

# 5th Year Early Middle College Pupil Membership Requirements

## Companion Document

January 2026

This companion document is intended to support the Pupil Membership Manual and is an aid to provide examples of meeting and/or not meeting Early Middle College (EMC) 5<sup>th</sup> year pupil membership and Michigan Merit Curriculum (MMC) math/math-related requirements.

[The Michigan Merit Curriculum FAQ and Guidance](#) webpage, clearly defines the flexibility of the MMC for local education agencies. For specific information regarding the law, please refer to [MCL 380.1278a](#) and [MCL 380.1278b](#).

### ***How does the Michigan Merit Curriculum impact local school district decisions?***

The MMC gives districts the flexibility to develop courses, curricula, and systems which meet the individual needs and desires of each district. Local school boards, in collaboration with district administration, have the responsibility to determine "how" to implement the graduation requirements outlined by the MMC and when students have earned the appropriate credits. Local boards of education can establish additional graduation requirements beyond those in the MMC and the total number of credits required for graduation. However, a district cannot establish lesser requirements".

### ***What counts as a credit under the Michigan Merit Curriculum?***

The MMC requires that credit be awarded based on a student's demonstration that he or she has successfully met the content expectations for the credit area, not by the commonly used Carnegie unit, which is based on seat time. The subject area standards, expectations, or guidelines outline the content required for earning the total credit in each content area as specified in the legislation. Districts determine the credit pathway options. A district may choose to assign a full subject area credit to a course; or may choose to design courses and learning experiences for students that provide opportunities for students to earn partial credit in one or more content areas.

### ***How can students earn credit?***

Students may earn credit if they successfully demonstrate mastery of the subject area content standards, expectations, or guidelines for the credit. The assignment of credit must be based, at least in part, on student performance on assessments designed to measure the extent to which they meet the standards, expectations, and guidelines. Assessments and criteria for success are determined by local districts. In addition to traditional course pathways, schools can also offer credit-bearing learning opportunities in a variety of ways, including Integrated Content and Course Sequences; Project-based Learning; Independent Teacher-guided Study; or testing out.

In addition, the district may allow students to satisfy credit requirements through:

- State-Approved Career and Technical Education
- Work-Based Learning Programs
- College Coursework
- Early College
- Advanced Placement Courses
- International Baccalaureate Courses
- On-line classes

### **Additional Information:**

#### **Final Year MMC Math Requirement for all Students**

All students must be enrolled in a district approved “math experience” i.e., a math/math-related class their final year of high school. For EMC students this would be their fifth year of high school.

- The course may be one semester or year long.
- The course may be a high school or college course.
- The course does not have to offer high school credit if the student has earned **4** math credits prior to the fifth year. **However, if the course offers high school credit, then pupil membership would be met for the count period in which the student was enrolled in the math/math-related course.**
- The local school district decides which courses meet the math experience.
- For additional information on what constitutes a math experience, visit [Michigan Merit Curriculum FAQ and Guidance](#).

#### **Pupil Membership Requirement for 5<sup>th</sup> Year for EMC Students**

All students must be enrolled in a course that counts for high school credit during **both** count periods in the fifth year.

- The local district has flexibility with how this requirement is met.
- The district determines the meeting frequency of the course(s).
- The course may be a high school or college course, seminar, internship, etc.
- The course(s) may be pass/fail.
- Courses can be at the high school, at the college, or on-line.
- The local district and student may decide if a postsecondary course will count for high school credit.
  - To determine how college credits equate to high school classes, the Department considers 12 credits to be a full-time college course load.

**For examples, assume the student is not enrolled in any other high school credit bearing secondary or postsecondary courses.**

Examples that **DO** meet the final year math experience and 5<sup>th</sup> year pupil membership requirements.

Example	5 <sup>th</sup> Year EMC	First Semester	Second Semester	✓ Equals Requirements Met
1.	Course	Personal Finance <i>the local district offers high school credit and counts the course as the final year math experience</i>	College Success Seminar <i>the local district offers high school credit for the course</i>	✓ Final Year Math Experience Met  ✓ 5 <sup>th</sup> Year Pupil Membership Requirement Met
2.	Course	MATH101 <i>the local district offers high school credit</i>	MATH102 <i>the local district offers high school credit</i>	✓ Final Year Math Experience Met  ✓ 5 <sup>th</sup> Year Pupil Membership Requirement Met

Examples that **DO NOT** meet the final year math experience or 5<sup>th</sup> year pupil membership requirements.

Example	5 <sup>th</sup> Year EMC	First Semester	Second Semester	✓ Equals Requirements Met
1. This is an example of not meeting the 5 <sup>th</sup> year Pupil Membership Requirement	Course	Personal Finance <i>the local district offers high school credit and counts the course as the final year math experience</i>	ENG 101 <i>the local district does not offer high school credit for the course</i>	✓ Final Year Math Experience Met  5 <sup>th</sup> Year Pupil Membership Requirement <b>NOT</b> Met
2. This is an example of not meeting the final year of math requirement	Course	High School Government <i>the local district offers high school credit but does not count the course as the final year math experience</i>	Biology 102 <i>the local district offers high school credit but determines there is not enough math content</i>	Final Year Math Experience <b>NOT</b> Met  ✓ 5 <sup>th</sup> Year Pupil Membership Requirement Met
3. This is an example of not meeting either requirement	Course	COL 101 College Success Strategies <i>the local district does not offer high school credit or count the course as the final year math experience</i>	COM 100 Communications <i>the local district does not offer high school credit or count the course as the final year math experience</i>	Final Year Math Experience <b>NOT</b> Met  5 <sup>th</sup> Year Pupil Membership Requirement <b>NOT</b> Met