

Personal Curriculum: Modifying the Graduation Requirements for Students with IEPs

Dec 6th, 2023





MMC: Courses vs Credits

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- Credits issued based on **Proficiency**
- **NOT** based on course completion

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Michigan Merit Curriculum

Michigan High School Graduation Requirements (18 credits)

English Language Arts (ELA) — 4 Credits

- Proficiency in State Content Standards for ELA (4 credits)

Mathematics — 4 Credits

- Proficiency in State Content Standards for Mathematics (3 credits); and
- Proficiency in district-approved 4th Mathematics credit options (1 credit) (Students MUST have a math experience in their final year of high school.)

Online Learning Experience

- Course, Learning, or Integrated Learning Experience.

Personal Finance — ½ Credit (Effective with students entering 8th grade in 2023)

- Proficiency in State Content Standards for Personal Finance

Physical Education & Health — 1 Credit

- Proficiency in State Content Standards for Physical Education and Health (1 credit); or
- Proficiency with State Content Standards for Health (1/2 credit) and district-approved extra-curricular activities involving physical activities (1/2 credit).

Science — 3 Credits

- Proficiency in State Content Standards for Science (3 credits); or
- Proficiency in some State Content Standards for Science (2 credits) and completion of a department-approved formal Career and Technical Education (CTE) program (1 credit).

Social Studies — 3 Credits

- Proficiency in State Content Standards for Social Studies (3 credits).

Visual, Performing, and Applied Arts — 1 Credit

- Proficiency in State Content Standards for Visual, Performing, and Applied Arts (1 credit).

World Language — 2 Credits

- Formal coursework or an equivalent learning experience in Grades K-12 (2 credits); or
- Formal coursework or an equivalent learning experience in Grades K-12 (1 credit) and completion of a department-approved formal CTE program; or an additional visual, performing, and applied arts credit (1 credit).

Courses vs. Credits

• The Michigan Merit Curriculum reimagines what the diploma represents. With credit based on student proficiency instead of seat time, the diploma represents what the students knows and can do, not the courses that they took. Credits don't have to equate courses; instead courses, CTE programs, work internships, and other learning opportunities can provide pieces of a variety of credits – filling up the credit pipeline.

• The legislation also allows for specific credit requirements and/or content standards to be modified based on the individual learning needs of a student. It is designed to serve students who want to accelerate or go beyond the MMC requirements as well as students who need to individualize learning requirements to meet the MMC requirement.

For specific information regarding the MMC law, please refer to the online [Michigan Merit Curriculum Frequently Asked Questions](#).

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Testing Out

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What the MMC Law States:

A school district or PSA shall also grant a student a credit if the student earns a qualifying score, as determined by the school district or PSA, on 1 or more assessments developed or selected by the school district or PSA that measure a student's understanding of the subject area content expectations or guidelines that apply to the credit.



Educational Development Plan (EDP)

EDPs should include:

- Student interests
- Assessment results
- Career Goals
- Educational/training

EDPs help students:

- With long-term education and career planning goals.
- Learn more about themselves, consider different options for their future, and develop and prepare for their career choice.
- Stay on track through high school in order to meet their goals.



Supporting Students with IEPs



Six Principles of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

- Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE)
- Least Restrictive Environment (LRE)
- Appropriate Evaluation
- Individualized Education Program (IEP)
- Parent Participation
- Procedural Safeguards



What is Transition Planning?

- To assist students with an IEP in moving from school to post-school activities.
- Beginning no later than the first IEP to be in effect when a student turns 16 or younger if determined appropriate by the IEP Team.

[34 CFR Section 300.320](#)



Who is involved in Transition Planning?

- The student.
- The parent or guardian of the student.
- A regular education teacher of the student.
- The special education provider.
- A representative of the public agency who is qualified to provide or supervise the provision of specially designed instruction, is knowledgeable of the general curriculum, and has the **authority** to commit district resources.
- An individual who can interpret the instructional implications of evaluation results.
- Representative(s) of any participating agency likely to be responsible for providing or paying for transition services, with consent of the parents or the student who has reached the age of majority.



Postsecondary Goals

- Statement(s) written to guide the planning of a student's life after they graduate from high school.
- Based on age-appropriate transition assessments along with student's interests, strengths, and needs.
- We are responsible for helping students achieve their goals.
- Write a goal that is meaningful and legally sound.



Transition Services

- Instruction
- Related services
- Community experience
- Employment and post-school living objectives



Course of Study

A multi-year description of coursework from the student's current to anticipated exit year needed to achieve the student's desired post-school goals.



Diploma or Certificate of Completion



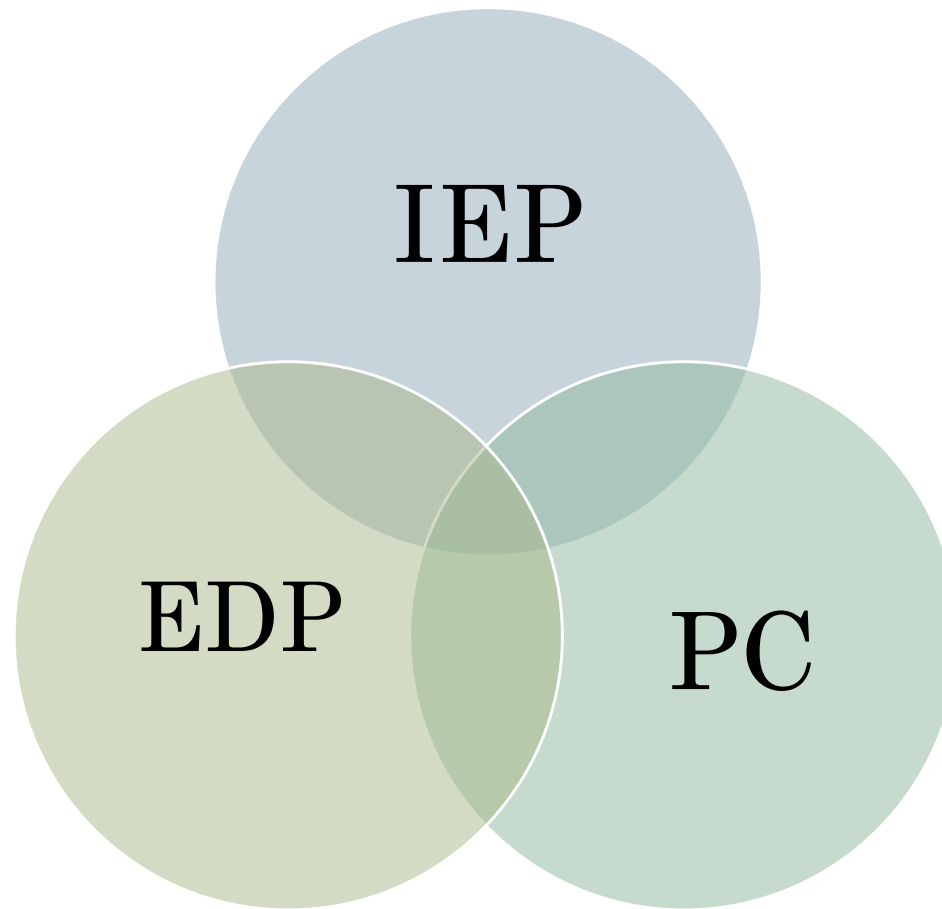
DIPLOMA: STUDENT MEETS MMC REQUIREMENTS WITH OR WITHOUT PERSONAL CURRICULUM.



CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION: STUDENT HAS COMPLETED HIGH SCHOOL BUT HAS EITHER NOT MET THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE MMC OR DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE MMC THE STUDENT



How do IEP, EDP and PC work Together?





Personal Curriculums for Students with IEPs



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



A PC CAN....

- Change the 18 credits required in the MMC.
- Remove an MMC credit/course, allowing something that better meets the student's needs to be built into their course of study.
- Be used by ALL students though different types of students have different rules.



PERSONAL CURRICULUM TYPES

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



PC TYPE: STUDENTS WITH IEP'S

- Allows modifications to any MMC credit requirement due to the impact a disability has on accessing or demonstrating proficiency in meeting expectations.
- Must align the IEP, transition plan, and EDP while keeping the MMC relevant and rigorous.
- Students receiving a high school diploma must be career and college-ready with the appropriate skills and knowledge to move on to their next step into adult life.



PC Must Do's

- When a PC is requested, a district **MUST** develop one.
- PC must be approved by the Supt or Designee and parent/family after being developed, before implementation.
- Written annual notice and website visibility.
- The PC team must include a parent, student, counselor, or teacher, and a school psychologist is recommended if the student has an IEP.



PC Best Practice

- PC Request Form
 - In-office, online, easily accessible
- PC Forms
 - Should include student info, post-school pathway, modifications, and sign-off by parents
- PC record-keeping protocol and annual update protocol
- Professional development for staff and potential team members about the PC implementation process



Personal Curriculum Resources

- [MDE Personal Curriculum Implementation Guide](#)
- [Personal Curriculum Parent and Educator Guide](#)
- [Personal Curriculum Additional Resources: Supplement to the Personal Curriculum Parent and Educator Guide](#)
- [Focus on Algebra II](#)
- [Focus on Transfer Students](#)
- [Focus on Students with an Individualized Education Plan \(IEP\)](#)
- [Focus on Enrichment](#)
- [Family Matters Personal Curriculum \(PC\) Fact Sheet](#)



Special Education Resources

- [Family Matters Finishing High School: Certificates of Completion](#)
- [Coordinating Transition Services and Postsecondary Access: Guidance on Requirements Under the IDEA and the Rehabilitation Act. January 16, 2025](#)
- [Family Matters Special Education Transition Planning Considerations for Students with Disabilities and Families Fact Sheet](#)



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Additional Questions and
comments can be directed to:

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