



# **Personal Curriculum: Individualizing the Rigor and Relevance of the Michigan Merit Curriculum for ALL Students**

## **Transition Workshop** October 19, 2016

# Who is in the Room?



# Michigan Merit Curriculum

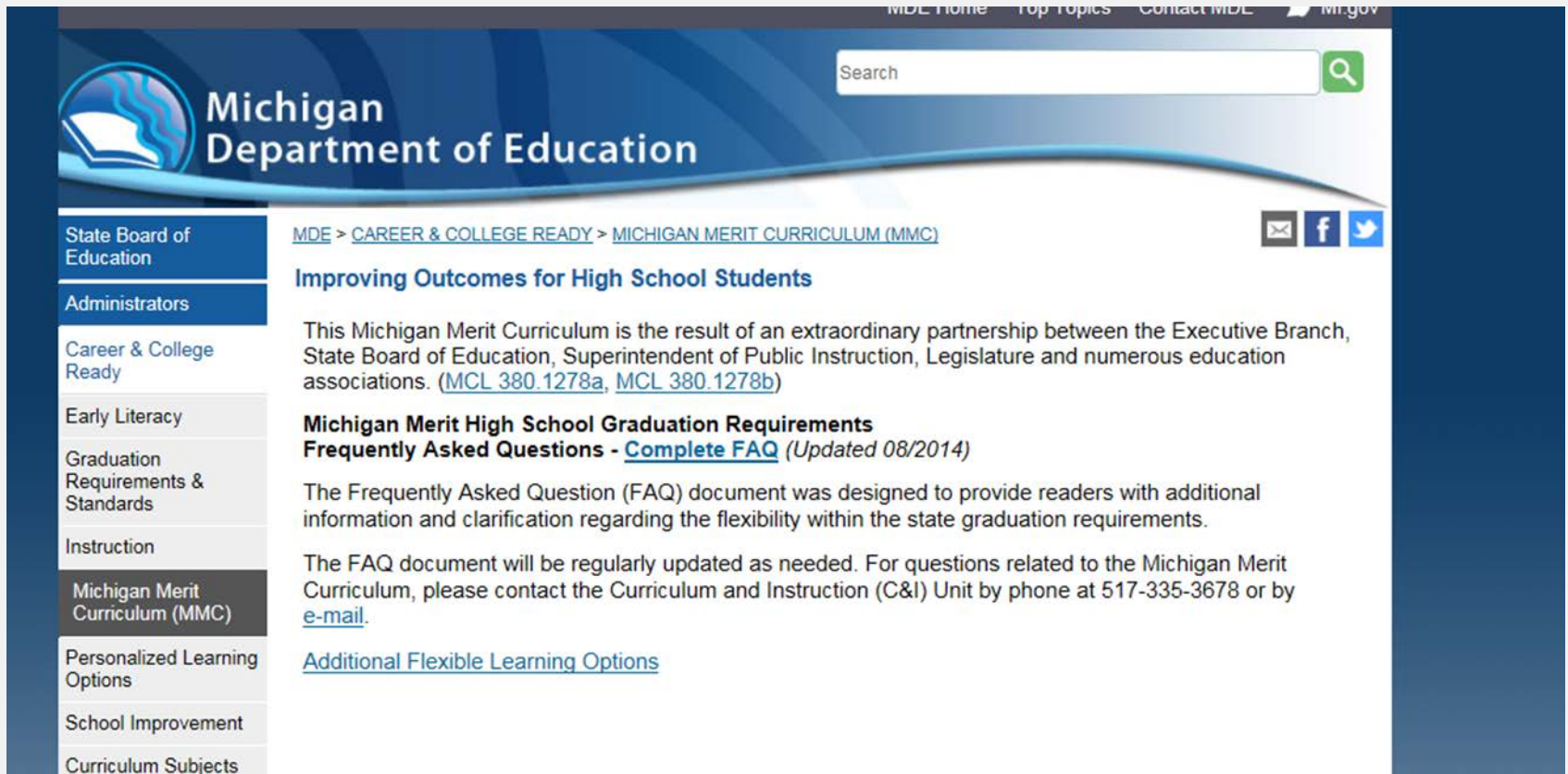
<b>Michigan Merit Curriculum High School Graduation Requirements (18 credits)</b>
<b>ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS (ELA) - 4 Credits</b>
Proficiency in State Content Standards for ELA (4 credits)
<b>MATHEMATICS - 4 Credits</b>
Proficiency in State Content Standards for Mathematics (3 credits) Proficiency in district approved 4 <sup>th</sup> mathematics credit options (1 credit) (Student must have a math experience in their final year of high school.)
<b>ONLINE LEARNING EXPERIENCE</b>
Course, Learning or Integrated Learning Experience
<b>PHYSICAL EDUCATION &amp; HEALTH - 1 Credit</b>
Proficiency in State Content Standards for Physical Education and Health (1 credit); <i>Or</i> Proficiency with State Content Standards for Health (1/2 credit) and district approved extra-curricular activities involving physical activities (1/2 credit)
<b>SCIENCE - 3 Credits</b>
Proficiency in State Content Standards for Science (3 credits); <i>Or beginning</i>



# Flexible Learning Options

- Seat-time waivers
- On-line Learning
- Dual Enrollment
- Testing Out
- CTE
- Personal Curriculum


[www.michigan.gov/highschool](http://www.michigan.gov/highschool)



The screenshot shows the Michigan Department of Education website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for "MDE Home", "Top Topics", "Contact MDE", and "mi.gov". A search bar is located in the top right corner. The main header features the Michigan Department of Education logo and the text "Michigan Department of Education". Below the header is a left sidebar with a menu of navigation options: "State Board of Education", "Administrators", "Career & College Ready", "Early Literacy", "Graduation Requirements & Standards", "Instruction", "Michigan Merit Curriculum (MMC)", "Personalized Learning Options", "School Improvement", and "Curriculum Subjects". The "Michigan Merit Curriculum (MMC)" option is highlighted. The main content area displays the breadcrumb trail "MDE > CAREER & COLLEGE READY > MICHIGAN MERIT CURRICULUM (MMC)" and social media icons for email, Facebook, and Twitter. The primary heading is "Improving Outcomes for High School Students". The text below explains that the Michigan Merit Curriculum is a result of a partnership between the Executive Branch, State Board of Education, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Legislature, and various education associations, citing MCL 380.1278a and MCL 380.1278b. It then introduces the "Michigan Merit High School Graduation Requirements Frequently Asked Questions - Complete FAQ (Updated 08/2014)". The FAQ text states that the document was designed to provide additional information and clarification regarding the flexibility within the state graduation requirements. It also notes that the FAQ will be regularly updated and provides contact information for the Curriculum and Instruction (C&I) Unit, including a phone number (517-335-3678) and an email link. A link for "Additional Flexible Learning Options" is also present.

MDE Home Top Topics Contact MDE mi.gov

Search

 Michigan Department of Education

MDE > CAREER & COLLEGE READY > MICHIGAN MERIT CURRICULUM (MMC)

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**Improving Outcomes for High School Students**

This Michigan Merit Curriculum is the result of an extraordinary partnership between the Executive Branch, State Board of Education, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Legislature and numerous education associations. ([MCL 380.1278a](#), [MCL 380.1278b](#))

**Michigan Merit High School Graduation Requirements Frequently Asked Questions - [Complete FAQ](#) (Updated 08/2014)**

The Frequently Asked Question (FAQ) document was designed to provide readers with additional information and clarification regarding the flexibility within the state graduation requirements.

The FAQ document will be regularly updated as needed. For questions related to the Michigan Merit Curriculum, please contact the Curriculum and Instruction (C&I) Unit by phone at 517-335-3678 or by [e-mail](#).

[Additional Flexible Learning Options](#)

State Board of Education

Administrators

Career & College Ready

Early Literacy

Graduation Requirements & Standards

Instruction

Michigan Merit Curriculum (MMC)

Personalized Learning Options

School Improvement

Curriculum Subjects



# 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

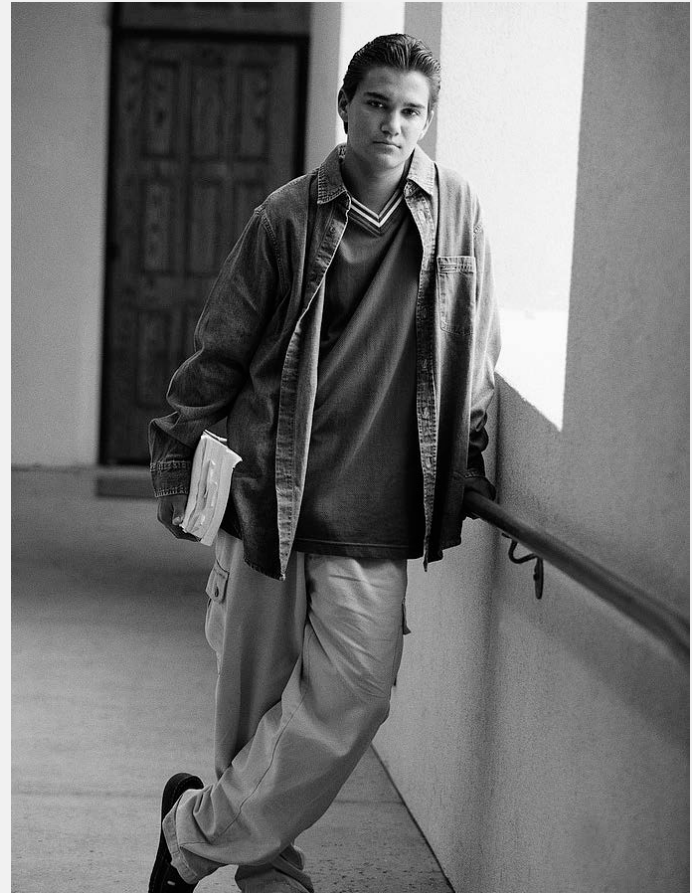


# Personal Curriculum

**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): When is it Used?

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

# Data Snapshot

	Reported PCs for 2014-15
<b>Students</b>	5,690
<b>Schools</b>	201
<b>Districts</b>	198
<b>ISDs</b>	43



# 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 ½ credit in Civics





# Latest Changes

- If requested by the allowable parties, a PC must be developed. The developed PC still needs to be agreed upon by the parent or legal guardian and the superintendent or school designee before taking effect.
- The group of individuals that develops the PC must now include a teacher OR guidance counselor.



# Latest Changes

- A student using a PC for the Algebra II content must now complete at least 1 math credit during his or her final 2 years of school.
- The department or any school district shall not limit or discourage the number of students with a PC on any basis other than the best interest of each individual student.



# Latest Changes (CTE)

- Students may substitute a formal Career and Technical Education (CTE) program (regardless of content) for up to 1 credit of social studies; 1 credit of health and physical education; and 1 credit of visual, performing, or applied arts. (with PC)
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> World Language and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Science may also be replaced by CTE. (without PC)



# Latest Changes

- Schools shall provide an annual notice to parents or guardians explaining the PC and that all students are entitled to a PC. This notice shall be sent to a student's home and can take several forms including written letter, newsletter, or handbook. This notice shall also be posted on the school's public website.



# Local Implementation

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





# Practice Scenarios

Purpose: To facilitate candid discussion for participants around the implementation of the Personal Curriculum based on several real-life scenarios

- Get into groups or teams
- Discuss how your team would handle the student in the scenario
- Come up with answer to the PC request with a short explanation of how you came to the decision, including the modifications you would approve



## Additional Talking Points

- Is this decision in the students best interest?
- Will they be able to meet their post-school goal with the PC?
- Does it align with their IEP and EDP?
- Will we be modifying content that is appropriate for the student to get?
- Could we put other accommodations in place to give them access to the content?

## Scenario 1: Amy

- General education student
- Completing Junior year, but still in Geometry due to failing Algebra 1 as a freshman
- Parents have requested a PC for Algebra, so that she only needs to take  $\frac{1}{2}$  credit in her senior year allowing her to take an art class that she wants to enroll in.
- Amy wants to be a registered nurse when she graduates (Health Sciences Pathway)



## Scenario 2: Jamie

- Jamie is a tenth grade student who receives special education services due to her certification as a student with a disability in math. Jamie has taken Algebra I with modifications and support per her IEP, but she has failed Algebra I twice. Jamie has completed her Educational Development Plan with her counselor, and wants to become a Child Care Provider after she graduates from high school. Jamie's mother would like to request a Personal Curriculum so that Jamie can take other math courses and still graduate from high school with a diploma.

## Scenario 3: Casey

- Casey, a tenth grade student, is very interested in enrolling in a two-year auto mechanics training program at the Career and Technical Education (CTE) Center during his junior and senior years. Since the auto mechanics course meets daily for three hours, Casey's parents believe it will be difficult for him to meet all of the MMC requirements without a PC. The PC allows Casey to meet one-half (0.5) of the Algebra II expectations. He will earn one-half (0.5) credit of Algebra II over two years in his Auto Mechanics course as well as one (1) math-related credits.

## Scenario 4: Maya

- Maya is a ninth grade student and a promising dancer in a magnet school. She is a good student with aspirations of studying at the prestigious Columbia School for the Arts in Chicago. Her parents want a personal curriculum that ensures a strong academic course of study, yet showcases her talent in Dance. They are requesting she takes an additional math instead of PE/Health during her senior year.

## Scenario 5: Ryan

- Student with an IEP (SLD reading/math)
- Sophomore
- Wants to be a chef and hopes to enroll in a culinary arts sequence through CTE his last two years
- Hasn't taken any foreign language courses due to extra support in reading and math
- Parents requesting a PC to modify the foreign language requirement making room in his day for CTE

# Questions



Additional Questions and Comments can be directed to:

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[517-335-3062](tel:517-335-3062)