

Michigan Merit Curriculum Mathematics Communication

Communication, Dissemination, and Support for Implementation

Since the passage of the new state high school graduation requirements commonly referred to as the Michigan Merit Curriculum (MMC), the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) has worked with hundreds of educators and representatives from professional organizations and higher education to develop documents and materials that outline what students should know and be able to do in required courses/credits during their high school experience.

Two main sets of documents called *High School Content Expectations (HSCE)* and specific *Course/Credit Content Expectations (CCE)* and Guidelines provide educators with the tools needed to align their curriculum and instruction and provide parents with meaningful information to gauge student progress. These expectations also serve as the basis to determine student proficiency, grant high school credit, and develop various questions for the Michigan Merit Exam.

High School Content Expectations for Mathematics, English Language Arts, Science and Social Studies were individually launched at statewide conferences held in partnership between MDE and Michigan State University's College of Education K-12 Outreach Program. More than 3,200 participants attended these four statewide conferences.

Following these conferences, MDE in partnership with educators and organizations from around the state, instituted three tiers of professional development.

- Tier I – Provided a general overview for curriculum directors, content specialists from 57 Intermediate School Districts (ISD), higher education, and professional organizations. More than 2,500 educators attended Tier I sessions.
- Tier II – Offered regional professional development training for building the capacity of regional service staff to support their local districts. Forty half-day and full-day sessions were held across the state over a two-year period. More than 5,500 educators attended Tier II sessions.
- Tier III – Provided and continues to provide ongoing local professional development opportunities which focus on classroom-specific instructional strategies that support HSCE and CCE alignment and implementation.

The department also established a High School website, www.mi.gov/highschool, which continues to support statewide professional development by providing access to documents, professional development modules, toolkit resources, Frequently Asked Questions and companion documents as they are developed and updated.

Thousands of notebooks containing state high school expectations and guidelines were disseminated to all middle and high schools, ISDs and key professional organizations. Updates are currently being sent to schools.

Career and Technical Education (CTE) Course Alignment, Guidelines, and Professional Development

MDE staff are working to incorporate the new high school standards into CTE programs, create curriculum guidelines, and design professional development training. Examples of Crosswalks of CTE Program Standards to Academic Content

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Expectations created by ISDs and other districts are available on the MDE high school website.

High School Math and Science Success (HS-MASS)

The 33 regional math and science centers provided a series of workshops to help 8th – 12th grade teachers understand the new science and mathematics components of the MMC and Michigan Merit Exam (MME) and implications for teaching and learning in their classrooms. The Network conducted over 90 workshops, serving 832 mathematics and 848 science teachers.

Communication Campaign

The communication campaign includes media interviews, pod casts, Power Points, web postings, parent documents, information from the Governor's Education Summit, the superintendent's speaking circuit, and rollout sessions. All products are accessible through the high school website. Supporting materials are available through the Michigan e-Library, Michigan Virtual High School, Michigan Virtual University, and Regional and Intermediate School Districts.

Dissemination of information regarding the Michigan Merit Curriculum and other components of the Michigan High School Redesign Initiative is also facilitated by various commissions and professional organizations throughout the state. These include postings on association websites, Edusource, CEN, and others.

Examples include frequent informational articles in:

- Good Morning OSI
- Leading Change
- Eduguide
- MASA Leader
- MASSP Bulletin

Other Communication

- Three webinars in collaboration with MASSP focusing on math and one on personal curriculum from the math perspective have been held.
- Staff attend meetings and conferences and present updates and presentations to content organizations and ISD consultant groups about new initiatives in all of the areas of the Michigan Merit Curriculum.

Ongoing Implementation Support Projects

Ongoing projects include instructional unit development and professional development to support HSCE implementation, plan instructional supports for struggling students, promote literacy instruction in all content areas. Development of quality formative and summative assessments to evaluate student achievement will continue. MDE and Michigan Virtual University's Learnport are developing opportunities and offering high quality professional development for Michigan educators.

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Michigan High School Core Team

Various offices within MDE are collaborating to provide the necessary support for implementation of the MMC. The Office of School Improvement, in partnership with Great Lakes East Regional Comprehensive Center, has created a High School Core Team to facilitate communication and collaboration among high school initiatives by various MDE offices and with partner organizations.

National Connections

MDE has worked with national organizations such as Achieve, ACT, and Education Commission for the States, as well as national content organizations, as they developed high school reform materials for distribution across the country.

An alignment match with ACT and Michigan's state standards and content expectations can be found on <http://www.act.org/education/statematch> and with a link on our high school website.