

State of Michigan

Improved High School Graduation Requirements

To prepare Michigan's students with the skills and knowledge needed for the jobs of the 21st Century global economy, the State of Michigan has enacted a rigorous new set of statewide graduation requirements that are among the best in the nation.

With these new graduation requirements, students will be well-prepared for further success in college and on the job. Michigan is developing a highly-skilled 21st Century workforce that will drive the state's economy today and into the future.

The new graduation standards will be required starting with the Class of 2011, next year's eighth graders. Yet, many school districts already are implementing the Michigan Merit Curriculum as their graduation requirement.

Michigan Merit Curriculum		
Number of Credits	Curriculum Area	Required Content
4 Credits	Mathematics	Algebra I; Geometry, Algebra II; including one credit in Senior Year
4 Credits	English Language Arts	Aligned with subject area content expectations developed by state Dept. of Education
3 Credits	Science	Biology; Physics or Chemistry; one additional Science credit
3 Credits	Social Studies	.5 credit in Civics; .5 credit in Economics; U.S. History and Geography; World History and Geography
1 Credit	Physical Education/Health	Credit guidelines to be developed by state Dept. of Education
1 Credit	Visual, Performing, Applied Arts	Credit guidelines to be developed by state Dept. of Education
16 Credits – which could be acquired through Career and Technical Education programs		

Additional Graduation Requirements:

On-line Learning Experience – Students must take an on-line course or learning experience; OR have the on-line learning experience incorporated into each of the required credits of the Michigan Merit Curriculum.

World Languages – Beginning with the Class of 2016 (Third graders in Fall 2006), students will need to complete **2 Credits** of a World Language in grades 9-12; OR have an equivalent learning experience in grades K-12.