



Oh, that explains it



Michigan Merit Curriculum High School Graduation Requirements

[illegible]

Updated September 2007



DUAL ENROLLMENT, ADVANCED PLACEMENT AND INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE

What the Michigan Merit Curriculum Law Says

380.1278b(14) This law does not prohibit a pupil from satisfying or exceeding the credit requirements of the Michigan Merit Curriculum through advanced studies such as accelerated course placement, advanced placement, dual enrollment in a postsecondary institution, or participation in the International Baccalaureate program or an early college/middle college program.

What the Postsecondary Enrollment Options Act 160 of 1996 Says

388.511(1) This act shall be known and may be cited as the "postsecondary enrollment options act".

388.512 Purpose of act. MCL 388.512 Purpose of act.

Sec. 2.

The purpose of this act is to provide a wider variety of options to high school pupils by encouraging and enabling qualified pupils to enroll in courses or programs in eligible postsecondary institutions.

388.513 Definitions; rules; scope.

Sec. 3.

(1) As used in this act:

(a) "Community college" means a community college established under the community college act of 1966, 1966 PA 331, MCL 389.1 to 389.195, or under part 25 of the revised school code, 1976 PA 451, MCL 380.1601 to 380.1607, or a federal tribally controlled community college located in this state that is recognized under the tribally controlled community college assistance act of 1978, 25 USC 1801 to 1852, and is determined by the department to meet the requirements for accreditation by a recognized regional accrediting body.

(b) "Department" means the department of education.

(c) "Eligible charges" means tuition and mandatory course fees, material fees, and registration fees required by an eligible institution for enrollment in an eligible course. Eligible charges also include any late fees charged by an eligible postsecondary institution due to the school district's failure to make a required payment according to the timetable prescribed under this act. Eligible charges do not include transportation or parking costs or activity fees.

(d) "Eligible course" means a course offered by an eligible postsecondary institution that is not offered by the school district in which the eligible student is enrolled, or that is offered by the school district but is determined by the board of the school district to not be available to the eligible student because of a scheduling conflict beyond the eligible student's control; that is an academic course not ordinarily taken as an activity course; that is a course that the postsecondary institution normally applies toward satisfaction of degree requirements; that is not a hobby craft or recreational course; and that is in a subject area other than physical education, theology, divinity, or religious education. However, until the 2006-2007 school year, for an eligible student who has not achieved state endorsement in all subject areas under section 1279 of the revised school code, 1976 PA 451, MCL 380.1279, an eligible course is limited to a course in a subject area for which he or she has achieved state endorsement, a course in computer science or foreign language not offered by the school district, or a course in fine arts as permitted by the school district. Beginning with eligibility to participate under this act during the 2006-2007 school year, for an eligible student who has not achieved a qualifying score in each subject area on a readiness assessment or the Michigan merit examination, as applicable for the student, an eligible course is limited to a course in a subject area for which he or she has achieved a qualifying score, a course in computer science or foreign language not offered by the school district, or a course in fine arts as permitted by the school district.

(e) "Eligible postsecondary institution" means a state university, community college, or independent nonprofit degree-granting college or university that is located in this state and that chooses to comply with this act.

(f) "Eligible student" means, except as otherwise provided in this subdivision, a student enrolled in at least 1 high school class in at least grade 11 in a school district in this state, except a foreign exchange pupil enrolled in a school district under a cultural exchange program. Until the 2006-2007 school year, to be an eligible student a student must have achieved state endorsement in all subject areas under section 1279 of the revised school code, 1976 PA 451, MCL 380.1279, and, subject to subsection (2), the student shall not have been enrolled in high school for more than 4 school years including the school year in which the student seeks to enroll in an eligible course under this act. However, if the student has not achieved state endorsement in all subject areas under that section, the student is an eligible student only for the limited purpose of enrolling in 1 or more eligible courses under this act in a subject area for which he or she has achieved state endorsement, in computer science or foreign language not offered by the school district, or in fine arts as permitted by the school district. Beginning with eligibility to participate under this act during the 2006-2007 school year, to be an eligible student a student who has not taken the Michigan merit examination must have achieved a qualifying score in all subject areas on a readiness assessment and a student who has taken the Michigan merit examination must have achieved a qualifying score in all subject areas on the Michigan merit examination, and, subject to subsection (2), the student shall not have been enrolled in high school for more than 4 school years including the school year in which the student seeks to enroll in an eligible course under this act. However, if the student has not achieved a qualifying score in all subject areas on a readiness assessment or the Michigan merit examination, as applicable for the student, the student is an eligible student only for the limited purpose of enrolling in 1 or more eligible courses under this act in a subject area for which he or she has achieved a qualifying score, in computer science or foreign language not offered by the school district, or in fine arts as permitted by the school district. For the purposes of determining the number of years a pupil has been enrolled in high school, a pupil who is enrolled in high school for less than 90 days of a school year due to illness or other circumstances beyond the control of the pupil or the pupil's parent or guardian is not considered to be enrolled in high school for that school year.

(g) "Intermediate school district" means that term as defined in section 4 of the revised school code, 1976 PA 451, MCL 380.4.

(h) "Michigan merit examination" means that examination developed under section 1279g of the revised school code, 1976 PA 451, MCL 380.1279g.

(i) "Qualifying score" means a score on a readiness assessment or the Michigan merit examination that has been determined by the superintendent of public instruction to indicate readiness to enroll in a postsecondary course in that subject area under this act.

(j) "Readiness assessment" means assessment instruments that are aligned with state learning standards; that are used nationally to provide high school students with an early indication of college readiness proficiency in English, mathematics, reading, social studies, and science and may contain a comprehensive career planning program; and that are approved by the superintendent of public instruction for the purposes of this act.

(k) "School district" means that term as defined in section 6 of the revised school code, 1976 PA 451, MCL 380.6, a local act school district as defined in section 5 of the revised school code, 1976 PA 451, MCL 380.5, or a public school academy as defined in section 5 of the revised school code, 1976 PA 451, MCL 380.5.

(l) "State university" means a state institution of higher education described in section 4, 5, or 6 of article VIII of the state constitution of 1963.

(2) The superintendent of public instruction shall promulgate rules establishing criteria and procedures under which a student who has been enrolled in high school for more than 4 years but not more than 5 years may be considered to be an eligible student. The rules shall address special circumstances under which a student may qualify to be considered an eligible student under this subsection and may limit the number of courses in which a student who qualifies under this subsection may enroll. For the purposes of determining the number of years a pupil has been enrolled in high school, a pupil who is enrolled in high school for less than 90 days of a school year due to illness or other circumstances

beyond the control of the pupil or the pupil's parent or guardian is not considered to be enrolled for that school year.

388.513a Readiness assessment; duties of superintendent of public instruction.

Sec. 3a.

(1) Not later than July 1, 2005, the superintendent of public instruction shall do both of the following:

(a) Approve 1 or more readiness assessments that may be used for the purposes of determining eligible students beginning with participation in the 2006-2007 school year. Readiness assessments shall be aligned with state learning standards and shall provide high school students with an early indication of proficiency in the subject areas of English, mathematics, reading, social studies, and science and contain a comprehensive career planning program.

(b) Determine qualifying scores for each subject area component of a readiness assessment that indicate readiness to enroll in a postsecondary course in that subject area under this act.

(2) Not later than July 1, 2006, the superintendent of public instruction shall determine qualifying scores for each subject area component of the Michigan merit examination that indicate readiness to enroll in a postsecondary course in that subject area under this act.

(3) Unless the school district in which the student is enrolled elects to pay these costs, a student who takes a readiness assessment for the purposes of this act is responsible for paying all costs for taking and obtaining qualifying scores on a readiness assessment for the purposes of this act. This state is not responsible for any of these costs.

388.514 Student eligibility; letter signed by student's principal; application for enrollment; notice to be sent by postsecondary institution; bill detailing eligible charges; payment by school district; late fee; attendance verification; refund; availability of correspondence; books as school property; section inapplicable to certain courses; transportation and parking costs not required.

Sec. 4.

(1) The school district in which an eligible student is enrolled shall provide to the eligible student a letter signed by the student's principal indicating the student's eligibility under this act.

(2) An eligible student may apply to an eligible postsecondary institution to enroll in 1 or more eligible courses offered by that eligible postsecondary institution and, if accepted, may enroll in 1 or more of those courses.

(3) Within a reasonable time after registration, the eligible postsecondary institution shall send written notice to the eligible student and his or her school district. The notice shall indicate the course or courses and hours of enrollment of that eligible student. The eligible postsecondary institution shall notify the eligible student about tuition, fees, books, materials, and other related charges, as determined by the postsecondary institution, in the customary manner used by the eligible postsecondary institution, and shall notify the eligible student of the estimated amount of the eligible charges that will be billed to the school district under subsection (4).

(4) Unless otherwise agreed between the eligible postsecondary institution and the school district, after the expiration of the institution's drop/add period for the course, an eligible postsecondary institution shall send a bill to the eligible student's school district detailing the eligible charges for each eligible course in which the student is enrolled under this act.

(5) Upon receiving the bill under subsection (4), the school district shall cause to be paid to the eligible postsecondary institution on behalf of the eligible student an amount equal to the lesser of the amount of the eligible charges or the prorated percentage of the state portion of the foundation allowance paid on behalf of that particular eligible student under section 20 of the state school aid act of 1979, Act No. 94 of the Public Acts of 1979, being section 388.1620 of the Michigan Compiled Laws, with the proration based on the proportion of the school year that the eligible student attends the postsecondary institution. A school district may pay more money to an eligible postsecondary institution on behalf of an eligible student than is required under this act, and may use local school operating revenue for that purpose. The eligible student is responsible for payment of the remainder of the costs associated with his or her postsecondary enrollment that exceed the amount the school district is required to pay under this act and that are not paid by the school district. As used in this

subsection, "local school operating revenue" means that term as defined in section 20 of Act No. 94 of the Public Acts of 1979.

(6) An eligible postsecondary institution shall not charge a late fee to an eligible student or a school district for a payment that is made in compliance with the timetable prescribed under this act even if the payment would otherwise be considered late by the postsecondary institution.

(7) A school district may require an eligible student to provide, on a form supplied by the school district, reasonable verification that the eligible student is regularly attending a postsecondary course.

(8) If an eligible student enrolled in an eligible course under this act does not complete the eligible course, and if the school district has paid money for the course on behalf of the student, the postsecondary institution shall forward to the school district any funds that are refundable due to noncompletion of the course. The school district shall then forward to the student any refunded money in excess of the amount paid by the school district for the course on behalf of the student.

(9) A school district shall make available to an eligible student enrolled in the school district copies of all correspondence in the possession of the school district regarding the eligible student's participation in postsecondary enrollment under this act. Correspondence described in this subsection shall be kept by the school district for at least 1 year.

(10) If a school district pays for books for an eligible student for a postsecondary course under this section, the books are the property of the school district and shall be turned over to the school district after the eligible student completes the course.

(11) This section does not apply to any postsecondary courses in which an eligible student is enrolled in addition to being enrolled full-time in that eligible student's school district; to a postsecondary course an eligible student is retaking after failing to achieve a satisfactory grade; or to a course contrary to the eligibility provisions of this act. In determining full-time enrollment in a school district under this act or full-time equated membership under Act No. 94 of the Public Acts of 1979, being sections 388.1601 to 388.1772 of the Michigan Compiled Laws, for pupils enrolled in a postsecondary institution under this act, the pupil's enrollment in both the school district and the postsecondary institution shall be counted as enrollment in the school district and a pupil shall not be considered to be enrolled in a school district less than full-time solely because of the effect of the pupil's postsecondary enrollment, including necessary travel time, on the number of class hours provided by the school district to the pupil.

(12) This act does not require a school district to pay or otherwise provide financial support for transportation or parking costs necessary for an eligible student to participate in postsecondary enrollment under this act. A school district is not liable for any injury incurred by an eligible student that is related to transportation necessary for the eligible student to participate in postsecondary enrollment under this act.

388.515 Participation in intercollegiate athletics prohibited.

Sec. 5.

An eligible student enrolled in a postsecondary institution under this act shall not participate in intercollegiate athletics at the postsecondary institution while he or she is enrolled under this act. An eligible student who violates this subsection forfeits his or her eligibility under this act.

388.516 Priority of students.

Sec. 6.

An eligible postsecondary institution may give priority to its postsecondary students when enrolling eligible students in postsecondary courses under this act for high school credit only. Once an eligible student has been enrolled in a postsecondary course under this act, the postsecondary institution shall not displace the eligible student with another student.

388.517 Academic credit.

Sec. 7.

(1) An eligible student may enroll in, and receive payment by the school district under section 4(5) of

all or part of eligible charges for, an eligible course under this act for high school credit or postsecondary credit, or both. At the time an eligible student enrolls in a postsecondary course under this act, he or she shall designate whether the course is for high school or postsecondary credit, or both, and shall notify both his or her high school and the postsecondary institution of that designation. An eligible student taking more than 1 postsecondary course under this act may make different credit designations under this subsection for different courses. An eligible student shall not audit a postsecondary course in which he or she is enrolled under this act.

(2) A school district shall grant academic credit to an eligible student enrolled in an eligible course for high school credit under this act if he or she successfully completes the course, as determined by the eligible postsecondary institution. The amount of high school credit granted by a school district for a postsecondary course completed under this act shall be determined by the school district.

(3) The high school credits granted to an eligible student under this act shall be counted toward the graduation requirements and subject area requirements of the school district. Evidence of successful completion of each course and high school credits granted shall be included in the eligible student's high school record. Subject to section 438 of subpart 2 of part C of the general education provisions act, title IV of Public Law 90-247, 20 U.S.C. 1232g, commonly referred to as the family educational rights and privacy act of 1974, an eligible postsecondary institution shall provide the school district with a copy of the eligible student's grade in each course taken for high school credit under this act. Upon the request of an eligible student, his or her high school record and transcript shall also include evidence of successful completion and postsecondary credits granted for a course taken for postsecondary credit under this act. In either case, the eligible student's high school record and transcript shall indicate that the credits were earned at an eligible postsecondary institution and identify the postsecondary institution.

(4) If a student enrolls in an eligible postsecondary institution after leaving high school, the eligible postsecondary institution, in accordance with institutional policy, shall award postsecondary credit for postsecondary courses successfully completed by that student for high school credit under this act at that eligible postsecondary institution. An eligible postsecondary institution shall not charge a student for credit awarded under this subsection.

388.518 Enrollment without tuition or fee support.

Sec. 8.

This act does not restrict the ability of an eligible student or any other pupil to enroll in any postsecondary institution without tuition and fee support under this act.

388.519 Information and counseling services.

Sec. 9.

(1) Each school district shall provide information to all high school students on the postsecondary enrollment options under this act, including enrollment eligibility; the institutions and types of courses that are eligible for participation; the decision making process for granting academic credits; an explanation of eligible charges that will be paid by the school district and of financial arrangements for eligible charges and for paying costs not paid for by the school district; eligibility for payment of all or part of eligible charges by the school district under this act; an explanation that, if the student qualifies for payment of all or part of eligible charges by the school district under this act, the school district will pay that support directly to the postsecondary institution upon being billed by the postsecondary institution and that the student is not responsible for that payment but is responsible for payment of costs not paid for under this act; available support services; the need to arrange an appropriate schedule; consequences of failing or not completing a postsecondary course in which the eligible student enrolls; the effect of enrolling in a postsecondary course on the eligible student's ability to complete the required high school graduation requirements; and the academic and social responsibilities that must be assumed by the eligible student and his or her parent or guardian.

(2) To the extent possible, a school district shall provide counseling services to an eligible student and his or her parent or guardian before the eligible student enrolls in postsecondary courses under this act to ensure that the eligible student and his or her parent or guardian are fully aware of the benefits,

risks, and possible consequences of enrolling in a postsecondary course. The person providing the counseling shall encourage the eligible student and his or her parent or guardian to also use available counseling services at the eligible postsecondary institutions before the quarter or semester of enrollment to ensure that anticipated plans are appropriate. A school district may provide the counseling required under this section in a group meeting if additional personalized counseling is also made available.

(3) Before enrolling in an eligible course at an eligible postsecondary institution under this act, an eligible student and his or her parent or guardian shall file with the eligible postsecondary institution a signed form provided by the eligible student's school district stating that the student is an eligible student and has received the information and counseling specified in subsections (1) and (2) and that the student understands the responsibilities that must be assumed in enrolling in the course. Upon request, the department shall provide technical assistance to a school district and to an eligible postsecondary institution in developing appropriate forms and counseling guidelines for purposes of this section.

388.520 General information.

Sec. 10.

By May 1, 1996, and by March 1 of each succeeding year, a school district shall provide general information about the postsecondary enrollment options under this act to all pupils in grade 8 or higher.

388.521 Annual comprehensive financial report; summary annual report.

Sec. 11.

(1) Each intermediate school district annually shall collect from each of its constituent school districts and provide to the department at the same time that it submits the annual comprehensive financial report required under section 18 of the state school aid act of 1979, Act No. 94 of the Public Acts of 1979, being section 388.1618 of the Michigan Compiled Laws, information for the immediately preceding school year on all of the following:

(a) The amount of money expended by the school district for payments required under this act.

(b) The number of eligible students who were enrolled in the school district and the number of those eligible students who enrolled in 1 or more postsecondary courses and received payment of all or part of eligible charges under this act, both in the aggregate and by grade level.

(c) The percentage of the school district's enrollment represented by the eligible students described in subdivision (b), both in the aggregate and by grade level.

(d) The total number of postsecondary courses for which the school district made payment under this act, the number of those courses for which postsecondary credit was granted, the number of those courses for which high school credit was granted, and the number of those courses that were not completed by the eligible student.

(2) Not later than March 1 of each year, the department shall prepare and submit to the house and senate fiscal agencies and the department of management and budget a summary annual report on the information received under subsection (1).

388.522 Rules.

Sec. 12.

(1) The department may promulgate rules it considers necessary to implement this act. Rules shall be promulgated under the administrative procedures act of 1969, Act No. 306 of the Public Acts of 1969, being sections 24.201 to 24.328 of the Michigan Compiled Laws.

(2) If the Michigan supreme court rules that sections 45 and 46 of the administrative procedures act of 1969, Act No. 306 of the Public Acts of 1969, being sections 24.245 and 24.246 of the Michigan Compiled Laws, are unconstitutional and a statute requiring legislative review of administrative rules is not enacted within 90 days after the Michigan supreme court ruling, the department may not promulgate rules under this section.

POSTSECONDARY DUAL ENROLLMENT CRITERIA FOR FIFTH-YEAR HIGH SCHOOL PUPILS

Filed with the Secretary of State on July 2, 2007

These rules become effective immediately upon filing with the Secretary of State unless adopted under section 33, 44, or 45a(6) of 1969 PA 306. Rules adopted under these sections become effective 7 days after filing with the Secretary of State.

(By the authority conferred on the superintendent of public instruction by sections 513 and 522 of 1996 PA 160, MCL 388.513 and MCL 388.522 and by authority conferred on the department of labor and economic growth in consultation with the superintendent of public instruction by sections 1903 and 1912 of 2000 PA 258, MCL 388.1903 and MCL 388.1912)

R 388.151, R 388.152, R 388.153, R 388.154, and R 388.155 of the Michigan Administrative Code are added to the Code as follows:

R 388.151 Applicability of rules.

Rule 1. These rules apply to criteria and procedures for postsecondary dual enrollment for fifth-year high school pupils in postsecondary or career and technical preparation courses.

R 388.152 Definitions.

Rule 2. As used in these rules:

(a) "Acts" means the postsecondary enrollment options act of 1996 PA 160, MCL 388.511 to MCL 388.524 and the career and technical preparation act of 2000 PA 258, [MCL 388.1901](#) to MCL 388.1913.

(b) "Early college high school" or "middle college" means a public high school designed to allow a pupil to earn a high school diploma and an associate's degree or up to 2 years of transferable college credits.

(c) "Fifth-year high school pupil" means a pupil who is enrolled in high school for more than 4 years pursuant to MCL 388.513(2) or MCL 388.1903(2) of the acts.

R 388.153 Eligible fifth-year high school pupils.

Rule 3. (1) Fifth-year high school pupils enrolled and in attendance at a school district, intermediate school district or public school academy including pupils enrolled and in attendance in an alternative education program operated by a school district, intermediate school district or public school academy may enroll in postsecondary dual enrollment courses under the acts if both of the following are met:

(a) The pupil has not met all of the necessary requirements to be eligible to receive a high school diploma.

(b) The pupil is enrolled in not more than 2 postsecondary dual enrollment courses taken at any given time and not more than 4 postsecondary enrollment courses taken during the school year.

(2) A fifth-year high school pupil enrolled and in attendance at an early college high school or middle college may enroll in postsecondary dual enrollment courses under the acts if the pupil has not met all of the necessary requirements to be eligible to receive a high school diploma.

R 388.154 Procedures.

Rule 4. The pupil shall have a plan on file at the district to complete district graduation requirements within the academic year, including postsecondary dual enrollment options. The plan shall be signed by the principal or designee, the parent or legal guardian, and the pupil. If the pupil is at least age 18 or is an emancipated minor, the pupil may act on his or her behalf under this rule.

R 388.155 Compliance; postsecondary enrollment options act and career and technical preparation act.

Rule 5. (1) In addition to the requirement of these rules, the district shall comply with all requirements under the acts.

(2) The acts do not prohibit a district from supporting any pupil regardless of eligibility under those acts. A district may elect to support college level courses or career preparation courses for any pupil if it is in the best interest of the pupil.

Questions & Answers

1. Q: How will these new graduation requirements affect advanced learners?

A: For many students including advance learners who already have chosen a rigorous curriculum, the new state graduation requirements will be similar and should not result in a substantial change. For example, Advanced Placement (AP) courses in required subject areas such as mathematics, science, English language arts, social studies, or Visual, Performing and Applied Arts will satisfy the new state graduation requirements.

Michigan schools offering the International Baccalaureate (IB) program also would provide students the opportunity to meet the new graduation requirements since the IB program covers the credit areas listed in the requirements.

Students who are “dual-enrolled” in community college or university classes in the credit areas specified in the graduation requirements also would meet these requirements.

In addition, students who successfully complete a credit-earning online class through the Michigan Virtual High School, another provider of online courses, a community college, or a university (in a required graduation credit area, for example, US History & Geography) would be considered as having met the particular graduation requirement. In addition, by successfully completing the online course, the student also would be considered to have met the online requirement (for credit or not for credit) or learning experience. (Updated 8/07)

2. Q: Is a student allowed to count a math class taken through dual enrollment at a 2-year or 4-year institution for a mathematics credit required under the Michigan Merit Curriculum?

A: Yes. If the district determines the class meets the Michigan Merit Curriculum course/credit content expectations for that credit or the district's requirements for a 4th math credit. In addition, all students, regardless of where the credit is offered, should be held to the same level of proficiency (passing standards). This could be accomplished by working with the two year or four year institution to align its content and assessment to the credit content expectations. A district also could establish a policy requiring a student who successfully completed a credit at a two year or four year institution to take the credit assessment to earn credit.

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3. Q: What is the law that governs early college credit opportunities for students?

A: The Postsecondary Enrollment Options Act (PSEO) or Public Act 160 of 1996, provides for payment from a school district's state aid foundation grant for enrollment of certain eligible high school students in postsecondary courses of education. The law establishes eligibility criteria for students, institutions, and courses; requires eligible charges (tuition, mandatory course or material fees, and registrations fees) to be billed to a school district; establishes enrollment and credit requirements; requires school districts to provide counseling and information to eligible students and their parents; and requires intermediate school districts to report to the Department of Education.

Note: This law has been included at the beginning of this Dual Enrollment document.

4. Q: Must districts offer college level equivalent courses?

A: The Michigan State Board of Education approved recommendations in June 2006 that urge local high school districts to offer at least two college credit earning opportunities for the 2007-2008 school year to their students, with one of the opportunities being an Advanced Placement course. For the 2008-2009 school year, four such opportunities are recommended with at least two being Advanced Placement courses.

5. Q: Which postsecondary schools may students attend?

A: The law states that support is available to students attending any Michigan public or private, degree-granting postsecondary institution that chooses to participate. The Michigan Virtual High School, The Michigan Virtual AP Academy, and the Michigan Virtual University also are recognized by the state as accredited institutions.

6. Q: Are districts required to inform students of early college credit opportunities?

A: Yes. By March 1 of each school year, school districts are legally required to provide general information about postsecondary enrollment opportunities such as Advanced Placement (AP), dual enrollment, early and middle college high schools, career and technical preparation enrollment options, etc., to all students in grade 8 or higher.

Districts also are required to send all students in grades 11 and 12 who have taken the Michigan Merit Exam or other state approved readiness assessment, regardless of score, a letter, signed by the student's principal, indicating their eligibility.

To assist schools in this effort, the Michigan Department of Education has developed an informational brochure for schools and parents. This brochure is available in two formats and can be found on the MDE high school web site at www.mi.gov/highschool.

7. Q: Which students are eligible to participate in postsecondary options?

A: The law mandates that all eligible students wishing to dual enroll **MUST** be allowed the postsecondary opportunity. To be eligible, students must:

- Be enrolled in a high school class in a school district in this state
 - Be in at least 11th grade or if in a lower grade be approved by the district
 - Have taken and achieved a qualifying score in:
 - All subject areas of the Michigan Merit Exam or other state approved readiness assessment
- Or**
- In the subject area of the eligible course a student would like to take
 - Eligible students may take courses in subjects for which there are no endorsements such as history, political science, psychology, computer science or foreign language, as long as they have taken all sections of the MME, ACT PLAN, or College Board PSAT. State endorsement is not required in any specific area for this participation.
 - Not be enrolled in high school for more than 4 school years. Under the law, adult education students are not eligible.

Approved Assessments and Qualifying Scores

Michigan Merit Exam - Students who score at levels 1 or 2 (Exceeded the Standard or Met the Standard) will be eligible for dual enrollment.

- Mathematics Level 1 or 2 (Meets or Exceeds Standard)
- Reading Level 1 or 2 (Meets or Exceeds Standard)
- Writing Level 1 or 2 (Meets or Exceeds Standard)
- Science Level 1 or 2 (Meets or Exceeds Standard)

ACT & PLAN Assessment

- Mathematics 18
- Reading 17
- Science 19
- English 21

PSAT Assessment

- Critical Reading 44
- Writing Skills 49
- Math 45

Currently, the Michigan Department of Education is working to expand this list of approved assessments to include college placement tests such as COMPASS or ACCUPLACER.

8. Q: What are the courses students may take?

A: Eligible courses include:

- A course offered by an eligible postsecondary institution that is not offered by the school district including Advance Placement and online courses
- A course offered by the school district but is determined by the board of the school district to not be available to the eligible student because of a scheduling conflict beyond the eligible student's control

In addition, the state's Career and Technical Preparation Act provides a wider variety of options to high school students by encouraging and enabling qualified students to enroll in courses or programs in career and technical preparation programs at eligible postsecondary education institutions. For more information on these options visit www.mi.gov/dualenrollment.

9. Q: Are there any limitations regarding which courses a student may take at a postsecondary institution?

A: Yes. Courses that are a hobby, craft, recreational or a course that is in the areas of physical education, theology, divinity, or religious education, are not eligible for tuition support.

10. Q: Do students have to "exhaust" the high school's curriculum before they are eligible for postsecondary enrollment?

A: No. State law requires the postsecondary course(s) eligible for tuition support be course(s) not offered by the district, but does not require students to take all available high school courses before enrolling in postsecondary courses. However, if the district offers college level equivalent courses (Advanced Placement or IB), these courses have precedence over an entry-level postsecondary course with similar content. Also, high school credits granted to a student under this Act shall be counted toward the graduation and subject area requirements of the school district.

11. Q: May students dual enroll in more than one course at a postsecondary institution?

A: Yes. State law does not set limitations on the number of college courses in which a student may enroll. The only stipulations are that the student be enrolled in both the district and postsecondary institution during the district's regular academic year, and be enrolled in at least one high school course.

12. Q: May students attend college classes in the evening?

A: Yes. Students may elect to take college courses during the school day, in the evening, or on weekends. Courses should be taken on campus or through a virtual university. If a public school pupil successfully completes a college level equivalent course that is offered by electronic means, including, but not limited to, the Internet, digital broadcast, or satellite network, and if offered by a regionally accredited college or university, or the Michigan Virtual High School described in Section 1481, the district is required to:

- Grant appropriate high school credit for completion of the course;
- Count that credit toward the graduation and subject area requirements of the state, school district or public school academy.

13. Q: Who decides what type of credit a student will receive for postsecondary enrollment?

A: The law requires a student to designate whether the course is for high school or postsecondary credit, or both at the time of enrollment. Students also are required to notify the high school of his/her decision. Students taking more than one postsecondary course may make different credit designations for different courses.

14. Q: Should districts accept the grade a student receives in a college course and incorporate it into the student's high school grade point average (GPA)?

A: The language does not address the issue of grades. However, in its Guide for the College Bound Student Athlete, the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) requires that all core courses used for collegiate athletic eligibility must indicate a grade and be calculated in to the student's high school GPA. This requirement only pertains to Division I or II collegiate athletes. It is of great importance that students are informed of these regulations and offered the opportunity to request a grade on their transcripts.

15. Q: How much high school credit must a district grant a student for completion of a postsecondary course?

A: The language states that a school district must grant academic credit if the student receives credit from the postsecondary institution. The high school credits granted to a student must be counted toward the graduation requirements and subject area requirements of the school district and/or the state of Michigan.

16. Q: What issues should high school counselors address when they meet with students considering dual enrollment?

A: Counseling is critical. Students capable of college-level curricula are not automatically knowledgeable about college course selection and enrollment process. To the extent possible, districts shall provide counseling services to each eligible student and his or her parent or guardian of the benefits, risks, and possible consequences of enrolling in a postsecondary course. A district may provide the counseling in a group meeting if additional individual counseling is also made available.

17. Q: Is a parent required to go through their child's school or district to enroll and pay their student to take a course at a community college?

A: No. A parent may at any time enroll and pay for their child to take a college course. However, to enroll a student will need to meet the entrance requirements of the post secondary institution. The issue of having the student receive high school credit for this course is up to the discretion of the district and should be coordinated directly with the student's school.

18. Q: Exactly what costs are school districts required to pay?

A: State law requires that all school districts must pay a student's tuition and mandatory course fees, including technology fees, materials fees, registration fees, and any late fees charged by the postsecondary institution. Eligible charges do not include books, transportation, parking costs, or most activity fees. However, under the law, the total amount of tuition and fee support shall not exceed either of the following:

- The total amount of the tuition and fees for the course(s);
- The sum of the state portion of the district's foundation allowance, per membership pupil, adjusted for the proportion of the school year that the student attends the postsecondary institution.

For example:

Student's State Portion of the Foundation Allowance for 2007-2008 school year might be \$6,000 per year and \$3,000 per semester. If the high school has a 6-hour day, each hour would equate to \$500.00 per course ($\$3,000 \div 6$). Therefore, the local district would be responsible for the actual charge for tuition and fees for the college courses up to the amount of \$500.00, or the actual amount charged by the postsecondary institution, whichever is less. FTE calculations are based on the total number of both high school and college courses, equaling 100 percent of enrolled time, or Full Time Equivalency (FTE).

Should the total number of both high school and college courses not equal 100 percent of enrolled time (including travel and course lab time), the per course rate would be adjusted accordingly.

19. Q: Is the payment for which school districts are responsible based on the number of credits a student is taking or the number of courses involved?

A: No. The number of courses. State law requires that school districts must pay tuition, registration fees, materials fees, and required *course* fees for the postsecondary *course(s)* of the dually enrolled pupil.

20. Q: Can students receive Postsecondary Enrollment Options Act tuition/fee support for college courses taken during the summer?

A: The language states that students may receive support for courses during the school district's regular academic year. However, many postsecondary institutions offer a spring term, which begins during a district's academic year and ends during the summer. If 50 percent or more of the college class/term falls within the local district's regular academic year (calendar), students must be allowed to enroll and receive tuition/fee support.

21. Q: Can local districts provide a greater amount of tuition/fee support to students than is required in the Postsecondary Enrollment Options Act and the Section 21b language?

A: Yes. The law requires districts to pay an amount not to exceed the lesser of the actual charges for tuition and mandatory course fees, materials fees, and registration fees, or the state portion of the district's foundation allowance, adjusted for the proportion of the school year that the student attends the postsecondary institution.

However, districts may provide a larger amount, including books, transportation, parking and activities fees. If districts elect to pay for books under this section, the books are the property of the district and should be turned over to the district to be used as it sees fit upon completion of the course. Districts may elect to use the local school operating revenue for this purpose.

22. Q: Can districts stipulate that dually enrolled students must “successfully” complete college courses before tuition and fee support is paid?

A: No. The language states that if a student provides the postsecondary institution with written proof of eligibility, the postsecondary institution will transmit a bill to the district detailing the eligible charges for each eligible course. The language also states that if a dually enrolled pupil does not complete the postsecondary course, the postsecondary institution shall forward to the district any funds that are refundable due to non-completion of the course. In traditional classes, students are not reimbursed when students fail or stop participating. If they were, the district would not be eligible for that portion of the foundation grant.

23. Q: How does this legislation interface with existing arrangements between local districts and postsecondary institutions: For example, districts that contract with community colleges for vocational-technical courses?

A: Programs such as these are the decision of the local school districts and participating postsecondary institutions, and are usually funded with vocational-technical education monies or through arrangements with the local district. They are not considered as dual enrollment, but as a component of the high school curriculum, and are not affected by this legislation.

24. Q: How should districts count students involved in postsecondary enrollment in terms of full-time equated membership?

A: The language stipulates that for students enrolled in a postsecondary institution under this Act, the student’s enrollment in both the school district and the postsecondary institution shall be counted as enrollment in the school district. A student shall not be considered to be enrolled in a district less than full-time solely because of the effect of the student’s postsecondary enrollment, including necessary travel time. College courses requiring lab time and offering more than four hours of credit are counted as two high school course credits for the purpose of FTE.

25. Q: How should local districts process PSEO payments on their budget breakdowns?

A: Districts should use Function Code 113: High School Instructional Costs under Purchased (Contractual) Services.

26. Q: How will districts report to the Department of Education?

A: School districts report the following information as required by Section 18(3):

- Total dollars expended for students involved in postsecondary enrollment;
- Number of students eligible for postsecondary enrollment;
- Number of pupils involved in postsecondary enrollment during the preceding school year (aggregate and by grade level);
- The percentage of the district’s enrollment represented by students involved in postsecondary enrollment;
- The number of postsecondary courses paid for by the district under this Act;
- The number of postsecondary courses for which college credit was granted;
- The number of postsecondary courses for which high school credit was granted;
- The number of postsecondary courses that were not completed by students.

27. Q: What is the definition of a College Level Equivalent Course (CLEC)?

A: CLEC is defined to mean a course offered in high school, such as the International Baccalaureate (IB) and Advanced Placement (AP) offerings, for which a student receives high school credit and may receive college credit, if the student successfully passes a college level equivalent credit examination.

28. Q: Must districts comply with this legislation?

A: Yes. The law states that districts and public school academies “shall” use funds allocated under the State School Aid Act to support participation in postsecondary options of eligible high school students at postsecondary institutions. Thus, districts and public school academies must comply.

29. Q: What is the Michigan Virtual High School?

A: The Michigan Virtual High School is a development of the Michigan Virtual University and was designed to expand curricular offerings for high schools across the state, create a statewide instructional model using interactive multimedia tools, and provide pupils and teachers with opportunities to develop skills through online learning. In order to expand the options of qualified high school students, the Michigan Virtual University also has developed the Michigan Virtual AP Academy. The goal of the Academy is to make Advanced Placement courses available to all qualified students within the State of Michigan. For more information, visit their website at www.mivu.org.

30. Q: Can a district establish dual enrollment requirements such as a 3.0 Grade Point Average (GPA) beyond those required by law?

A: No. A district may only use the eligibility criteria outlined in state law and may not establish additional requirements which would prohibit a pupil from satisfying or exceeding the credit requirements of the Michigan Merit Curriculum through advanced studies such as advanced placement courses, dual enrollment in a postsecondary institution, participation in the International Baccalaureate program or early or middle college high school programs.