


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

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Rashell Bowerman



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

Michigan Alliance for Families  
Oct. 23rd , 2023

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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

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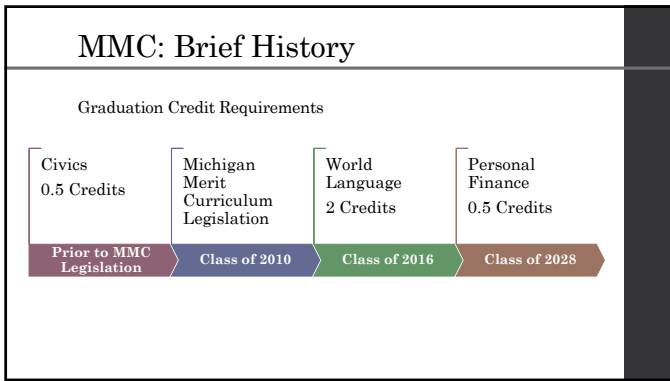
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### Courses vs Credits

*Career & College Ready*  
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**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 redesigns what the diploma represents. With credits 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 equal courses. Instead courses, CTE programs, work experiences, and other learning opportunities can provide pieces of a variety of credits - think up the ante diploma!  
 • 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 requirements.  
 For specific information regarding the MMC law, please refer to the online Michigan Merit Curriculum Inquiries Answer Questions.  
[www.michigan.gov/inde](http://www.michigan.gov/inde)

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<p><b>English Language Arts (ELA) — 4 Credits</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proficiency in State Content Standards for ELA (4 credits)</li> </ul> <p><b>Mathematics — 4 Credits</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proficiency in State Content Standards for Mathematics (3 credits); and</li> <li>• Proficiency in district-approved 4th Mathematics credit options (1 credit) (Students MUST have a math experience in their final year of high school.)</li> </ul> <p><b>Online Learning Experience</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Course, Learning, or Integrated Learning Experience.</li> </ul> <p><b>Personal Finance — ½ Credit (effective with students entering 8th grade in 2023)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proficiency in State Content Standards for Personal Finance.</li> </ul> <p><b>Physical Education &amp; Health — 1 Credit</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proficiency in State Content Standards for Physical Education and Health (1 credit); or</li> <li>• Proficiency with State Content Standards for Health (1/2 credit) and district-approved extra-curricular activities involving physical activities (1/2 credit).</li> </ul>	<p><b>Science — 3 Credits</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proficiency in State Content Standards for Science (3 credits); or</li> <li>• 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).</li> </ul> <p><b>Social Studies — 3 Credits</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proficiency in State Content Standards for Social Studies (3 credits).</li> </ul> <p><b>Visual, Performing, and Applied Arts — 1 Credit</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proficiency in State Content Standards for Visual, Performing, and Applied Arts (1 credit).</li> </ul> <p><b>World Language — 2 Credits</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Formal coursework or an equivalent learning experience in Grades K-12 (2 credits); or</li> <li>• 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).</li> </ul>
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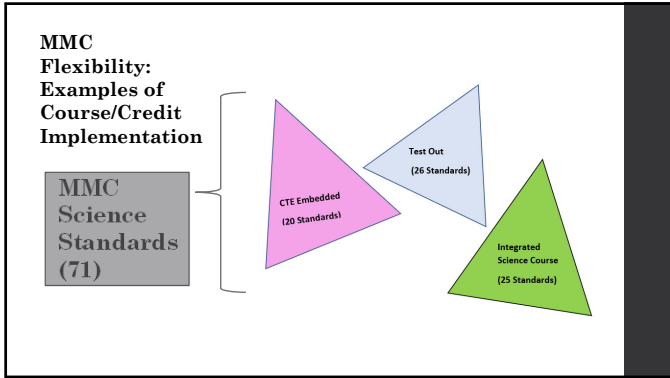
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**Science Credit - 3 Credits**

**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)

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**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)

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## Waiver of Credits

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

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)

CTE program (2 waiver options) →

Personal Curriculum (3 waiver options) →

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## 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.



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**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 non-traditional education associations. [SIS, 380.1278a, MCL 380.1278b, High School Graduation Requirements, Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\) \(Updated 09/20/20\)](#)

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 616-224-4265.

**World Language Update (09/20/20)**

In November 2020, [Public Act 2020-022](#) was signed into law which amended the Revised School Code to allow students 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 instructional, tutorial, or performing arts credit. This flexibility was added to be granted out for students graduating after 2024. However, PA 582 makes it permanent.

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

**Earning Credit Options**

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

[Opportunities in Mathematics](#)  
 Learn how to earn mathematics credit through State-approved marketing programs utilizing the Michigan Collaborative Teaching Model. Aligned lesson plans and course outline are included.

[Opportunities in Engineering, Manufacturing, and Information Technology \(EMIT\)](#)  
 Learn how to earn 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 enter language proficiency in English and at least one additional world language.


**Evaluating Sites for Instructional Materials**  
 MCE, in partnership with the Comprehensive Center Network Region 6, is providing the following report: [Guidance and Checklist for Evaluating Sites for Instructional Materials](#). Districts may use the report to identify needs and rubrics that will assess bias in local standards and curriculum materials.

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

FAQ

All Standards

PC



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## 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

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## 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.



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## 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

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### 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




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### 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.

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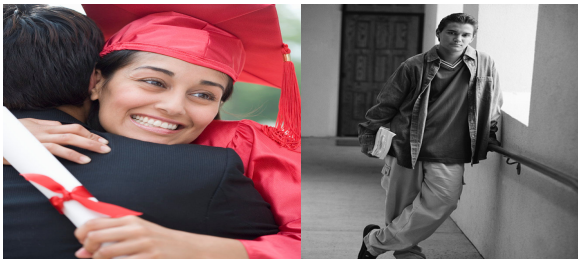
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### Diploma or Certificate of Completion?




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### 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



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### 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



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### 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



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Additional Questions and comments can be directed to:

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Office: 517-335-3062



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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)



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## 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)  
1-800-552-4821  
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