

Dear Parents:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of your right to request a Personal Curriculum (PC) for your son or daughter. A PC is a documented process that modifies certain requirements of the Michigan Merit Curriculum (MMC). The MMC defines a common set of required credits for graduation and provides educators with a common understanding of what students know and should be able to do for credit. Passed by the legislature in January of 2007, the MMC applies to students who were in the 9th grade in the fall of 2007.

While, we hope that the new MMC requirements will improve the quality of education for ALL Michigan public high school students, we are aware that students have very different learning needs. Some students may benefit by accelerating the curriculum to accommodate their special talents and interests. Other students may have disabilities that require some modifications to keep the MMC meaningful and fair. If you believe your son or daughter would benefit from a Personal Curriculum, you must make a request for consideration of a PC; then a team will be formed to determine what curriculum changes are appropriate. The MMC requirements and allowable PC modifications are printed on the back of this letter.

The new MMC law requires the following when considering a Personal Curriculum:

- The PC must be requested by the parent, legal guardian or emancipated student.
- The PC may not be needed if the MMC for a student can be addressed with other reasonable arrangements.
- When needed, the PC is written by a group of knowledgeable people that includes the parent and school staff.
- The PC must adhere to the MMC content standards as much as is possible for the student. In other words, the essential content expectations for graduation must still be met.
- The PC may exceed the requirements of the Michigan Merit Curriculum.
- The PC may contain some special provisions for students with documented disabilities.
- The PC must be approved by the Superintendent or his/her designee.
- The PC may be adjusted during the course of the student's high school education using the same process, as appropriate.
- The PC process requires that parents/guardians play an active role in the quarterly monitoring of the PC.

More detailed descriptions of the Michigan Merit Curriculum and a Personal Curriculum are available at www.michigan.gov/highschool.

We are looking forward to working with you to provide meaningful educational opportunities for your student as s/he progresses through the Michigan Merit Curriculum.

Sincerely,