



2014 Lunchtime Learning Webinar Series

Personal Curriculum
with Rashell Bowerman



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Personal Curriculum: A 21st Century Education for ALL

**Michigan Alliance for Families
Webinar
October 21, 2014**



Personal Curriculum Defined

“The legislative intent of the Personal Curriculum (PC) is to individualize the rigor and relevance of the educational experience and provide a tool to help ALL students succeed with the Michigan Merit Curriculum (MMC).”

Personal Curriculum Guidelines 2009



Personal Curriculum

A documented process initiated by:

- The parent/legal guardian
- Student over 18 (if no appointed guardian)
- Emancipated youth
- School personnel



Diploma or Completion?



Personal Curriculum (PC): What is It?

- Modification of specific credit requirements.
- Based on individual need.
- NOT a special education thing!



Personal Curriculum (PC): When is it Used?

Only after all efforts have been made to help students successfully complete the requirements.



Data Snapshot



| Entity | Number that Report PCs for 2012-13 |
|------------------|---|
| Students | 4,509 |
| Schools | 161 |
| Districts | 139 |
| ISDs | 42 |



| <u>Type</u> | Personal Curricula by Type | |
|--|----------------------------|----------------|
| | 2010-2011 | 2011-2012 |
| <i>Algebra II Modification (non-IEP)</i> | 911 (20.42%) | 1,237 (26.02%) |
| <i>Modification with IEP (Mathematics)</i> | 776 (17.39%) | 800 (16.83%) |
| <i>Modification with IEP (other than mathematics)</i> | 284 (6.36%) | 384 (8.08%) |
| <i>Transfer student</i> | 25 (0.56%) | 38 (0.80%) |
| <i>Enrichment Modification (PE/Health)</i> | 1,724 (38.64%) | 1,680 (35.34%) |
| <i>Enrichment Modification (other than PE/Health)</i> | 742 (16.63%) | 615 (12.94%) |
| <i>Total Number of Modifications</i> | 4,462 | 4,754 |

PC-Using Districts





Personal Curriculum (PC): Four Reasons

- To go beyond the academic credit requirements
- To modify the mathematics requirement
- To modify the requirements based on the disability of a student with an IEP
- To modify credit requirements for a transfer student



Personal Curriculum Reason #1

- To go beyond the academic requirements
 - Substitute up to 1 credit of Visual, Performing and Applied Arts credit.
 - Substitute the 3rd social studies credit (excluding Civics)



Reason #1 (NEW)

- Students may substitute a formal Career and Technical Education (CTE) program (regardless of content) for up to 1 credit of social studies (after completing 2 credits including civics); 1 credit of health and physical education; and 1 credit of visual, performing, or applied arts.



Personal Curriculum Reason #2

- To modify the mathematics requirement
 - Algebra II requirement reduced from 1.0 credit to 0.5 credit (Statistics/Data Analysis)
 - Students must earn 3.5 math credits and take a math or math-related credit in **one of their final two years**
- No PC needed for spreading Algebra II over 1.5 or 2 years for 1.5 or 2 credits
- No PC needed earn full or partial Algebra II credit for content embedded in a formal career and technical education program or curriculum



Personal Curriculum Reason #3

- To modify based on disability of a student with an IEP
- Allows specific modifications of the MMC due to the impact a disability has on accessing or demonstrating proficiency in meeting expectations
- "Why use a PC, we just write everything into the IEP."

Personal Curriculum Reason #4

- Transfer students
 - PC is aligned with EDP and postsecondary goals.
 - Completion of 2 years high school credit out of state or at a nonpublic school.
 - PC includes as much content as practicable.
 - PC includes 1/2 credit in Civics

Steps to a Diploma via the PC

- **Step 1:** PC is requested by the parent, student, or school personnel. (Request is reviewed to determine if modifications are consistent with state and district policy.)
- **Step 2:** The PC Team writes the PC using the Educational Development Plan (EDP) and (IEP) for those students in special education.



Steps to a Diploma via the PC

- **Step 3:** PC is agreed to in writing by student, parent/legal guardian and Superintendent/ Designee.
- **Step 4:** PC is implemented by the appropriate staff. The PC must meet as much of the MMC as practicable, must include measurable goals, and a method of appropriate evaluation.



Steps to a Diploma via the PC

- **Step 5:** Student progress is monitored.
- **Step 6:** The board of a local school district may award a diploma to students completing requirements of a PC.



- A personal curriculum is a highly individualized plan. The specific content and amount of content that is practicable for any one student is based on his or her unique strengths and learning challenges. The determination of which content, and the amount of content that is practicable for any individual student must therefore be made by the student's PC Committee.



- The law allows the local district and/or the PC committee to determine:
 - *The amount of content in which the student must demonstrate proficiency in order to meet the MMC standard for any required credit.* Because the local district awards the diploma, the district must determine minimum standards for the demonstration of proficiency.
 - When and to whom a diploma is awarded, based on the demonstration of proficiency on MMC and local graduation requirements.



- Based on state law, then, it is legal to determine that 50% or 10% (or any percentage) of the content of any MMC requirement is the amount practicable for a student with an IEP and award that student a diploma for the demonstration of proficiency in that amount of the content. The legality of doing so, however, is complicated at the intersection of two other considerations: the ethics of awarding the same diploma to students who meet vastly different standards and the requirements of the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act of 2004 (IDEA).



Local Implementation

- Local control
 - Content, proficiency, modifications, credits
- “Practicable”
- MDE: Guidance, technical assistance, working with local contacts

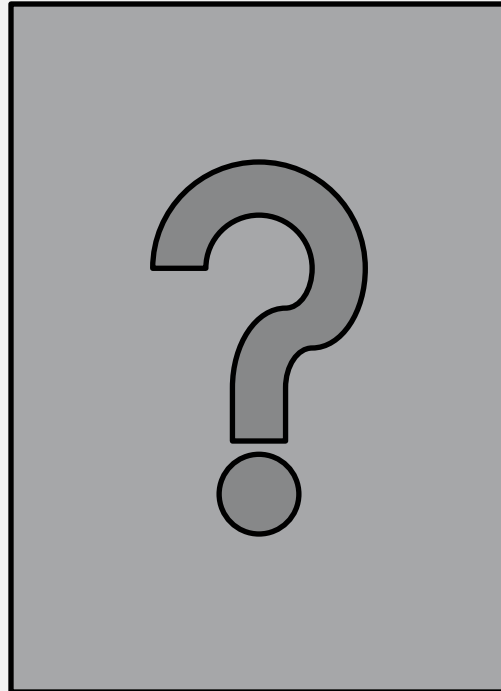




Personal Curriculum Guidance

- MDE Guidelines, FAQs, Parent Guides, Michigan Merit Curriculum (MMC) available at www.michigan.gov/highschool
- Personal Curriculum Network is a collaborative forum where practitioners share and work together on PC implementation
<http://personalcurriculum.ning.com/?xgi=4jZ6pbaoK2kneP>

Questions



Additional Questions and Comments can be directed to:

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Michigan Alliance for Families

Michigan Alliance for Families provides information, support, and education for families who have children (birth through 26 years of age) who receive (or may be eligible to receive) special education services.

We are Michigan's federally designated Parent Training and Information Center, funded by the US Department of Education and the Michigan Department of Education.

Contact Michigan Alliance for Families if:

- You have a question about your child's special education program
- You would like information about your child's disability
- You want to talk to another parent
- You are interested in finding a workshop near you

1-800-552-4821 or info@michiganallianceforfamilies.org

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