



PERSONAL CURRICULUM INFORMATION SHEET

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Definition:

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

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 MMC to a greater extent than their non disabled peers.

When Should a Personal Curriculum be Used?

- The use of a personal curriculum (PC) modification is allowed by state statute for only four reasons:
 1. A student wishes to modify the mathematics requirement in Algebra II.
 2. A student wishes to go beyond the academic credit requirements by adding more math, science, English language arts, or world languages credits.
 3. A student with an IEP needs to modify the credit requirements based on his or her disability.
 4. A student that transfers to a district from out of state or from a nonpublic 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.
- For students **without** a disability, modification is limited to those options set forth in the law.
- For students **with** a disability (and IEP), modifications of credit requirements may be sought.
- 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.

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, i.e. 18).
- 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 your guidance counselor.

NOTE: It is the responsibility of the parent to have quarterly contact with each teacher of modified curriculum area to monitor student's progress. In addition, if at some point in the future the student fails to follow through on the plan that justified the personal curriculum, the personal curriculum will become null and void, and the student, in order to graduate, would be required to successfully complete waived/modified credit(s).

Personal Curriculum FAQ's

Q: When should a student's Michigan Merit graduation requirements be modified with a personal curriculum?

A: The use of a personal curriculum (PC) modification is allowed by state statute for only three reasons:

- A student wishes to modify the mathematics requirement in Algebra II.
- A student wishes to go beyond the academic credit requirements by adding more math, science, English language arts, or World Language credits.
- A student with a disability needs to modify the credit requirements based on his or her disability and Individualized Education Program (IEP).

Q: Does the personal curriculum apply equally as an option for students who want to take courses that are more rigorous?

A: Yes. The Personal Curriculum modification is allowed by state statute for a student who wishes to go beyond the academic credit requirements by adding more math, science, English language arts, or world languages.

Q: How much of the Michigan Merit Curriculum (MMC) requirements can be modified for a special education student to ensure a quality education?

A: A majority of students receiving special education services will not need a Personal Curriculum. In addition, not all students with disabilities receive special education services. Some students receive educational accommodations under section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. It is important to note that the provisions in the MMC that allows for the consideration of modifications beyond what the personal curriculum stipulates are not available to students with 504 accommodations as they do not meet the federal IDEA 2004 definition of a student with a disability. Section K of Michigan Curriculum Law 380.1278b applies only to students with an IEP.

Every effort must be made to provide students with disabilities full access to the MMC before making modifications. Modifications to state standards may affect a student's opportunity to achieve a diploma. For a student eligible for special education services, the personal curriculum modifications must:

- Incorporate as much of the subject area content expectation as practicable for the student.
- Identify appropriate courses of study, as well as, supports and accommodations necessary to allow the pupil to progress.
- Be consistent with the Educational Development Plan (EDP).
- Modify components of the content expectations within each credit requirement.

Additionally, the personal curriculum modifications should:

- Reasonably enable the achievement of post-secondary goals.
- Facilitate progress along the student's career pathway and the achievement of postsecondary goals.
- Enhance the relevance of the student's educational experience.
- Provide full access to statewide assessments.
- Provide a gateway to employment and productive adult living.
- Maintain the integrity of the diploma.

Q: Does the IEP of a Student with a Disability override the Michigan Merit Curriculum?

A: No, the Individualized Educational Program (IEP) does not override the MMC but rather supports achievement in the curriculum. While the law says that this committee should take into account the IEP and Educational Development Plan (EDP), it does not require that it be ruled by them. In other words, the IEP does not determine the graduation requirements for a student with a disability. It is the responsibility of the PC committee.