

MACUL
March 17th, 2022

MICHIGAN MERIT CURRICULUM AND PERSONAL CURRICULUM



SESSION AGENDA

- Introduction and Welcome
- Michigan Merit Curriculum (MMC) Overview, History, and Current Legislation
- High School Website
- Testing Out
- Personal Curriculum (PC) Overview flexibility

MMC: BRIEF HISTORY

- MMC credit requirements began with students who started 8th grade in 2006.
- Prior to this legislation, Civics (.5 credits) was the only Michigan requirement.
- World Language credit requirement (2 credits) kicked in for the graduating class of 2016 and beyond.
- Requirements have been consistent since inception, with few exceptions.

WHY DID WE NEED THE MMC?

- Create consistency across Michigan High Schools.
- Reduce remediation rates in college/post-secondary.
- Improve graduation rates in higher education.
- Ensure all Michigan Students are globally competitive upon graduation through.

LOCAL CONTROL

- Districts can have requirements beyond the MMC.
- Students must fulfil district and state requirements to get a diploma from any individual district.
- State authority ends with adoption of state standards/content and state assessment system components.
- Districts make all the decisions around; curriculum, textbooks/materials, local assessment systems, grades/GPA, course design, teacher placement, proficiency, granting diplomas.

• **Let's look at where we can find all this information!**



State Board of
Education &
Superintendent

Strategic Plan

Academic Standards

EdTech

#GoOpen Michigan

MDE COVID-19
Online Instructional
Resources

Literacy

Michigan Merit
Curriculum/Graduation
Requirements

Personalized Learning
Options

Career and Technical
Education

Early Learners and
Care

Educator Services

Family Engagement

Flexible Learning
Options

Food & Nutrition
Programs

Grants

Health & Safety

MDE Operations

School Performance &
Supports

MDE / ACADEMIC STANDARDS / MICHIGAN MERIT CURRICULUM/GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

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](#)

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 517-241-4285.

World Language Update (9/2020)

In September 2020 [Public Act 158 of 2020](#) was signed into law which amended the Revised School Code to eliminate dates during which high school students may fulfill one of the two foreign language credits required for a diploma by completing a Department-approved formal career and technical education (CTE) program or by completing an additional visual or performing arts credit. This flexibility was scheduled to be phased out for students graduating after 2024; however, PA 158 makes it permanent.

[Academic Standards and Credit Guidance](#)
[Michigan Merit Curriculum One Sheet](#) 
[Personal Curriculum Information and Documents](#)

Earning Credit Options

[Testing Out](#)

[Career and Technical Education \(CTE\)](#)

[Leveraging Career and Technical Education to Support Implementation of the Michigan Merit Curriculum - Guidance on integration of content and credit waiver options for earning credit.](#)

[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.

Resources

[Michigan Seal of Biliteracy](#)

**WWW.MICHIGAN.GOV/
HIGHSCHOOL**



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.

SCIENCE –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 CTE program (1 credit).

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.




MMC REQUIREMENTS CAN BE MET IN A VARIETY OF WAYS.....

- Traditional courses
 - Non-traditional or integrated courses
 - CTE courses
 - Extra curricular experiences
 - Testing out
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- When proficiency is demonstrated, credit **MUST** be given!

TESTING OUT

What the MMC Law States:

A school district or PSA shall also grant a student a credit if the student earns a qualifying score, as determined by the school district or PSA, on 1 or more assessments developed or selected by the school district or PSA that measure a student's understanding of the subject area content expectations or guidelines that apply to the credit.



**What Questions
Might you Have?**

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.
- Be used by ALL students though different types of students have different rules.

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

CTE SUBSTITUTIONS (NO PC)

- Students may substitute, upon completion (be a **COMPLETER**), a state approved formal Career and Technical Education (CTE) program for:
 - 1 credit World Language and/or,
 - 1 credit of Science

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

MUST DO'S

- 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
 - A team is required which must include a parent, student, counselor or teacher, and special education representative (If IEP)
- PC must be approved by Supt or Designee after being developed, before implementation
- Parents must approve PC

COMMUNICATE TO PARENTS/FAMILIES

- PC's DO NOT transfer...anywhere
- A PC requires district 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
- They must agree to any modifications



**What Questions
Might you Have?**

Additional Questions and
comments can be directed
to:

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