

# **The Michigan Merit Curriculum:** Flexibility in awarding credit and the personal curriculum

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# **The Michigan Merit Curriculum:** Flexibility in awarding credit and the personal curriculum

Michigan Alliance for Families  
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# Today's Agenda

- Intro and Welcome
- Michigan Merit Curriculum (MMC) 101
- MMC Waiver Options (without PC)
- Testing Out
- Personal Curriculum (PC) 101
- Course of Study, Certificate of Completion
- Student PC Example
- PC Process: Requirements and Best Practice

# MMC: Brief History

## Graduation Credit Requirements



# Courses vs Credits

- Credits issued based on **Proficiency**
- **NOT** based on course completion

[www.Michigan.gov/highschool](http://www.Michigan.gov/highschool)



## Michigan Merit Curriculum

### 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.

#### Personal Finance — ½ Credit (Effective with students entering 8th grade in 2023)

- Proficiency in State Content Standards for Personal Finance

#### 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

- 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 knows 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 the online [Michigan Merit Curriculum Frequently Asked Questions](#).

### **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.

### **Personal Finance — ½ Credit (Effective with students entering 8th grade in 2023)**

- Proficiency in State Content Standards for Personal Finance

### **Physical Education & Health — 1 Credit**

- Proficiency in State Content Standards for Physical Education and Health (1 credit); or
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### **Science — 3 Credits**

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### **Social Studies — 3 Credits**

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

### **Visual, Performing, and Applied Arts — 1 Credit**

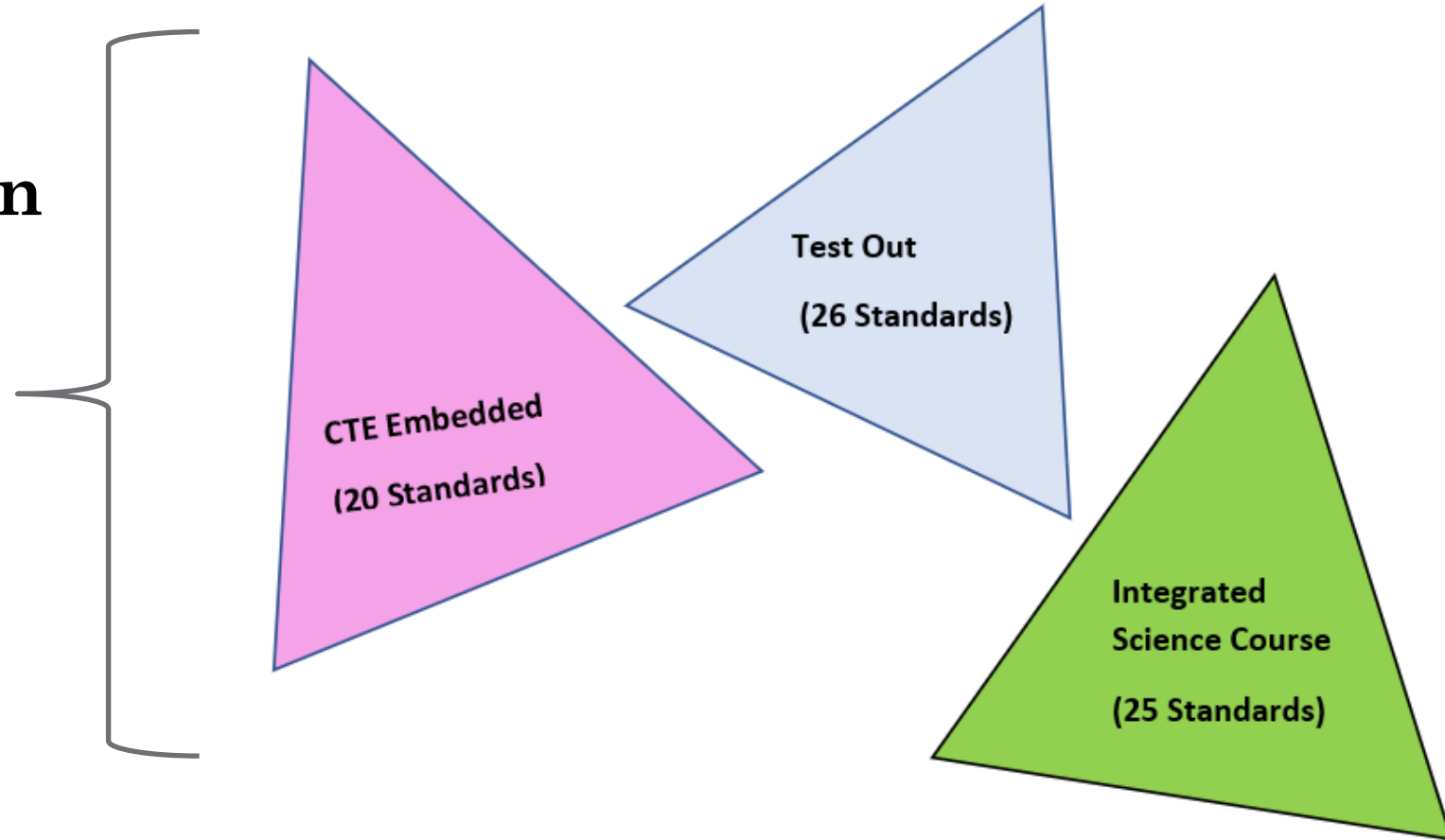
- Proficiency in State Content Standards for Visual, Performing, and Applied Arts (1 credit).

### **World Language — 2 Credits**

- 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).

# MMC Flexibility: Examples of Course/Credit Implementation

MMC  
Science  
Standards  
(71)



# Science Credit - 3 Credits

## Options:

**3 credits**-Proficient in state standards

**OR**

**2 credits**-Proficient in 2/3 of the state standards

**AND**

- Completion of a formal CTE program  
(Waives 3<sup>rd</sup> science credit)





# World Language Credit - 2 Credits

## Options:

**2 credits**-Based on “novice” level proficiency

OR

**1 credit**

*AND*

- The completion of a formal CTE program
- OR
- An additional Art credit  
(Waives 2<sup>nd</sup> WL credit)



# Waiver of Credits

Waive = voluntarily relinquish or forfeit; an official decision that a rule does not have to be obeyed

CTE program  
(2 waiver options) →

Personal Curriculum  
(3 waiver options) →

Credit Waived Up to:	Personal Curriculum Required <sup>2</sup>	Legislation Authorization
1 Science	no	MCL 380.1278b(1)(b)
1 World Language	no	MCL 380.1278a(2)(2)
1 Social Studies <sup>3</sup>	yes	MCL 380.1278b(5)(h)
1 Health and Physical Education <sup>4</sup>	yes	MCL 380.1278b(5)(i)
1 Visual, Performing and Applied Arts (VPAA)	yes	MCL 380.1278b(5)(j)

# 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.

[www.Michigan.gov/highschool](http://www.Michigan.gov/highschool)



## 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 \(FAQ\)](#) (Updated 09/2017)

The 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 Educational Experiences Unit at 517-241-4285.

### World Language Update (09/2020)

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](#)

### [Personal Finance Requirements](#)

## Earning Credit Options

### [Testing Out](#)

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

### [Leveraging CTE 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 economics 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 mathematics credit through State-approved EMIT Programs utilizing the Michigan Collaborative Teaching Model. Aligned lesson plans and course outlines are included.

## Resources

### [Michigan Seal of Biliteracy](#)

The Michigan Seal of Biliteracy has been created to recognize high school graduates who exhibit language proficiency in English and at least one additional world language.

### Evaluating Bias in Instructional Materials

MDE, in partnership with The Comprehensive Center Network Region 8, is providing the following report: [Tools and Guidance for Evaluating Bias in Instructional Materials](#). Districts may use this report to identify tools and rubrics that will assess bias in local standards and curricular materials.



# 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 : 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



# Course of Study

- A multi-year description of coursework from the student's current to anticipated exit year needed to achieve the student's desired post-school goals.

[National Technical Assistance Center on Transition: The Collaborative \(:C\)](#)

- The PC can support the creation of a Course of Study that is relevant, engaging, and individualized to a students needs and goals.

# Diploma or Certificate of Completion?



# Example:

- Student A is a sophomore with plans to become a certified auto mechanic after high school, has an IEP (SLD)
- Post-school goal for student A is to get certified/credentialed at a local Community College through a 2-year program
- Based on the student's Transition Plan and academic need for support a PC was requested to look at potential MMC credit removals
- The PC team determined that removing a math credit (Alg. 2) and the 2 World Language credits made sense for the student, allowing that time to be used for more relevant course work and attending an aligned CTE program
- Those 3 credits were removed with a PC, and the student would not take those courses, they will not learn those standards
- The content from those courses would not have been meaningful or relevant for the student's path, if the path changes the PC would need to be amended

# Must Do's

- When a PC is requested, a PC MUST be developed
- Written annual notice and website visibility
- A team is required to include; parent, student, counselor or teacher, and a school psychologist if student has an IEP
- PC must be approved by Supt or Designee and parent/family after being developed, before implementation

# Should Do's

- PC Request Form
  - In office, online, easily accessible
- PC Forms
  - Should include student info, post-school pathway, modifications, and sign-off by parents
- PC record keeping and annual update protocols
- Educating staff and potential team members about PC implementation process

Additional Questions and comments can  
be directed to:

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# We are here to support you!

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For more information visit:

<https://www.michiganallianceforfamilies.org>

Call: 800-552-4821

En Español 313-217-1060

Statewide Email: [info@michiganallianceforfamilies.org](mailto:info@michiganallianceforfamilies.org)



# Michigan Alliance for Families

Michigan Alliance for Families is an IDEA Grant Funded Initiative of the Michigan Department of Education, Office of Special Education, and Michigan's federal Parent-Training and Information Center (PTIC) funded by U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP).

[www.michiganallianceforfamilies.org](http://www.michiganallianceforfamilies.org)

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