

**Academic standards and graduation requirements:**

- Amends science credit requirements for 9th graders in the class of 2023-2024 to require that at least one credit is from earth science
- Requires one credit of physical education.
- Reduces number of elective credits from seven to six
- Requires school districts to adopt the state arts standards rather than local standards.
- Adds media arts to list of arts areas that districts must offer and require.
- States that algebra I credit that satisfies 8th grade standards does not bear high school credit.

**Student discipline:** The bill includes numerous provisions making changes to school discipline policies and procedures:

- Pupil withdrawal agreements:
  - Limits a pupil withdrawal agreement to 12 months.
  - Defines a pupil withdrawal agreement as a verbal or written agreement between a school and a parent to withdraw the student to avoid expulsion or exclusion dismissal proceedings.
  - Requires when student records are transmitted to include pupil withdrawals and services a student needs to prevent inappropriate behavior from recurring.
- Adds "In-school suspension" to the definition of suspension to mean an instance in which a pupil is temporarily removed from the pupil's regular classroom for at least half a day for disciplinary purposes but remains under the direct supervision of school personnel. The effect of this is that all the requirements of the Pupil Fair Dismissal Act apply to in-school suspension.
- Readmission plans:
  - Requires out-of-school suspension to include readmission plans.
  - Requires an admission or readmission plan to include measures to improve the student's behavior and lists optional elements of the plan. Requires the plan to include parental involvement in the admission or readmission process.
- Non-exclusionary disciplinary policies and practices:
  - Prohibits a school from dismissing a pupil without attempting to use non-exclusionary disciplinary policies and practices before dismissal proceedings or pupil withdrawal agreements, except where it appears that the pupil will create an immediate and substantial danger to self or to surrounding persons or property.
  - Requires alternative education services when a student is suspended more than five consecutive days.
  - Requires school officials to give suspended students the opportunity to complete all school work assigned during the suspension and receive full credit for the assignments.
  - Requires written notice of intent to impose an expulsion to describe the non-exclusionary disciplinary policies and practices offered the student to avoid the expulsion.

- Requires a district to inform parents that the department’s list of legal resources is posted on the department’s website.
- School district policies:
  - Requires school district policies to include non-exclusionary disciplinary policies and practices and emphasize providing multi-tiered supports to students.
  - Requires a school board to annually review and revise the policy and to include in the policy parameters for when input into discipline decisions is allowed.
  - Eliminates mandatory grounds for removal from class and requires policy to instead include provisions on addressing willful conduct that endangers other persons or property.
  - Eliminates requirement that policy include minimum consequences for violations of the code of conduct.
  - Requires policy to prohibit use of exclusionary practices to address attendance and truancy issues.
  - Requires the commissioner to issue guidance on engaging stakeholders to review and revise discipline policies that are restorative and responsive.
- Report to the commissioner: Requires districts to report on pupil withdrawal agreements and non-exclusionary disciplinary practices to the commissioner.

**Teacher licensure:** Proposes several changes to the Tiered licensure system.

- Eliminates exclusion of Tier 1 teachers from definition of “teacher,” allowing Tier 1 teachers to be in the same bargaining unit as other teachers for purposes of collective bargaining.
- Eliminates option to use three years of teaching experience under a Tier 2 license to fulfill coursework requirement for a Tier 3 license.
- Eliminates basic skills exam requirement for teacher licensure.

**Continue contract or teacher tenure act status:** Brings community education teachers that are required to have licenses, except for those that teach driver training courses, within the definition of “teacher” under the continuing contract and tenure statutes.

**Teacher and principal evaluation:** Requires districts to evaluate teachers and principals on cultural responsiveness.

**American Indian mascots prohibited:** Prohibits a district from adopting a name, symbol, or image of an American Indian tribe, custom, or tradition as a mascot, nickname, logo, letterhead, or team name of the district or school. Allows a district to seek an exemption from the Tribal Nations Education Committee and the Indian Affairs Council.

**Graduation ceremonies; tribal regalia and objects of cultural significance:** Requires a district or charter school to allow an American Indian student to wear American Indian regalia, tribal regalia, or objects of cultural significance at graduation ceremonies.

**Mental health education:** Requires school districts to provide mental health education for students in grades 4 through 12 aligned with local health education standards and integrated into existing program

**Safe and supportive schools programming:** Requires districts to provide instruction to help students identify, prevent, and reduce prohibited conduct; and take other action to create a safe and supportive school environment.

**World's Best Workforce:** Requires districts' world's best workforce plans to include ethnic studies curriculum, and anti-racist and culturally sustaining curriculum; modifies other plan requirements.

**Achievement and integration plans:** Requires plans to include strategies to address institutional racism.

**School libraries and media centers:** Requires a school district or charter school library or school library media center to employ a licensed school library media specialist or licensed school librarian and establishes duties of the media specialist or librarian.

**Respectful school meal policies:** Requires districts to provide meals to students in a respectful manner and prohibits them from imposing certain restrictions or limiting a student's participation in certain activities due to an unpaid student meal debt.

**PSEO:** Eliminates requirement that district provide families information about PSEO. Requires a student participating in PSEO to notify district of intent to enroll for fall term by May 30, and for spring term by October 30.

**Statewide testing:** Eliminates requirement that the MCAs include below-grade and above-grade test items, and definitions relating to above-grade and below-grade level test items.

**Extension for posting student progress and other data:** Extends time for MDE to post accountability data for the 2020-2021 school year to October 1, 2021.