JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
LANSING

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN
SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

State Board of Education Action on Improving Student Outcomes

WHEREAS, leadership, general supervision, general planning and coordination of all public education are specific powers granted by the People to the State Board of Education in the State Constitution; and

WHEREAS, the Board was created to be a symbol of the partnership between the People of the State; and

WHEREAS, the Board, as representative of the People, embraces popular control through the statewide election of Board members; and

WHEREAS, the Board was established to provide for the creation and continuity of statewide policies and program; and

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that high school graduation requirements are not coordinated throughout the State and this fragmented situation is in need of general supervision, coordination, and leadership.

THEREFORE, by the powers granted by the People to the State Board of Education in the Constitution, the Board hereby:

1. approves the high school graduation requirements including (a) the Superintendent's recommendations for students, (b) the Michigan Merit Core, and (c) the 21st Century Applied Learning Core, as outlined in the Superintendent's memorandum dated December 7, 2005, and as modified by the Board; and

2. encourages the Legislature and Governor to enact complementary legislation.

The vote was taken on the motion.

Ayes: Austin, Bauer, Curtin, Danhof, McGuire, Straus, Turner, Weiser

The motion carried unanimously.

Adopted December 13, 2005

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Michigan Merit Core	
The Merit Core content standards may be met in a traditional course sequence or in different contexts or formats such as a Humanities course sequence, Career and Technical Education programs, or a specialized small school curriculum, or as an online course. Schools that offer courses in a different format must be prepared to demonstrate how these courses align with the Merit Core content standards and demonstrate how the content standards will be assessed. In all instances it is expected that technology, including assistive technology devices and services, will be used to deliver instruction to meet the Michigan Merit Core content standards.	
English Language Arts 4 Credits	Credits to Include: ■ English 9 {or Humanities sequence, or CTE sequence ■ English 10 ■ English 11 ■ English 12 These courses will include writing, expository writing, creative writing, grammar, informational text, speaking, representing, reading, listening, viewing, literature, culture and language.
Mathematics 4 Credits	Credits to Include: ■ Algebra I {or Integrated Math sequence, or CTE sequence ■ Geometry ■ Algebra II ■ 1 Additional Math or Math-Related class (For example: Calculus, Trigonometry, Electronics, Accounting, Probability and Statistics) Math must be taken in the Senior year.
Science 3 Credits	Credits to Include: ■ Biology {or Integrated Science sequence, or CTE sequence ■ Physics or Chemistry ■ 1 year of Additional Science Examples: Earth Science, Environmental Science, Forensic Science, Microbiology, Nanoscience, Oceanography, AP/IB/College for credit Sciences, Health Sciences, Agriscience, Chemistry, Physics
Social Science 3 Credits	Credits to Include: ■ Government/Civics .5 (semester) {or Humanities sequence, or CTE sequence ■ Economics .5 (semester) ■ US History (integrated with Geography) ■ World History (integrated with Geography)
Health/Physical Education 1 Credit	Examples: Health, Personal Fitness
Visual and Performing Arts 1 Credit	Examples: Vocal and Instrumental Music, Art, Music Appreciation, Art History, Multicultural Art, Readers' Theater, and Dance
World Languages 2 Credits	
SUBTOTAL	18 Credits

21st Century Applied Learning Core

All remaining elective credits must include teaching and learning of 21st century skills, examples shown below.

The following set of skill categories represent the 21st century skills that all students need to know and apply for successful living in the 21st century. These skills permeate the **Merit Academic Core** and are enhanced by courses in the elective areas. The course content standards must incorporate one or more of the following categories. Assessments in the 21st Century Applied Learning Core often involve demonstration of satisfactory performance by applying the course content standards to real-world tasks and projects, and contexts.
**adapted from the Partnership for 21st Century Skills*
http://www.21stcenturyskills.org/index.php

21st Century Skill: Global Literacy	Course Examples
▪ Understand and address global issues. ▪ Learn from and work with others from diverse cultures, religions, and lifestyles. ▪ Master non-English language skills as a tool for understanding other nations and cultures.	Fine Arts Music and Performing Arts World Languages: including world languages Chinese, Japanese, Arabic, Swahili, Hindi, Sign language, in addition to Spanish, French, German, etc. Global Studies Multicultural Studies: including, African American Studies, Native American Studies, Latino Studies, Asian Studies World Religions Philosophy Anthropology Sociology/Psychology International Business MVHS Online Classes Advanced Placement Courses JROTC
21st Century Skill: Civic Literacy ▪ Participate effectively in government as an informed citizen ▪ Exercise the rights and obligations of citizenship at local, state, national and global levels. ▪ Understand the local and global implications of civic decisions. ▪ Apply 21st century skills to make intelligent choices as a citizen.	**Course Examples** Student Government Leadership Law Service Learning Legislative Internship Business Ethics MVHS Online Classes Advanced Placement Courses
21st Century Skill: Financial, Economic, and Entrepreneurial Literacy ▪ Make appropriate personal economic choices. ▪ Understand the role of the economy and the role of business in the economy. ▪ Apply appropriate 21st century skills to function as a productive contributor within an organizational setting. ▪ Integrate oneself within and adapting continually to our nation's evolving economic and business environment.	**Course Examples** Business Technology Entrepreneurship, Accounting, Marketing Global Economics Junior Achievement Applied Economics Internships Life Science –Personal Living Financial Management Business Management

21st Century Skill: Information and Communications Technology Literacy	Course Examples
▪ Using information and media literacy skills. ▪ Analyzing, accessing, managing, integrating, evaluating and creating information in a variety of forms and media. ▪ Understanding the role of media in society. ▪ Understanding, managing and creating effective oral, written and multimedia communication in a variety of forms and contexts. ▪ Demonstrating interpersonal and self-direction skills. Becoming more productive in accomplishing tasks and developing interest in improving own skills.	Multimedia, Broadcasting, CISCO, Computer Science Debate and Forensics Oral Communication Journalism—Publications Creative Writing Drama Theater Arts Film and Photography Desktop Publishing Advertising Graphic Arts and Design Fine Arts Performing Arts—Dance, Orchestra, Marching Band, Music Technology MVHS Online Classes
21st Century Learning Skills ▪ **Thinking and Problem-Solving**—Critical thinking, systems thinking, exercising sound reasoning, making complex decisions, problem identification, formulation and solution. ▪ **Interpersonal and Self-Directional**-Teamwork and leadership; adapting to varied roles and responsibilities; working productively with others; exercising empathy; respecting diverse perspectives. ▪ **Information and Communication-** Creativity and intellectual curiosity, information and media skills, communications skills, self direction.	**Course Examples** Electronics, Aviation, Building and Construction Trades Robotics Internships Work Based Learning Experiences Probability and Statistics Health Sciences Personal Fitness and Wellness
Accelerated Learning ▪ Acknowledges that students learn at different rates ▪ Can occur at any time in a student's high school experience ▪ Can assist students in moving beyond grade level, remaining at grade level, or moving to grade level.	**Course Examples** Advanced Placement Courses Dual Enrollment Courses Online courses Literacy Labs Math Labs Gear Up Upward Bound Ramp Up Courses Mentor Reading 2 + 2 + 2 Articulated Programs
21st Century Applied Learning Core	**Total credits for graduation determined by district**

MICHIGAN Department of Education