

## GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

It shall be the policy of the Board of Education to acknowledge each student's successful completion of the instructional program or a personal curriculum appropriate to the achievement of District goals and objectives as well as personal proficiency by the awarding of a diploma at graduation ceremonies.

The Board shall award a regular high school diploma to every student enrolled in this District who meets the requirements of graduation established by this Board, the Michigan Department of Education (MDE), and as provided by State law.

Credit may be earned by:

- A. traditional course work;
- B. demonstrating mastery of subject area content expectations or guidelines for the credit;
- C. related course work in which content standards are embedded;
- D. testing out;
- E. dual enrollment;
- F. on-line class.

Students shall successfully complete an on-line course or learning experience OR shall have the on-line learning experience incorporated into each of the required credits of the Michigan Merit Curriculum

Special education students who properly complete the programs specified in their I.E.P., or in a personal curriculum, and meet the requirements for a high school diploma, and have received the recommendation of the I.E.P. may participate in graduation activities as recommended by the student's I.E.P. Reasonable accommodation shall be made for students with disabilities, as defined under State or Federal law, to assist them in taking any required tests or assessments for graduation.

For State-mandated curriculum requirements, a student shall be granted credit toward graduation if s/he successfully completes the subject area content expectations or guidelines developed by the department that apply to the credit. A student may also receive credit if s/he earns a qualifying score, as determined by the State on the assessments developed or selected for the subject area by the State or the student earns a qualifying score, as determined by the District on one or more assessments developed or selected by the School District that measure a student's understanding of the subject area content expectations or guidelines that apply to the credit. For subject areas and courses in which a Test Out examination is used as the assessment for successful attainment of the subject area content, a score of 80% or better is required.

The Board shall grant credit toward high school graduation for any student who successfully completes, prior to entering high school, a State-mandated curriculum requirement, provided s/he completes the same content requirements as the high school subject area, and the student has demonstrated the same level of proficiency on the material as required of the high school students.

Commencement exercises will include only those students who have successfully completed requirements as certified by the high school principal. No student who has completed the requirements for graduation shall be denied a diploma as a disciplinary measure. A student may be denied participation in the ceremony of graduation, however, when personal conduct so warrants.

Seniors must meet all financial obligations to any class, school organization, or to the school before they receive their diploma and/or participate in graduation ceremony.

### **Diploma Requirements for students graduating in 2016 (entering 3<sup>rd</sup> grade in 2006 or after)**

- A **BCCS Diploma** is awarded to students who complete 23 credits. The Michigan Merit Curriculum which consists of 18 credits plus an additional 5 elective course credits.

- A **Michigan Basic Diploma** is awarded to students who complete the 18 credit hours required by the Michigan Merit Curriculum. This option would be available for special education students who need to spend extra time in the resource room learning the required materials.
- A **Certificate of Completion** may be given to students in special education who are being taught an alternative curriculum. It is not considered a diploma. Students who receive a certificate of completion may attend graduation with their classmates but continue to be eligible for special education services until they are 26 years old.
- A **Personal Curriculum** is a tool that allows certain modifications to be made to the requirements of the Michigan Merit Curriculum. A parent or teacher may request a personal curriculum but strict requirements must be met in order to qualify.

### **To be completed in grades 9 through 12\*:**

**The Michigan Merit Curriculum** requires eighteen (18) credits for graduation, which could be met using alternative instructional delivery methods such as alternative course work in humanities course sequences, career and technology courses, industrial technology or vocational education, or through a combination of these programs. In addition, students entering the 3rd grade in 2006 (class of 2016) will need to complete two (2) credits of a language other than English in grades 9-12; OR an equivalent learning experience in grades K-12 prior to graduation.

#### **Credits include:**

4 Credits - Mathematics including algebra I; geometry, algebra II, including one (1) credit in senior year.

At least four (4) credits in mathematics that are aligned with subject area content expectations developed by MDE including completion of at least algebra I, geometry, and algebra II, or an integrated sequence of this course content that consists of three (3) credits, and an additional mathematics credit, such as trigonometry, statistics, pre-calculus, calculus, applied math, accounting, business math, or a retake of algebra II.

A student may complete algebra II over two (2) years with a credit awarded for each of those years. Each student must successfully complete at least one (1) mathematics course during his/her final year of high school enrollment. This does not require completion of mathematics courses in any particular sequence.

4 Credits - English Language Arts aligned with subject area content expectations developed by MDE.

3 Credits - Science including biology; physics or chemistry; one (1) additional science credit.

3 Credits - Social studies including .5 credit in civics; .5 credit in economics; U.S. history and geography; world history and geography.

½ Credit - Physical education - credit guidelines to be developed by MDE

½ Credit - Health - credit guidelines to be developed by MDE

1 Credit - Visual, performing, applied arts credit guidelines to be developed by MDE.

2 Credits of a language other than English in grades 9-12 \***or an equivalent learning experience in grades K-12 prior to graduation.**

### **Educational Development Plan**

Each student shall have the opportunity to develop an Educational Development Plan (EDP) during the 7th grade and shall have developed an EDP prior to starting high school. The plan must be based on a career exploration program and high school readiness scores, to assist the student in identifying career development goals as they relate to academic requirements.

Effective July 1, 2011, each student shall review his/her educational development plan in 8th grade and shall revise the plan as appropriate before entering high school.

## Personal Curriculum

A parent or legal guardian of a student may request a personal curriculum for the student that modifies certain of Michigan Merit Standard requirements. If all of the requirements for a personal curriculum are met, then the Board may award a high school diploma to a student who successfully completes his/her personal curriculum even if it does not meet the requirements of the Michigan Merit Standard. All of the following apply to a personal curriculum:

- A. The personal curriculum shall be developed by a group that includes the student, at least one (1) of the student's parents or the student's legal guardian, a teacher who is currently teaching there student, and the student's high school counselor or another designee (selected by the high school) qualified to act in a counseling role.
- B. The personal curriculum shall incorporate as much of the subject area content expectations of the Michigan Merit Standard as is practicable for the student; shall establish measurable goals that the student must achieve while enrolled in high school; shall provide a method to evaluate whether the student has achieved these goals; and shall be aligned with the student's educational development plan.
- C. Before it takes effect, the personal curriculum must be agreed to by the student's parent or legal guardian and by the Principal of the District or his/her designee.
- D. The student's parent or legal guardian shall be in communication with each of the student's teachers at least once each calendar quarter to monitor the student's progress toward the goals contained in the student's personal curriculum.
- E. Revisions may be made in the personal curriculum if the revisions are developed and agreed to in the same manner as the original personal curriculum.
- F. The English language arts credit requirements and the science credit requirements are not subject to modification as part of a personal curriculum.
- G. Except as otherwise provided, the mathematics credit requirements may be modified as part of a personal curriculum only after the student has successfully completed at least two and one-half (2.5) credits of mathematics credits required and only if the student successfully completes at least three and one-half (3.5) total credits of the mathematics credits required before completing high school. The requirement that a student must successfully complete at least one (1) mathematics course during his/her final year of high school enrollment is not subject to modification as part of a personal curriculum. The algebra II credit required may be modified as part of a personal curriculum only if the student has successfully completed at least two (2) of the mathematics credits required and meets one (1) or more of the following criteria:
  - 1. the student successfully completes the same content as one (1) semester of algebra II, as determined by the department; or
  - 2. the student elects to complete the same content as algebra II over two (2) years, with a credit awarded for each of those two (2) years, and successfully complete that content; or
  - 3. the student enrolls in a formal career and technology education program or curriculum and in that program or curriculum successfully completes the same content as one (1) semester of algebra II, as determined by the department.
  - 4. the student successfully completes one (1) semester of

statistics or functions and data analysis.

The above items establish conditions that must be in place to bring about modification of the personal curriculum. They do not reduce the requirement that a student must successfully complete four (4) credits of math including a full year of math during the senior year of high school. Additional math or math-related courses should address high school content as defined by the District and may include trigonometry, statistics, pre-calculus, financial literacy, pre-algebra, applied mathematics, accounting, business mathematics and others.

- H. The social science credit requirements may be modified as part of a personal curriculum only if all of the following requirements are met:
  - 1. the student has successfully completed two (2) credits of the social science credits required including the civics course; and
  - 2. the modification requires the student to complete one (1) additional credit in English language arts, mathematics, or science or one (1) additional credit in a language other than English. This credit must be in addition to the number of those credits otherwise required.
- I. The health and physical education credit requirement may be modified as part of the personal curriculum only if the modification requires the student to complete one (1) additional credit in English language arts, mathematics, or science or one (1) additional credit in a language other than English. This credit must be in addition to the number of those credits otherwise required.
- J. The visual arts, performing arts, or applied arts credit requirement may be modified as part of the personal curriculum only if the modification requires the student to complete one (1) additional credit in English language arts, mathematics, or science or one (1) additional credit in a language other than English. This credit must be in addition to the number of those credits otherwise required.

For more information, please visit [www.1.usa.gov/rPMdch](http://www.1.usa.gov/rPMdch)

A PC allows several flexible learning options, including:

### **Students with a Disability**

If the parent or legal guardian of a student requests, as part of the student's personal curriculum, a modification of the Michigan Merit Standard requirements that would not otherwise be allowed and demonstrates that the modification is necessary because the student is a child with a disability, the District may allow that additional modification to the extent necessary because of the student's disability if the group determines that the modification is consistent with both the student's educational development plan and the student's individualized education program. If the Superintendent of Public Instruction has reason to believe that a District is allowing modifications inconsistent with the requirements of the State school code, the Superintendent of Public Instruction shall monitor the District to ensure that the District's policies, procedures, and practices are in compliance with the requirements for additional modifications, under this subdivision. As used in this policy "child with a disability" is defined in 20 U.S.C. 1401.

A student receiving special education services shall have an Individual Education Plan (IEP) that identifies the supports, accommodations, and modifications necessary to allow the student to progress in the Michigan Merit Curriculum requirements or a personal curriculum, and meet the requirements for a high school diploma.

## Transfer Students

If a student transfers to the District from out-of-state or from a nonpublic school, the student's parent or legal guardian may request, as part of the student's personal curriculum, a modification of the Michigan Merit Standard requirements that would not otherwise be allowed under this section. The District may allow this additional modification for a transfer student if all of the following requirements are met:

- A. the transfer student has successfully completed at least the equivalent of two (2) years of high school credit out-of-state or at a nonpublic school
- B. the District may use appropriate assessment examinations to determine what credits, if any, the student has earned out-of-state or at a nonpublic school that may be used to satisfy the curriculum requirements of the Michigan Merit Standard, District policy and the State Board of Education.
- C. The transfer student's personal curriculum incorporates as much of the subject area content of the Michigan Merit standard as practicable.
- D. The transfer of a student's personal curriculum requires the student to successfully complete at least one (1) mathematics course during his/her final year of high school enrollment. In addition, if the transfer student is enrolled in the District or public school academy for at least one (1) full school year, both of the following apply:
  - 1. the transfer student's personal curriculum shall require that this mathematics course is at least algebra I
  - 2. if the transfer student demonstrates that s/he has mastered the content of algebra I, the transfer student's personal curriculum shall require that this mathematics course is a course normally taken after completing algebra I
- E. The transfer student's personal curriculum must include the state required civic course.

## Additional information

The District shall administer the State Required Assessment(s) to students in grade 11 and to students in grade 12 who did not take the complete State Required Assessment(s) in grade 11, in accordance with State law and the assessment provisions of the Michigan Department of Education (MDE). Each principal is to determine, based on results on the required tests, which students are in need of special assistance in order to have a fair opportunity to achieve credit toward graduation.

A number of new and revised guidance documents and tools are available at the MDE Office of School Improvement website ([www.michigan.gov/mde](http://www.michigan.gov/mde)).

The Michigan Department of Education's Personal Curriculum Modifications will also be permitted if approved by the principal, counselor, and parent.

All students must be enrolled in a school approved educational program for eight (8) semesters. A minimum of three (3) credits must be earned while in attendance at Byron Center Charter (exceptions may be granted by the Principal).

Forty five (45) hours of community service is required. In addition, students are required to take any state required assessments.

Graduation requirements for a special education student shall be the same as for a general education student with exceptions permitted as determined by State Statute.

Twenty-three high school credits are required to be earned to receive a diploma from Byron Center Charter School. Students lacking not more than one credit at graduation time will be permitted to participate in commencement exercises, provided they are enrolled in a summer school class, or in a summer credit recovery program, approved by the school principal or his/her designee, for the necessary credit. The diploma will be withheld until all graduation requirements have been fulfilled.

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