



MDE Recommends

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

The sections of the *Revised School Code* that address this issue are contained in the Michigan Compiled Laws under MCL 380.1166 and 380.1502.

Government/Civics

Students are required to successfully complete a course in Government/Civics for graduation. This is the only state course requirement for graduation. The law provides:

Section 380.1166

- (1) *In all public and nonpublic schools in this state regular courses of instruction shall be given in the Constitution of the United States, in the Constitution of Michigan, and in the history and present form of government of the United States, Michigan, and its political subdivisions. Instruction shall be given not later than the opening of the eighth grade, or its equivalent, except in schools maintaining a junior high school, in which case it may begin in the ninth grade.*
- (2) *A high school in this state which offers 12 grades shall require a 1 semester course of study of 5 periods per week in civics which shall include the form and functions of the federal, state and local governments and shall stress the rights and responsibilities of citizens. A diploma shall not be issued by a high school to a pupil who has not successfully completed this course. This requirement shall not be applicable as a graduation requirement for a high school pupil who has enlisted or been inducted into military services.*

Health and Physical Education Courses

Michigan law requires that health and physical education courses be provided to all students [MCL 380.1502]. Each student attending a public school who is physically fit and capable of doing so shall take the course in physical education. The grade levels at which the instruction is provided, the frequency, content, length of courses, and whether a student is required to participate is left to the discretion of the local school district. It is the responsibility of the local school district to determine if successful completion of health and/or physical education is a requirement for graduation.

A school district may provide physical education credit to a student for participation in extracurricular athletics or other extracurricular activities (such as marching band). This decision is left to the discretion of the local school district.

Local Graduation Requirements

Local school districts would require the successful completion of specific courses and a minimum number of credits to graduate. An example of locally-adopted requirements may include the successful completion of math, science, English and social studies. Graduation policies requiring a student to perform community service may also be adopted at the local level.

This information is provided as a service of the Michigan Department of Education and is distributed with the understanding that the Department is not engaged in rendering legal advice. Those individuals desiring or requiring legal advice should seek the services of an attorney.

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