



AUTISM ALLIANCE OF MICHIGAN PRESENTS

MiNavigator

August 2018

MiNavigator Newsletter Issue 22

Presented by Autism Alliance of Michigan
www.AAoMI.org

Help. Hope. Answers. Today

HIGH SCHOOL PLANNING: DO YOU NEED TO CONSIDER A PERSONAL CURRICULUM (PC)?

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Transitioning between schools, high school scheduling, annual IEP meetings, and informal brainstorming with school professionals are all potential opportunities to discuss the Personal Curriculum (PC) option. In the autism community we have many families who struggle with the decisions surrounding what is informally described as 'Certificate (of Completion) Track' and 'Diploma Track.' For students who struggle the most with this decision, and the resulting trajectory of their academic life, we felt this would be good information to understand in more depth, and to share with your families.

What is a PERSONAL CURRICULUM (PC):

"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

The PC legislation allows for greater flexibility of learning options for high school students. There are various types of Personal Curriculums, including; (1) those that go beyond academic credit requirements; or, (2) modify math requirements; or (3) modify requirements based on disability; and lastly, (4) those that can modify the credit requirements for transfer students.

cont.



**What does a PC mean for a student with a disability?**

- The ability to modify the student's curriculum based on their needs and the programs/services of the IEP.
- The ability to obtain a High School Diploma.
- The PC must also align with the student's Transition Plan, Educational Development Plan (EDP) while maintaining rigor and relevance of the Michigan Merit Curriculum (MMC).
- The ability to modify any Michigan Merit Curriculum (MMC) content due to the impact a disability has on accessing or demonstrating proficiency in meeting expectations.

How does one decide on the need for a PC? Ask yourself the following questions:

- Is a PC in the student's best interest?
- Will the student be able to meet post-secondary goals with a PC?
- Will the PC align with the IEP, Transition Plan, EDP?
- Will the modifications be appropriate and necessary for the student to learn/master the content?
- Would appropriate accommodations work or is there truly need for a PC?

Who creates the PC?

380.1278b5a, amended: (a) The personal curriculum shall be developed by a group that includes at least the pupil, at least 1 of the pupil's parents or the pupil's legal guardian, and a teacher described in this subdivision or the pupil's high school counselor or another designee qualified to act in a counseling role under section 1233 or 1233a selected by the high school principal. In addition, for a pupil who receives special education services, a school psychologist should also be included in this group. The teacher included in the group developing the personal curriculum shall be a teacher who is currently teaching the pupil, who currently teaches in or whose expertise is in a subject area being modified by the personal curriculum, or who is determined by the principal to have qualifications otherwise relevant to the group. This subdivision does not require an in-person meeting of the group.

PC Implementation:

- Local control – it has been strongly suggested that school districts have policies/procedures for PCs.
- When a PC is requested one must be developed.
- A PC must be approved by the Superintendent or Designee after being developed.
- PCs do not transfer from District to District.

cont.



**2018/19 SCHOOL YEAR****Time To Get Ready - A New School Year Is Upon Us**

It is never too early to prepare for the changes in routine and structure, moving from “home for the summer” to “back to school life.” Now is the time to prepare for and get ahead of the challenges and changes that may be awaiting in the new school year. With numerous uncertainties ahead a checklist can provide security and serve to uncomplicate potential difficulties. The following is a basic checklist to assist in relieving some of the pressure of transitioning from home to school.

First Week in August (8/5)

- ☐ Preschool/Early EI – New School complete: Big Book About ME
- ☐ Reinforce the child’s ability to cope
- ☐ Prepare social story for back to school (preparing for back to school)
- ☐ Prepare social story for back at school
- ☐ Establish school year morning, meal-time & afterschool procedures

Second Week in August (8/12)

- ☐ Put on your own oxygen mask on and get ready for a great new school year
- ☐ Prepare for change
- ☐ Try not to over interpret the child’s reactions.
- ☐ Decide how you will deal with resistance.
- ☐ Make visual schedules for morning, mealtime, after school, bedtime

Third Week in August (8/19)

- ☐ Schedule back to school physical/dental appointments
- ☐ Make copies of pertinent medical
- ☐ Obtain doctor’s scripts
- ☐ Medications in pharmacy containers
- ☐ Streamline back to school shopping
- ☐ Gradually increase bed time
- ☐ Gradually increase wake-up time

Fourth Week in August (8/26)

- ☐ Designate a place for school work, practice using the space
- ☐ Establish the location for backpacks/ lunch boxes
- ☐ Discuss the changes with your child
- ☐ Set up a binder, folder or filing system for school records: IEP invites, IEP, goals/objectives, progress reports, staff reports, etc.

First Week of School (9/2)

- ☐ Enjoy Labor Day (9/3/2018)
- ☐ Review all the school information
- ☐ Check on transportation
- ☐ Schedule a school meeting, if one is needed
- ☐ Discuss the new school year with the child
- ☐ Develop a schedule with the child
- ☐ Prepare a visual schedule if one is needed

Second Full Week of School (9/9)

- ☐ Mark your calendar with all the important school dates
- ☐ Volunteer at school
- ☐ Re-teach the school’s “hidden curriculum” – social behavior
- ☐ Prepare an organization system for the 2018-2019 school year
- ☐ Attend meet the teacher night

Third Full Week of School (9/16)

- ☐ Check backpack for any changes in schedules
- ☐ Check with teacher for any beyond first week adjustment difficulties
- ☐ Begin communication log
- ☐ Check dates for annual IEPs
- ☐ Check dates for any upcoming evaluations

Fourth Full Week of School (9/23)

Be sure your calendar is up to date with:

- ☐ Holidays
- ☐ Teacher PD Days
- ☐ Report card dates
- ☐ Parent Teacher Conferences
- ☐ Spring assessment dates (if appropriate)
- ☐ Half Days

October 2018

The school year should be in full swing. Things should be organized for the school year and the child is back into the school routine. If things are not going well this is the time to review all schedules, anecdotal data, and adjust as needed to ensure the child enjoys school and is able to access the curriculum.





AUGUST AT A GLANCE

			1 2018 Camp A.B.L.E. Season (Canton) Arc Membership Picnic (Muskegon)	2 1-2-3 Magic Parenting (Kingsford)	3 2018 OCHN Your Voice, Your Value Conference (Troy) Sensory Storytime for Special Needs Adults (Boyne City)	4 AAoM FREE Autism Caregiver Bootcamp Series (Sault Ste. Marie)
5 AAoM FREE Autism Caregiver Bootcamp Series (Marquette)	6 POWER Camp (Fenton) School Readiness Summer Camp (Brighton)	7 BWCIL Cooking Class (Port Huron)	8 Camp Zip (Ypsilanti) Books, Bubbles and Balls at the Park! (Roseville)	9 Long Term Care/Medicaid Planning (Brighton)	10 DNOM's Community Spirit Gala (Troy) The Fowler Center Summer Camp (Mayville)	11 Kik Pool Summer Saturdays! (Kalamazoo)
12 Wheels and Heels 2018 (Harrison Charter Township)	13 Camp Zip Overnight Camps @ Howell Nature Center (Howell)	14 Conflict Management in Special Education (Bloomfield Hills)	15 Summer Fun Kayaking & Paddle Boarding (Midland)	16 FBA Process and How to Create Positive Behavior Support Plans (Bad Axe)	17 Camp ALEC (Grand Rapids)	18 The ABCs of ABA (Southfield) NAMI Walks Northern Michigan (Marquette)
19 Abrams Planetarium Sensory Friendly Show (East Lansing)	20 Camp Tall Tree (Fenton)	21 BWCIL Cooking Class (Port Huron)	22 Drop In Art Days! (Traverse City)	23 AYSO Region 158 VIP League (St Clair Shores)	24 Mon-Arc Dance (Monroe)	25 The Fowler Center Annual Fishing Weekend (Mayville)
26 Rejoicing Spirits -no-shush Worship Service (Birmingham)	27	28 SPAR Hiking (Sault Ste. Marie)	29 SPAR Biking (Manistique)	30	31 Autism Sports Academy (Detroit)	

** For more information on any of these events please contact MiNavigator line at 877-463-AAOM

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