



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM  
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN  
SUPERINTENDENT OF  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** State Board of Education

**FROM:** Michael P. Flanagan, Chairman

**DATE:** August 28, 2006

**SUBJECT:** Presentation of the High School Course/Credit Content Expectations and Guidelines for the Michigan Merit Curriculum

In December of 2005, the State Board of Education passed a policy that "catapulted Michigan from the state that demanded among the *least* of its students in order to earn a high school diploma to one of the states that demands the *most*" (Michael Cohen, President/CEO Achieve, Inc.). Passed by the Legislature and signed into law by Governor Jennifer M. Granholm in April of 2006, the Michigan Merit Curriculum is considered to be one of the nation's most rigorous set of requirements for high school students.

A significant part of this legislation mandated the Department to identify the content required for students to know and be able to do in each of the credit requirements. Categorized as "content expectations" and "guidelines," each of the course/credit requirements has its own set of learning standards.

Scheduled for dissemination one year prior to when a student would generally take the course/credit, the Department decided that, in the true spirit of high school reform, it was best to provide Michigan's high schools with as many of the Course/Credit Content Expectations and Guidelines as was practicable.

On behalf of the Michigan Department of Education, I am pleased to present the Michigan Merit Curriculum's High School Course/Credit Content Expectations and Guidelines for English Language Arts Grades 9 & 10, Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, Pre-Calculus, Statistics, Earth Science, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Visual, Performing, and Applied Arts, and Online Learning (Attachment A). The documents are available via the MDE website: [www.michigan.gov/highschool](http://www.michigan.gov/highschool), or on CD upon request.

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