



**Q:** *What can parents do to help students succeed with this new curriculum?*

**A:** Expect your child to achieve and succeed. The more you expect, the more they will learn.

Beginning in middle school and continuing through high school, students should work to develop a comprehensive career planning document called an Educational Development Plan (EDP). The EDP will help guide their scheduling choices and explore various career pathways.

Planning is key -- Students pursuing a specialized area of study, such as music or science, will work closely with Ms. Palmer and the counselors to ensure they develop an Educational Development Plan that will accommodate their interests.

Get involved and stay involved. When parents are actively involved, kids do better in school. Be a partner with each teacher. Teachers need your cooperation to do a first-class job. Together, you can help your child have a great school year. Help your child establish a study routine in a quiet area at home.

Most importantly, be supportive!

**Q:** *Are special education students required to complete the Michigan Merit Curriculum?*

**A:** Special Education students are general education students first, and by law, must be given access to, and support for success in, the general curriculum. Studies show all students learn and achieve more when they take a challenging curriculum rather than low-level courses. All students receiving special education services in Michigan must have an Individualized Education Program (IEP) that details the appropriate education plan outlining modifications, accommodations, and support for student success.

In addition, the law allows a parent or legal guardian to request a personal curriculum for the student that modifies some of the Michigan Merit Curriculum requirements.

### Michigan Merit Exam

Visit [www.michigan.gov/mme](http://www.michigan.gov/mme)  
& [www.michigan.gov/promise](http://www.michigan.gov/promise)

As of Spring 2007, Michigan said goodbye to the MEAP (Michigan Educational Assessment Plan) and hello to the Michigan Merit Exam (MME) which is administered in March of the junior year. The exam will provide students with:

- A free ACT college entrance exam score than can be used to apply to college.
- Students that take the entire 3 day exam can qualify for the \$4,000 Promise Scholarship. Visit website for eligibility requirements.
- A free ACT WorkKeys assessment that connects work skills, training, and testing to improve students education and job opportunities.

Michigan High School Graduation Requirements

# Making the Most Of High School



What you need to know about Michigan's NEW High School Graduation Requirements

**Harrison High School  
Counseling Department  
248-489-3504**

*Helping All Students Succeed*



# Making Learning Count



## Expect More

Getting students prepared and ready to take their place in the world is challenging. The knowledge and skills that were needed to enter college or land a well-paying job 10 or 20 years ago have changed.

Today, there is little difference between the skills students need to enter college or those needed for the workplace.

One thing is for certain, all parents want their children to be able to enter college without having to take costly remedial courses, as well as, secure a good job.

## Achieve More

Just as world-class athletes continue to break records once thought unbreakable, high school students are becoming more and more capable of mastering the subjects and concepts needed to be successful in our global economy.

To ensure every student in Michigan is prepared for college, technical training, or the workplace after high school graduation, on April 20, 2006, Governor Jennifer M. Granholm signed into law one of the most comprehensive sets of state high school graduation requirements in the nation.

It is called the Michigan Merit Curriculum. These graduation requirements are effective beginning with students entering 8th grade in 2006.

## The Michigan Merit Curriculum will:

-- Increase students' opportunity of getting scholarships, going to college and getting better jobs, pay and promotions.

-- Provide students the flexibility to select additional electives like arts or career training while in high school.

-- Allow students to earn high school credits before entering high school through courses, by testing-out of classes, through Advance Placement, Dual Enrollment, Career and Technical Education programs, summer school, and other local elective options.

-- Allow school districts to continue to set additional graduation requirements, make all staffing and scheduling decisions, award diplomas, etc.

## Best in Nation

The new Michigan Merit Curriculum requires students to complete 16 specific state credits for graduation. In addition, in order to compete in a global market, students will need an online learning course or experience and two world language credits while in elementary, middle or high school or have an equivalent learning experience beginning with students entering third grade in 2006.

These requirements, for the first time in Michigan history, will provide students with a common set of graduation requirements and will provide educators with a common understanding of what students should know and be able to do for credit.

Prior to these new requirements, all school districts had graduation requirements, but the number and type of credits varied widely throughout the state. The only state requirement was one semester of Civics.

## The Michigan Merit Curriculum High School Graduation Requirements Effective for the Class of 2011 and beyond

*\*The list below does not include additional credits required by Farmington Public Schools*

### ENGLISH - 4 Credits

English Language Arts 9, English Language Arts 10, English Language Arts 11, English Language Arts 12

### MATH - 4 Credits

Geometry, Algebra I, Algebra II, one math or math-related course in final year of high school

### SCIENCE - 3 Credits

Biology, Chemistry or Physics, one additional science credit

### SOCIAL STUDIES - 3 Credits

World History & Geography, U.S. History & Geography, .5 credits in both Civics and Economics

### PHYSICAL EDUCATION & HEALTH - 1 Credit

### VISUAL, PERFORMING and APPLIED ARTS - 1 Credit

### ONLINE LEARNING EXPERIENCE

### *\*New Graduation Requirement*

*Effective beginning with students in the Class of 2016*

### LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH 2 Credits

In grades 9-12; OR an equivalent learning experience in grades K-12



## Just the Facts

### Answers to Frequently Asked Questions

**Q:** *How will this affect students?*

**A:** For many students who already plan on taking the credits required in the Michigan Merit Curriculum, things will change very little with one exception; students may now earn graduation credits prior to entering high school.

Students will continue to be able to earn credit through Career and Technical Education courses; by testing out; through online courses or Dual Enrollment college classes not offered by their high school; and lots of other ways. Check with your high school or school district to learn how.

For other students, it may change the courses they plan to take and may introduce them to new subjects such as Algebra or Biology.

**Q:** *Can I still take the electives I want?*

**A:** While the Michigan Merit Curriculum requires 16 credits, the schedule of 5 classes for three terms each year provides students with a total 30 possible credits. Therefore, students can choose elective credits after meeting additional district requirements.