



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN
SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

September 25, 2009

MEMORANDUM

TO: Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents
Public School Academy Directors and Authorizers

FROM: Sally Vaughn, Ph.D. *Sally*
Deputy Superintendent/Chief Academic Officer

SUBJECT: Success with Algebra II Course/Credit Requirements

The Algebra II course description has been revised to reflect ACT's College Readiness Standards, Achieve's American Diploma Project Benchmarks, and the proposed common core college and career readiness standards Michigan plans to adopt. The changes reflect concerns about the mathematics high school content expectations.

This change means that the Algebra II Course/Credit Requirements exclude some of Michigan's Mathematics High School Content Expectations (HSCE). The 25 Mathematics High School Content Expectations *removed* from the Algebra II Course/Credit Requirements document (November 2007 version) addressed concepts such as probability, understanding error, trigonometric functions, examining distributions, samples, surveys, and experiments that represent knowledge and skills students should have by the end of high school. Algebra II credit can be earned without these content expectations. However, districts may integrate these expectations into their current mathematics course offerings or design additional courses to specifically teach the statistics, probability, and trigonometry concepts by the end of high school.

The Mathematics HSCE describes what students should know and be able to do when they complete high school. Organizing the HSCE into course/credit requirements for Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II was a requirement of the 2006 Michigan Merit Curriculum legislation.

The revised Algebra II Course/Credit Requirements is attached and can also be located on MDE's website at:

http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,1607,7-140-38924_41644_42668---,00.html.

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Webinars to address instructional strategies for success with the Algebra II Course/Credit Requirements are scheduled for the following dates:

October 20, Tuesday, 11:00 a.m. (SESSION FULL)
October 21, Wednesday, 1:00 p.m.
October 22, Thursday, 3:00 p.m. (SESSION FULL)
October 23, Friday, 9:30 a.m.

Please contact Carol Hebert at hebertc@michigan.gov to register for the webinars. Contact Dan LaDue at ladued@michigan.gov or 517-373-4226 if you have questions or need additional information.

Attachment

c: William Mayes, MASA
David Martell, MSBO
Dan Quisenberry, MAPSA
Billie Wimmer, MCCSA