

# Michigan Merit Curriculum and Personal Curriculum Options for Graduation

(Operational Procedure for Policy 5460 – Revised 3/19/2021)



## Michigan Merit Curriculum Options

Michigan Merit Curriculum (MMC) Graduation Requirements, established by the State of Michigan, specify the minimum number of credits a student must earn to receive a high school diploma. Although local school districts have the flexibility to increase the number of these required credits, students must meet the minimum number required by the MMC. The State of Michigan adopted Public Acts 208 and 209 in July, 2014. This legislation provides students with additional options and flexibility with their educational choices in high school. It also provides flexibility in the MMC graduation requirements, and simplifies the process for students to request and gain approval for a Personal Curriculum.

Birmingham Public Schools believes our students should obtain additional credits beyond those required by the MMC to be fully prepared to meet the challenges they will face in their post-secondary future. The attached document details the credit expectations for Birmingham Public Schools students to earn a high school diploma. The column titled “Michigan Merit Curriculum Options” represents changes that have occurred based on the July 2014 legislation. These options impact only select content areas and are in effect beginning with the graduating class of 2015. The final column in the document details options available for students and parents who would like to explore the option of a Personal Curriculum. A Personal Curriculum allows for minor modifications to the MMC and is described below in more detail.

## Personal Curriculum Options

A Personal Curriculum is an option a student or family can explore as a way to modify certain Michigan Merit Curriculum (MMC) graduation requirements. It is intended to meet individual learning needs, allow students to earn a high school diploma, and provide preparation for life after high school.

A Personal Curriculum can be recommended by school personnel or requested by a parent or legal guardian, a student of age 18, or an emancipated student. A Personal Curriculum must be supported by a parent or legal guardian, meet the individual needs of the student, and be consistent with the post-secondary plans documented in the student’s Educational Development Plan (EDP). State statute allows personal curriculum modifications in order to:

- Go beyond the academic credit requirements by adding more math, science, English language arts, or world language courses; or by completing a department-approved formal career and technical education (CTE) program.
- Modify the Algebra II content.
- Modify, if necessary, the course requirements of a student with an Individualized Education Plan (IEP).
- Modify course requirements for a student who transfers from out of state or from a nonpublic school and is unable to meet the MMC requirements.

This document provides an overview of our current High School Graduation Requirements (Board Policy 5460) and allowable Personal Curriculum options typically available to students with Individualized Education Plans.

<b>BPS Graduation Course Requirements</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Michigan Merit Curriculum Options</b>	<b>BPS Personal Curriculum Options</b>
<b>English and Communication Arts (4.5 credits)</b>			
Core English Courses	4.0	None	* See modification note.
Public Speaking	0.5		
<b>Social Studies (3.5 credits)</b>			
World History & Geography	1.0	None	Additional ELA, math, science, or world language courses; or a CTE program can modify BPS course requirements.  Must complete a minimum of 2.0 credits in social studies that includes 0.5 credit of Government.  * See modification note.
U.S. History	1.0		
U.S. Government	0.5		
Economics	0.5		
Department Elective	0.5		
<b>Science (3.0 credits)</b>			
Biology	1.0	May substitute 1.0 credit with an approved CTE program.	* See modification note.
Chemistry	0.5		
Physics	0.5		
Global Systems A	0.5		
Department Electives	0.5		
<b>Mathematics (4.0 credits)</b>			
Integrated Math 1	1.0	Credit may be granted prior to 9 <sup>th</sup> grade.	Modify overall total credits (3.5). Complete at least one credit during final 2 years.  Options include any course delivering the Algebra 2 MMC assessed benchmarks.  * See modification note.
Integrated Math 2	1.0	Credit may be granted prior to 9 <sup>th</sup> grade.	
Algebra 2 (2018-2019 only) Integrated Math 3	1.0	May be taken over 2 years.  CTE program that meets content requirements.	
Department Electives (required senior year)	1.0	None	

BPS Graduation Course Requirements	Credits	Michigan Merit Curriculum Options	BPS Personal Curriculum Options
<b>World Language (2.0 credits)</b>			
World Language (same language)  1.0 credit of the 2.0 total credits must be earned at the high school.	2.0	Credit may be granted prior to 9 <sup>th</sup> grade.  May substitute 1.0 credit with a CTE program or a visual or performing arts course.	* See modification note.
<b>Computer Technology (0.5 credits)</b>			
Computer Technology	0.5	None	* See modification note.
<b>Visual, Performing, Applied Arts or Personal/Career (1.5 credits)</b>			
Fine Arts	0.5	May substitute credits with a CTE program.	Additional ELA, math, science, or world language courses; or a CTE program can modify BPS course requirements.  * See modification note.
Personal & Career Development	0.5		
Department Elective	0.5		
<b>Health (0.5 credits)</b>			
Health	0.5	None	* See modification note.
<b>Physical Education (1.0 credits)</b>			
Personal Fitness	0.5	May substitute 0.5 credit with extra-curricular athletics (i.e. Full season of a high school sport) or activities involving physical activity (i.e. 3 years of marching band)	Additional ELA, math, science, or world language courses; or a CTE program can modify BPS course requirements.  * See modification note.
Department Elective	0.5		
<b>General Electives (7.5)</b>			
<b>Total Credits to Graduate 28</b>		<b>Total Credits to Graduate 28</b>	<b>Total Credits to Graduate 28</b>

**\*Modification Note:**

1. Applies to transfer students who have completed two years of high school.
2. For students with disabilities, modifications must be consistent with both the student's Educational Development Plan (EDP) and Individualized Education Plan (IEP). Additional information for parents and educators can be found online at the Michigan Department of Education.

[http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,1607,7-140-6530\\_30334\\_49879---,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,1607,7-140-6530_30334_49879---,00.html)