equate courses; instead, courses, CTE programs, work internships, and other learning opportunities can provide pieces of a variety of credits – filling up the credit pipeline towards MMC completion and a diploma.

MICHIGAN MERIT CURRICULUM

Districts determine
proficiency

Districts are quality control

Districts grant diploma's



State Board of
Education &
Superintendent

Top 10 in 10

Academic Standards

Early Literacy

EdTech

#GoOpen Michigan

State Standards for
Michigan

Instructional
Resources

Michigan Merit
Curriculum/Graduation
Requirements

Personalized Learning
Options

Career and Technical
Education

MDE / CAREER & COLLEGE READY / MICHIGAN MERIT CURRICULUM (MMC)

Improving Outcomes for High School Students

Michigan Merit Curriculum

The Michigan Merit Curriculum is the result of an extraordinary partnership between the Executive Branch, State Board of Education, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Legislature and numerous education associations. [MCL 380.1278a](#), [MCL 380.1278b](#)

Michigan Merit High School Graduation Requirements Frequently Asked Questions

-(Updated 09/2017)

The Frequently Asked Question (FAQ) document was designed to provide readers with additional information and clarification regarding the flexibility within the state graduation requirements. The FAQ document will be regularly updated as needed. For questions related to the Michigan Merit Curriculum, please contact the Curriculum and Instruction (C&I) Unit at 517-335-3678.

Earning Credit Options

Testing Out

[Economics in Marketing](#) - Learn how to grant economic credit through state approved marketing programs utilizing the Michigan Collaborative Teaching Model. Aligned lesson plans and course outlines are included.

[Algebra II in Engineering, Manufacturing, Industrial Technology \(EMIT\)](#) - Learn how to grant math through state approved Engineering, Manufacturing, and Industrial Technology (EMIT) programs utilizing the Michigan Collaborative Teaching Model. Aligned lesson plans and course outlines are included.

[Academic Standards and Credit Guidance](#)

[Personal Curriculum Information and Documents](#)

PERSONAL CURRICULUM DEFINED

“The legislative intent of the Personal Curriculum (PC) is to individualize the rigor and relevance of the educational experience and provide a tool to help ALL students succeed with the Michigan Merit Curriculum (MMC).”

Personal Curriculum Guidelines 2009

A PC CAN....

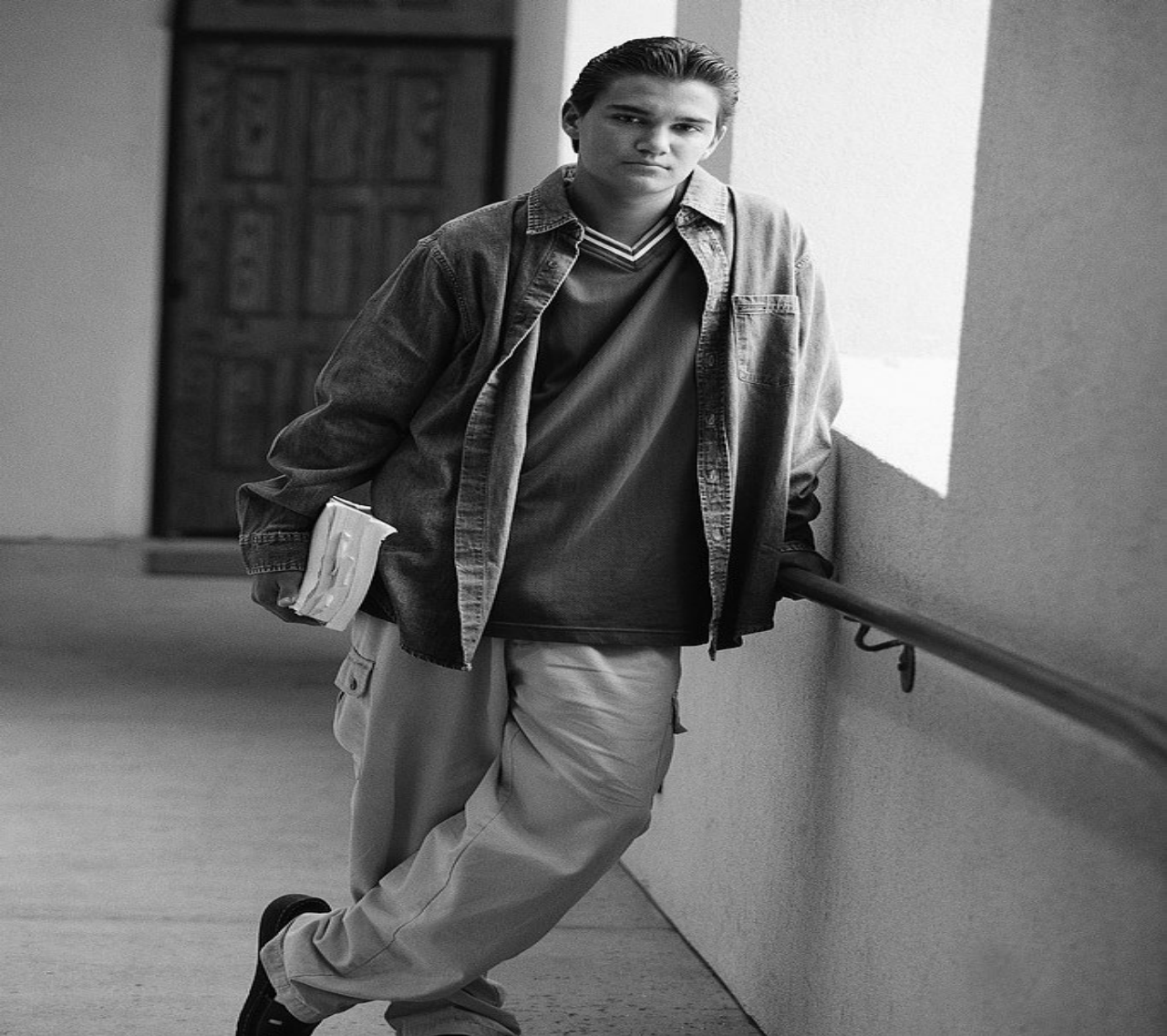
- Change the 18 credits required in the MMC
- Remove an MMC credit/course allowing something that better meets the students needs to be built into their course of study
- Modify the required content standards, but credit given must reflect level of proficiency.



A PC CAN'T....

- Create a space where full credits are given when content isn't mastered.
- Allow swapping out where something else can **count** for Algebra II. Nothing can count for an MMC credit that doesn't cover the required standards.





Diploma or Certificate of Completion?

PERSONAL CURRICULUM TYPES

To go beyond the academic credit requirements (Enrichment)

To modify the mathematics requirement (General Modified)

To modify the requirements based on the disability of a student with an IEP

To modify credit requirements for a transfer student

PC TYPE #1: ENRICHMENT

- To go beyond the academic requirements by substituting 1 credit of the following for additional course work in the core content areas:
 - Visual, Performing and Applied Arts credit
 - PE/Health
 - Social studies credit (excluding Civics)

TYPE #1: ENRICHMENT USING CTE

- Students may substitute, upon completion (be a COMPLETER), a state approved formal Career and Technical Education (CTE) program for:
 - 1 credit of social studies and/or,
 - 1 credit of health and physical education and/or
 - 1 credit of VPAA

PC TYPE #2: General Modified (Math)

- Remember the MMC math requirement =4 credits
- This type of PC will modify the following component of the math requirement by .5 credits
 - *“Students must earn at least 3 credits in mathematics that are aligned with subject area standards approved by the State Board”*
- With a PC in place, students must earn 3.5 math credits overall and take a math or math-related experience in one of their final two years
- Most typically done by reducing Algebra II by .5 credits

PC TYPE #3: STUDENTS WITH IEP'S

- To modify based on the needs of a student with an IEP
 - Allows modifications to any MMC requirement due to the impact their disability has on accessing or demonstrating proficiency in meeting expectations
- Must align IEP, transition plan, and EDP while keeping the MMC relevant and rigorous

PC TYPE #4: TRANSFER

- First, let's define Transfer students
 - Completion of the equivalent of 2 years high school content out of state/country or nonpublic school
- Once YOU designate them as a transfer student, modifications are allowed in any MMC content area (similar to students with IEP's)
- PC must be aligned with EDP (postsecondary and post-school goals)
- Can't modify Civics

SCHOOL/DISTRICT LEVEL PROCESS

- To be consistent create local policy/procedure and communicate system wide because :
 - When a PC is requested one *MUST* be developed
 - Written annual notice and website visibility is mandated
 - Team must include: parent, student, counselor or teacher, and special education representative (no in-person required)
- Forms are recommended: I have some you can use, 1 page is enough plus a request form
- PC must be approved by Supt or Designee after being developed, before implementation

PARENTS/FAMILIES MUST UNDERSTAND A FEW THINGS:

- PC's DO NOT transfer...anywhere
- A PC requires approval and there is no “grievance process” therefore they should be written to include as much of the MMC as possible, not requesting excessive modifications
- State testing scores “could” be lower if a student has PC modifications
- If students change their mind during HS on post-school goals it could void the PC and could mean extra time in HS to complete MMC
- If students change their mind after HS they may no longer be prepared to attend certain post-secondary institutions

Additional Questions and
Comments can be directed to:

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putting Michigan on the map as a premier education state

MICHIGAN MERIT CURRICULUM

MICHIGAN MERIT CURRICULUM

- The Michigan Merit Curriculum (MMC) is not a curriculum in the traditional sense - it is legislation that specifies all students awarded a diploma have demonstrated proficiency with the content outlined by the state academic standards, benchmarks or guidelines.

MICHIGAN HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS (18 CREDITS)

- **ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS (ELA) – 4 Credits**
 - Proficiency in State Content Standards for ELA (4 credits)
- **MATHEMATICS – 4 Credits**
 - Proficiency in State Content Standards for Mathematics (3 credits); and
 - Proficiency in district approved 4th Mathematics credit options (1 credit) (Students MUST have a Math experience in their final year of high school.)
- **ONLINE LEARNING EXPERIENCE**
 - Course, Learning, or Integrated Learning Experience.
- **PHYSICAL EDUCATION & HEALTH – 1 Credit**
 - Proficiency in State Content Standards for Physical Education and Health (1 credit); or
 - Proficiency with State Content Standards for Health (1/2 credit) and district approved extra-curricular activities involving physical activities (1/2 credit).
- **SCIENCE – 3 Credits**
 - Proficiency in State Content Standards for Science (3 credits); or
 - Proficiency in some State Content Standards for Science (2 credits) and completion of a Department approved formal Career and Technical Education (CTE) program (1 credit).
- **SOCIAL STUDIES – 3 Credits**
 - Proficiency in State Content Standards for Social Studies (3 credits).
- **VISUAL, PERFORMING, AND APPLIED ARTS – 1 Credit**
 - Proficiency in State Content Standards for Visual, Performing, and Applied Arts (1 credit).
- **WORLD LANGUAGE – 2 Credits** (Effective with students entering 3rd Grade in 2006)
 - Formal coursework or an equivalent learning experience in Grades K-12 (2 credits); or
 - Formal coursework or an equivalent learning experience in Grades K-12 (1 credit) and completion of a Department approved formal CTE program; or an additional visual, performing, and applied arts credit (1 credit).

COURSES VS. CREDITS

- The Michigan Merit Curriculum reimagines what the diploma represents. With credit based on student proficiency instead of seat time, the diploma represents what the students know and can do, not the courses that they took. Credits don't have to equate courses; instead courses, CTE programs, work internships, and other learning opportunities can provide pieces of a variety of credits – filling up the credit pipeline.
- The legislation also allows for specific credit requirements and/or content standards to be modified based on the individual learning needs of a student. It is designed to serve students who want to accelerate or go beyond the MMC requirements as well as students who need to individualize learning requirements to meet the MMC requirement.

For specific information regarding the MMC law, please refer to [Michigan Merit Curriculum FAQ](#) online at www.michigan.gov/highschool.

Office of Educational Supports
Curriculum and Instruction

Personal Curriculum

The personal curriculum (PC) is a tool for modifying the MMC in order to individualize the rigor and relevance of the state graduation requirements. All students are eligible for a personal curriculum; however, modifications are limited to what is allowable by legislation according to each PC type.

Personal Curriculum Types

State statute allows personal curriculum modifications in order to:

- Go beyond the academic credit requirements by adding more math, science, English language arts; or completing a department-approved formal career and technical education program. Students who take additional course work in the areas above may give up 1 MMC credit by eliminating one of the following; social studies, visual, performing, and applied arts, or health and physical education. Students who are completers in a formal, state approved CTE program may swap out all three of the above credits with a PC. They can also eliminate a science and a world language credit without a PC. Up to 5 MMC credits can be eliminated by being a CTE completer prior to graduation.
- Modify the State Content Standards for Mathematics. Students may be able to eliminate a $\frac{1}{2}$ credit from the MMC math requirement. This modification could be done by eliminating half of algebra II in a traditional course sequence but could be done in other ways as long as no more than $\frac{1}{2}$ credit of content standards are removed.
- Modify, when necessary, the credit requirements of a student with an Individualized Education Program (IEP). Students who have IEP's could use a PC to modify any MMC requirements. Modifications should take into consideration the IEP and EDP as well as ensuring each student incorporates as much of the subject area content expectations as possible into their course of study.
- Modify credit requirements for a student who transfers from out of state or from a nonpublic school and is unable to meet the MMC requirements. Students from out of state or from a nonpublic school may request a PC to modify the requirements of the MMC. Modifications should take into consideration the EDP as well as ensuring each student incorporates as much of the subject area content expectations as possible into their course of study.

Resources

- MDE Guidelines, FAQs, Parent Guides, and Michigan Merit Curriculum (MMC) available at www.michigan.gov/highschool