



Educational Development Plan (EDP)

Educational Development Plans (EDPs) are living documents developed by all students to identify career goals and related action plans in alignment with their changing interest and abilities. EDPs help students think about long-term education and career plans before entering high school. By going through this process, students learn more about themselves, consider different options for their future, and develop a more specific path for preparing for their career choice.

Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) and EDPs

Although both the IEP and EDP promote positive outcomes after high school, they are two different documents with different purposes. EDPs do not replace IEPs. IEPs are created for students meeting special education eligibility under the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act* (IDEA). Per the IDEA, during transition planning, educators gather information about a student's interests and strengths through age-appropriate assessments and work with the student to develop measurable postsecondary (after high school) goals related to education, training, employment, and, when appropriate, independent living skills. EDPs help students identify career paths and the education needed to reach career goals. Sometimes in developing the IEP, information from the EDP may be used to assist in transition planning. For additional EDP and IEP considerations, see the [MDE Educational Development Plan Fundamentals document](#).

Timing of EDPs

All students in Michigan are required to complete an EDP. Students should be provided the opportunity to develop an EDP in 7th grade and review the EDP in 8th grade. However, the law says EDPs must be started no later than 8th grade and then updated annually throughout high school.

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Family Matters fact sheets are intended to enhance public understanding of Michigan's special education system and are not a substitute for official laws and regulations.



Elements of the EDP

Michigan does not have a specific form to use when creating an EDP; however, Kent Intermediate School District provides a [sample EDP document](#). EDPs must include specific elements:

- **Personal Information:** The student's name, date of birth, and grade level. This information is confidential and protected under the *Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act* (FERPA). For more information about FERPA, see the Family Matters document [Privacy and Access to Records](#).
- **Student Interests:** This is information about the student's hobbies and extracurricular activities and may provide pathways to certain future jobs or careers.
- **Assessment Results:** A summary of assessment results that are important for making career or job decisions. Assessments may be done through career interest surveys, observation, testing, student projects, and more.
- **Career Goal(s):** Career path and goals for reaching a defined career.
- **Educational/Training Goals:** The level of education needed to meet career goals.

Creating an EDP gives students a chance to plan for the future while in school.

- **Career Opportunities:** Students gain awareness of projected jobs in Michigan as part of the EDP process. Pure Michigan Talent Connect, [Career Explorer](#) is a good resource for high school students who are preparing for a job search.
- **Parent Consultation/Endorsement:** Parents should have the option of reviewing and agreeing with their child's EDP. Reviewing the EDP can help parents be knowledgeable about careers and jobs their child is interested in pursuing.

Resources



[Michigan Alliance for Families:
Transition to Adulthood](#)

- [EDP Fundamentals Guide: Guidelines for the Use of Educational Development Plans](#)
- [Michigan Career Development Model](#)
- [Michigan Department of Education: Sample EDP](#)