

CAREER/TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANS

What the Michigan Merit Curriculum Law Says

380.1278b(7) *The board of a school district or board of directors of a public school academy that operates a high school shall ensure that each pupil is offered the curriculum necessary for the pupil to meet the Michigan Merit Curriculum. The board or board of directors may provide this curriculum by providing the credits by using alternative instructional delivery methods such as alternative course work, humanities course sequences, career and technical education, industrial technology courses, or vocational education, or by a combination of these. School districts and public school academies that operate career and technical education programs are encouraged to integrate the credit requirements into those programs.*

Educational Development Plan

380.1278b(11) *The board of a school district or board of directors of a public school academy shall ensure that each pupil in grade 7 is provided with the opportunity to develop an educational development plan, and that each pupil has developed an educational development plan before he or she begins high school. An educational development plan shall be developed by the pupil under the supervision of the pupil's school counselor or another designee qualified under section [380.1233](#) or [380.1233a](#) selected by the high school principal and shall be based on a career pathways program or similar career exploration program.*

Questions & Answers

1. Q: The description of the new graduation requirements implies some academic credit could be earned in Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs. How can this be done? (UPDATED 8/07)

A: On June 12, 2007, the State Board of Education was presented with the "Guidelines on Awarding Academic Credit." The document was developed over many months with input from MDE staff, the Office of Career and Technical Preparation, and practicing educators in Career and Technical Education. In the spring of 2007, CTE Administrators from around the state provided input to the document. The guidelines are posted on the Michigan Department of Education website.

These guidelines provide a format for using teacher work teams in each local district to examine the CTE curriculum and determine the amount of academic credit to award based on a crosswalk with the content expectations. Local districts are encouraged to use the guidelines for awarding academic credit in ways other than CTE as well. The process will help to legitimize that academic standards can be taught using a variety of delivery models and will hopefully inspire creativity and encourage teachers to include other teaching techniques, such as thematic units, project-based learning, portfolios and other strategies to provide the best possible learning options for students.

2. Q: Can students earn credit through a CTE program?

A: Yes. Career and Technical courses may be used to help students earn the necessary credits in a variety of required credit areas. For example, a district may allow a student to receive credit for Algebra or Geometry in building trades classes, if the district determines that the building trades program covers the required high school content expectations for those subjects. It is also possible for Career and Technical Education courses to be used to help students in an electronics class earn credit for the "one additional math or math-related" credit required in the Michigan Merit Curriculum. In addition, students, have the flexibility to earn merit core credits through online courses, testing out, summer school, and other local options.

Work is underway to align the CTE career cluster curriculum with the high school content expectations to identify the level of credit that can be awarded in each cluster for each core curriculum area.

3. Q: How will a CTE student demonstrate proficiency in the Michigan Merit Curriculum required course/credit?

A: A local district continues to have the authority to develop a method for determining and tracking student proficiency in meeting one or more course/credit content expectations for partial or full credit.

4. Q: Are CTE teachers required to be “highly qualified” to teach CTE courses that are subject to NCLB?

A: Yes. If the courses will be used to meet the course/content standards required for high school graduation, the CTE teacher must be highly qualified in the subject area OR participate in collaborative teaching with a highly qualified academic teacher. The CTE instructor also must be highly qualified and appropriately endorsed in the CTE subject area in which he/she are teaching. To see the “Guidelines for Award of Academic Credit document presented to the State Board of Education on June 12, 2007 visit [Guidelines on Awarding Academic Credit in Career and Technical Education, Humanities and Other Delivery Models](#) at www.mi.gov/highschool.

5. Q: Will the Michigan Merit Curriculum requirements impact the scheduling of regional Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs?

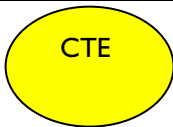
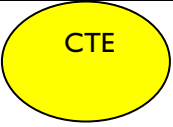
A: No. However, forward planning will be key. Students who wish to participate in regional Career and Technical programs should be able to schedule these for a full two-year sequence. Generally, students need one-half of the 6-period day (or three hours) for class instructional time and travel time to and from a center.

The graphic on the following page illustrates how students can participate in the two-year CTE program. It will be important, however, for students entering the 9th grade to know in advance that they will enroll in a CTE program in their junior and senior years and include this in their four-year high school plan. In addition, CTE classes may be able to meet some of the credit requirements in mathematics, science, English language arts, and social studies. After conducting alignment studies, districts may choose to offer special classes to supplement core content in CTE classes.

Additional information may now be found on at www.mi.gov/highschool under Guidelines on Awarding Academic Credit in Career and Technical Education, Humanities and Other Delivery Models.

SAMPLE CTE STUDENT SCHEDULES

Career and Technical Education

	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
Period 1	English 9	English 10	English 11	English 12
Period 2	Algebra 1	Geometry	Algebra II	Math-Related
Period 3	World History & Geography	US History & Geography	Gov/Econ	Science
Period 4	Biology	Chemistry		
Period 5	Health/PE	Visual, Performing, and Applied Arts (VPAA)		
Period 6	Language Other Than English	Language Other Than English		

A similar schedule could be developed for students who are interested in the Visual and Performing Arts, outlined below.

Sample Student Schedule - Instrumental Music Emphasis

	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
Period 1	English 9	English 10	English 11	English 12
Period 2	Algebra I	Geometry	Algebra II	Math-Related
Period 3	World History	US History	Government/Economics	Science
Period 4	Biology	Chemistry or Physics	Language Other Than English	Elective/Elective
Period 5	Health/PE	Language Other Than English	Elective/Elective	Elective/Elective
Period 6	Band	Band	Band	Band

Many schools have expanded student course offerings with little or no additional costs, by going to an alternative schedule like:

- 4x4 or A/B Block A modified
- 6-period block
- Trimester
- Zero and 7th hour (modified staff reporting time)

EFFECT ON HIGH SCHOOL SCHEDULING

Questions & Answers

1. Q: Different school districts have varying ways in which they schedule their high school class day. Will these new requirements force districts to change their high school class day schedules?

A: No. There is flexibility provided to school districts to maintain their current scheduling system or develop other systems to meet the individual needs and desires of each district. Sample scheduling options may be found on the following page.

Sample 7 Period Day Schedule

	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
Period 1	English 9	English 10	English 11	English 12
Period 2	Algebra I	Geometry	Algebra II	Math-Related
Period 3	Earth Science	Biology	Chemistry or Physics	CTE or Elective
Period 4	World History & Geography	US History & Geography	Government/Economics	CTE or Elective
Period 5	Health/PE	Visual, Performing and Applied Arts	CTE or Elective	CTE or Elective
Period 6	Language Other Than English	Language Other Than English	CTE or Elective	CTE or Elective
Period 7	Elective/ Elective	Elective/ Elective	CTE or Elective	CTE or Elective

Sample 4 x 4 Block / AB Block Schedule

First Semester or A Schedule

	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
Block 1	English 9	English 10	English 11	English 12
Block 2	Algebra 1	Geometry	Algebra II	Math-Related
Block 3	Health/PE	Language Other Than English	CTE or Elective	CTE or Elective
Block 4	Elective	Elective	CTE or Elective	CTE or Elective

Second Semester or B Schedule

	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
Block 1	World History & Geography	US History & Geography	Physics	Govt/Economics
Block 2	Biology	Chemistry	CTE or Elective	CTE or Elective
Block 3	Visual, Performing and Applied Arts	Elective	CTE or Elective	CTE or Elective
Block 4	Elective	Elective	CTE or Elective	CTE or Elective

Sample Trimester Schedule (Note: To provide educators ample time to cover all required content expectations in typical trimester schedule, longer class periods, which provide students with additional class time, may be required.)

Trimester 1	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
Period 1	English 9 A	English 10 A	CTE or Elective	CTE or Elective
Period 2	Biology A	US History & Geography A	CTE or Elective	CTE or Elective
Period 3	World History & Geography A	Elective	CTE or Elective	CTE or Elective
Period 4	Visual/Performing Arts A	Elective	English 11 A	English 12 A
Period 5	Algebra 1 A	Elective	Algebra II A	Math-Related A

Trimester 2	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
Period 1	Health/PE A	Elective	CTE or Elective	CTE or Elective
Period 2	Biology B	Elective	CTE or Elective	CTE or Elective
Period 3	Algebra 1 B	Chemistry A	CTE or Elective	CTE or Elective
Period 4	Visual/Performing Arts B	Geometry A	Algebra II B	math-Related B
Period 5	Language Other Than English 1A	Language Other Than English 2B	Economics	science A

Trimester 3	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
Period 1	English 9 B	English 10 B	CTE or Elective	CTE or Elective
Period 2	Health/PE B	US History & Geography B	CTE or Elective	CTE or Elective
Period 3	World History & Geography B	Chemistry B	CTE or Elective	CTE or Elective
Period 4	Language Other Than English 1B	Geometry B	Government	English 12 B
Period 5	Elective	Elective	English 11 B	Science B