

Michigan
Merit
Curriculum



East Grand Rapids Public Schools
*Educating and inspiring each student to
navigate successfully in a global community*

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MICHIGAN MERIT CURRICULUM (MMC)

The MMC is a comprehensive set of high school graduation requirements adopted by the State of Michigan. The curriculum defines a common set of required credits for graduation and provides educators, through the High School Content Expectations (HSCE), with a common understanding of what students should know and be able to do for credit. It provides students the learning opportunity, knowledge, and skills they need to succeed in both college and the workplace.

Michigan Merit Curriculum High School Graduation Requirements	
Mathematics – 4 credits	
Algebra Geometry Advanced Algebra One math course or math-related course in final year of high school	
English Language Arts – 4 credits	
9 th Grade English 10 th Grade English 11 th Grade English 12 th Grade English	
Science – 3 credits	
Biology Physics or Chemistry One additional science credit	
Social Studies – 3 Credits	
.5 credit Civics .5 credit Economics United States History and Geography World History and Geography	
World Languages – 2 credits (Beginning with Class of 2016)	
Physical Education – .5 credit	
Health – .5 credit	
Visual, Performing, or Applied Arts – 1 credit	
Online Learning Experience	

ALLOWABLE PERSONAL CURRICULUM MODIFICATIONS	
Subject Area Credit Requirements	Personal Curriculum Modification(s)*
4 English Language Arts Credits	No modification allowed
4 Mathematics Credits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 credits: Geometry, Algebra, and Advanced Algebra 1 additional math or math-related course A math or math-related high school level credit in the final year of high school 	To qualify for a PC math modification, students must have completed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2.5 MMC math credit requirements in Geometry, Algebra and a .5 credit of Advanced Algebra To graduate, students must complete: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A minimum of 4 math or math-related credits up through an equivalent of .5 of Advanced Algebra and math in the final year of high school
3 Science Credits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 credits: Biology and Chemistry or Physics 1 additional high school level science credit 	No modification allowed
3 Social Studies Credits <ul style="list-style-type: none"> .5 Civics .5 Economics US History and Geography World History and Geography 	No modification of civics allowed 2 credits in social studies must be earned Modified only if student takes additional credit(s) beyond the required credits in English language arts, math, science, or world languages
.5 Physical Education Credit	Modification allowed only if student takes additional credit(s) beyond the required credits in English language arts, math, science, or world languages
.5 Health Credit	No modification allowed
1 Visual, Performing, Applied Arts Credit	Modification allowed only if student takes additional credit(s) beyond the required credits in English language arts, math, science, or world languages
Online Learning Experience <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Online course or learning experience OR EGRHS has integrated the online experience requirement into each of the required credit areas 	No modification allowed
2 World Language Credits (Beginning with Class of 2016)	No modification allowed

*Modifications may be available for students with an identified disability and an IEP and for transfer students who have completed two years of high school. Please contact your student's guidance counselor for information.

A personal curriculum may be requested and implemented for four reasons:

- To go beyond the academic credit requirements by adding more math, science, English language arts, or world languages credits
- To modify the Algebra II mathematics requirement
- To modify credit requirements based on the disability of a student with an Individualized Education Plan
- To modify credit requirements for a transfer student from out of state or from a nonpublic school who has completed the equivalent of two years of high school and is unable to meet the Michigan Merit Curriculum requirements

Modifications that do not meet the minimum credit requirements of the MMC and/or do not incorporate essential content expectations adopted by the Board of Education may affect a student's opportunity to earn a diploma.

For more information regarding a Personal Curriculum and/or who qualifies for a Personal Curriculum, please contact your school counselor.

To earn a high school diploma from a Michigan public high school, students must successfully complete all of the elements of the MMC, which are included in the East Grand Rapids Public School's graduation requirements.

PROFICIENCY LEVEL

A student will earn credit upon the successful completion of an accredited course with a grade of D– or higher, or its equivalent.

MICHIGAN MERIT EXAM (MME)

The MME tests students in the 11th grade in the areas of English, mathematics, science, and social studies. The MME incorporates the ACT test that is used by colleges for admission decisions. The Michigan Merit Curriculum is designed so that students will have taken the appropriate courses in preparation for this test.

MICHIGAN PROMISE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The Michigan Promise Scholarship is a college finance program (Public Act 479, 2006) for Michigan high school seniors. The award is currently funded as a \$4,000 scholarship to an in-state, post-secondary institution for students who earn a qualifying score on the English, math, social studies, and science components of the MME and have a cumulative GPA of at least 2.5. The Michigan Promise Scholarship may be used for tuition, fees, room and board, books, supplies, and transportation. Please check the website at <http://www.michigan.gov/promise> for application information.

INSTRUCTIONAL APPROACHES

The law permits students to earn MMC credits through several non-traditional instructional approaches which may include testing out, dual enrollment, online courses, and the Personal Curriculum option.

Testing Out

East Grand Rapids Middle and High Schools, in compliance with the School Code of Michigan, allow students to test out of any subject credit area. These tests are a sound demonstration that a student meets or exceeds the content expectations associated with the subject credit area. Because some end-of-year tests do not serve as comprehensive measures of content and skill “mastery” as expressed in the Michigan School Code, students may be required to demonstrate mastery either through written examinations, written papers, projects, portfolios, or other comparable forms. The following statements apply to the testing out provision:

- This policy will apply equally to all students in grades 7-12 at East Grand Rapids Middle School and High School.
- Course advancement, credit, and/or waiver will be granted only for a C+ or higher.
- When testing out of high school courses, this testing out provision will count toward graduation requirement credit. Successful completion of the testing out provision will also count toward fulfillment of a requirement for a subject area or a course sequence.
- Credits earned through testing out will not be included in a computation of grade point average.
- When testing out of middle school algebra or middle school geometry, this testing out provision will count toward a high school graduation requirement credit.
- Once credit is earned by testing out, a student may not receive credit thereafter for a course lower in sequence in the same subject area.
- Students may test out of a course from which they have been dropped for non-attendance; however, the grade earned from the dropped course will remain.

The EDP is a secondary/post-secondary planning tool that directs the educational plan and career planning activities for the final six years of a student’s K-12 learning career. In their EDP, students identify a career pathway and develop employment, education, and training goals. They also identify a course of study (the credits that will be taken) intended to provide the skills and competencies needed to be successful in the next steps after high school. An EDP is a working document that is updated as the student’s interests and abilities become more focused.

PERSONAL CURRICULUM (PC)

The PC is an option initiated the parent/legal guardian, or emancipated minor, that modifies specific credit requirements and/or content expectations based on the individual learning needs of a student. School personnel may also initiate a request for a personal curriculum for a specific student. The parent must still agree to the personal curriculum in order for it to take effect. A school may not implement a personal curriculum for a student without his or her parent’s consent.

The PC does not change the required number of credits for graduation. The legislative intent is that curriculum modifications are made only when there is documented evidence that a modification is necessary for the student to achieve graduation requirements.

Prior to considering a PC for any individual student, every effort must be made to help the student achieve or exceed the MMC using varied and creative strategies such as integrated and differentiated instruction, online learning, college credit opportunities, work-based learning, project-based learning, peer coaching, adult mentoring, and electives.

Advanced Placement (AP) and Honors Courses

AP and Honors courses are available for high school students. Grades will be weighted upon successful completion of each course and the cumulative grade point average will be adjusted.

Advanced Placement Offerings

AP Biology	AP Microeconomics
AP Calculus AB	AP Physics
AP Calculus BC	AP Spanish
AP English	AP Statistics
AP Government	AP US History
AP Macroeconomics	AP World History

Honors Course Offerings

Advanced Algebra/FST	French
Biology	Latin
Chemistry	Physics
Conceptual Physics*	Pre-Calculus/Calculus
Constitutional Studies	Spanish
English	

* Pending Board of Education Approval

Support Offerings

Guided Study	Study Skills
Math Essentials	Title I
Math Lab	Tutoring

EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANS (EDP)

The MMC requires that each student, beginning in Grade 7, is provided with the opportunity to develop an EDP, and that each student's EDP shall be based on a career pathway program or similar career exploration program, such as Career Cruising.

- The principal and/or designee will establish reasonable times when testing out is available.

Dual Enrollment

Students successfully completing the requirements of an elective course offered by an accredited, post-secondary institution may receive high school credit, providing all guidelines have been met. These elective courses shall not include courses in English, math, science, social studies, physical education, or health that are required by the State of Michigan as graduation requirements.

The post-secondary course must meet all of the following criteria:

1. Is academic in nature or applicable to career preparation.
2. Is normally applied toward satisfaction of degree requirements.
3. Is not a hobby/craft activity or recreational course.
4. Is not a course in physical education, theology, divinity, or religious education.
5. Is not offered as part of the high school curriculum, or is not available to the eligible student due to a scheduling conflict beyond the student's control.
6. Is scheduled so that 50% of the course falls within the school district's academic year.
7. Does not give the student more than full-time enrollment unless the family/student assumes the cost of additional courses.

The tuition fee for dual enrollment courses may be assumed by the district for students enrolled full-time with no more than six (6) classes per semester.

The district will pay a portion of the student's tuition and mandatory course fees based on a formula determined by the state. While this formula may be enough to cover the tuition and fees for local public colleges and universities, it may not be enough to cover the total tuition costs for private colleges and universities. Parents are responsible for paying any difference in cost. Books, transportation, parking costs, and most activity fees are not eligible charges under the law.

The dual enrollment class shall be counted as one of the six (6) classes required to be a full-time student. Students may take dual enrollment courses beyond their full-time program; however, the cost of such courses will not be assumed by the district

Dual enrollment opportunities are available to students who meet the following criteria:

1. Classified as 11th or 12th grade.
2. Enrolled full-time, with at least one high school class.
3. Have not met all graduation requirements.
4. Meet State of Michigan dual enrollment qualifying standards.

Approved Assessments and Qualifying Scores for Dual Enrollment Eligibility:

- Michigan Merit Exam (MME)
Students who score at levels 1 or 2 (Exceeded the Standard or Met the Standard) will be eligible for dual enrollment.
- ACT and PLAN Assessment
Students who score at or above the minimums listed below:
 - Mathematics – 18
 - Reading-17
 - Science – 19

- PSAT Assessment
 - Critical Reading – 44
 - Math – 45
 - Writing Skills – 49

Eligible students must designate whether the course is for high school or post-secondary credit or both.

Online Courses

High school students may also earn a maximum of three (3) semester courses (1.5 credits) to be applied toward graduation requirements by completing online courses offered only through approved agencies. Credit beyond the 1.5 credit maximum must be approved by the Director of Guidance and the High School Principal.

Full-time students taking such courses must be enrolled in the district and take the courses during the regular school day at the school site. Through its policies, the district shall be responsible for providing appropriate supervision and monitoring of students taking virtual courses. The school must receive an official record of the final grade before credit is granted toward graduation.

The tuition fee for a virtual course shall only be assumed by the district for students enrolled full-time with no more than six (6) classes per semester. The virtual class shall be counted as one of the six (6) classes. To have an online class considered for credit, the student must obtain pre-approval from his/her assigned counselor.

ADVANCEMENT AND SUPPORT PROGRAMS

East Grand Rapids Public Schools provides a variety of programs to meet the needs of all students.