



PERSONAL CURRICULUM INFORMATION SHEET

School contact here

Definition:

A personal curriculum is a documented process that modifies certain requirements of the Michigan Merit Curriculum.

Who is Eligible for a Personal Curriculum?

All students in grades 9—12 are eligible. Students with a documented disability and Individualized Education Plan (IEP) are eligible to modify the Michigan Merit Curriculum to a greater extent than their non disabled peers.

When Should a Personal Curriculum be Used?

The use of a personal curriculum is allowed by state statute for only four reasons:

1. A student wishes to modify the mathematics requirement;
2. A student wishes to go beyond the academic credit requirement by adding more math, science, English Language Arts, or foreign language credits;
3. A student with a disability needs to modify the credit requirements based on his/her disability;
4. A student transfers from out-of-state or a non-public school.

Can a Personal Curriculum be Used to Modify the Entire Michigan Merit Curriculum?

- The purpose of the personal curriculum is to modify **portions** of the Michigan Merit Curriculum that are not appropriate for the student;
- Graduation with a diploma requires mastery of as much of the Michigan Merit Curriculum content expectations as possible;
- Students **without** a disability: modification is limited to a specific set of options set forth in the law;
- Students **with** a disability who **have an IEP**: modifications of credit requirements may be sought; limitations do exist;
- Because a personal curriculum leads to a high school diploma, it cannot modify the Michigan Merit Curriculum to the extent that it creates an alternative curriculum;
- The personal curriculum **must** be based on the required competency-based credits, unless the deletion of a half-credit of math (second semester of Algebra II) is approved as part of the personal curriculum request.
- An EDP and IEP (if applicable) must be in place to provide guidance and any modifications in a personal curriculum must be consistent with the EDP and IEP (if applicable).

Is a Student Eligible for a High School Diploma if They Have a Personal Curriculum?

A student who completes a personal curriculum **and** fulfills any additional local board of education graduation requirements is to be awarded a high school diploma

Who Can Request a Personal Curriculum?

- Parent or legal guardian
- Student with adult status (age of majority)
- Emancipated minor

When Can a Personal Curriculum be Requested?

- Any time for students with disabilities;
- No timeline for any student except in the areas of mathematics and social studies;
- For more information, contact the guidance counselor/administrator.

What is the Process for Requesting a Personal Curriculum?

- Complete a Personal Curriculum Request Form found in the guidance office and submit it to a guidance counselor/administrator.
- The parent must specify modifications requested.

How is the Personal Curriculum Modification Request Processed:

- A Personal Curriculum Development Team (PCDT) is created
- The PCDT must include: student, parent(s) / guardian(s), school counselor (or principal designee able to act as a counselor); if the student has an IEP, the Team “should” include a psychologist
 - It is important to note that the PCDT cannot be the IEP Team
- If a Personal Curriculum modification is granted, the “modified curriculum must incorporate as much of the graduation requirements and MMC content as practicable” (or possible)
- Any PC must establish measurable goals and appropriate evaluation measures
- Any PC must be aligned to the student’s EDP and/or IEP
- For general education students, credit requirements can only be modified in certain areas and with certain modifications (Section 5 (f) – (j))
- For students with an IEP, additional credit modifications are allowed as necessary relating to the student disability and in alignment with the EDP and IEP (Section 5 (k)) – separate meetings
- The PC must be approved by the parent(s) and the district superintendent (or designee)
- After the PC is developed, it is the parents responsibility to be “in communication with the student’s teachers quarterly to monitor progress toward PC goals”
- For a student with an IEP, the IEP Team is to: “identify the appropriate course(s) of study and indicate the necessary supports, accommodations and modifications appropriate for the PC

Clarifications:

- Students must master the MMC credit requirements (with applicable modifications including credit adjustments) and the high school graduation requirements in order to receive a diploma; they are not required to pass the MME
- The Personal Curriculum modification can be revised; the same process initially used to develop a PC should be used.
- Since the PC must align with the EDP and IEP, districts need to be aware of changes made to those documents upon which the PC relies; these changes may require a PC revision.