



Michigan Online School

Certificate of Completion Policy

A Certificate of Completion, unlike a high school diploma is not an academic credential. A high school diploma is awarded to students that have met the Michigan Merit Curriculum graduation requirements. A Certificate of Completion might be given to students with IEPs (Individual Education Plan) that are being taught an “alternate” curriculum and taking the MI-Access alternate state assessment.

A Certificate of Completion is not a high school diploma based on the Michigan Merit Curriculum. The Michigan Department of Education makes no reference to Certificates of Completion and does not provide any definition of a Certificate.

Certificates of Completion are given, or not given, at the discretion of the Michigan Online School Board of Directors. A student does not have to meet the criteria of the Michigan Merit Curriculum or maintain the grade requirement to receive a Certificate of Completion. A student with an IEP may focus on meeting individualized goals and objectives. The student’s IEP team determines if he/she will receive a diploma or a Certificate of Completion. A student who receives a certificate of completion is eligible to continue receiving special education services until the age of 26 per Michigan Administrative Rules for Special Education (MARSE) Rule 340.1702.

A Certificate of Completion at Michigan Online School acknowledges the completion of both academic and functional content/experiences for students unable to meet the rigor of the Michigan Merit Curriculum. Students receiving a Certificate of Completion are eligible to participate in senior year and graduation activities.

The MOS Board of Directors encourages parents to think about their child’s curriculum and high school completion goal as early as possible because:

- while a student can still get into a community college with a Certificate of Completion, a Certificate of Completion will affect the student’s ability to receive financial aid should he or she decide to enroll in a community college or vocational training program.
- a Certificate of Completion will affect the student’s ability to enlist in the US military.
- a Certificate of Completion may affect the student’s ability to gain employment where a diploma is a job requirement.