

Understanding Personal Curriculum and Graduation

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Michigan Department of Education



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Today's Agenda

- Understanding the Michigan Merit Curriculum (MMC)
- Personal Curriculum (PC) Flexibility
- The Family's Role in the MMC and PC
- Student Scenario's
- Wrap-up & Questions



High School Outcome's in Michigan

• **Option #1**

- High School Diploma
- Earn all 18 MMC credits
 - Plus, any district additions
 - All diplomas in Michigan are the exact same regardless of the total number of credits earned.

• **Option #2**

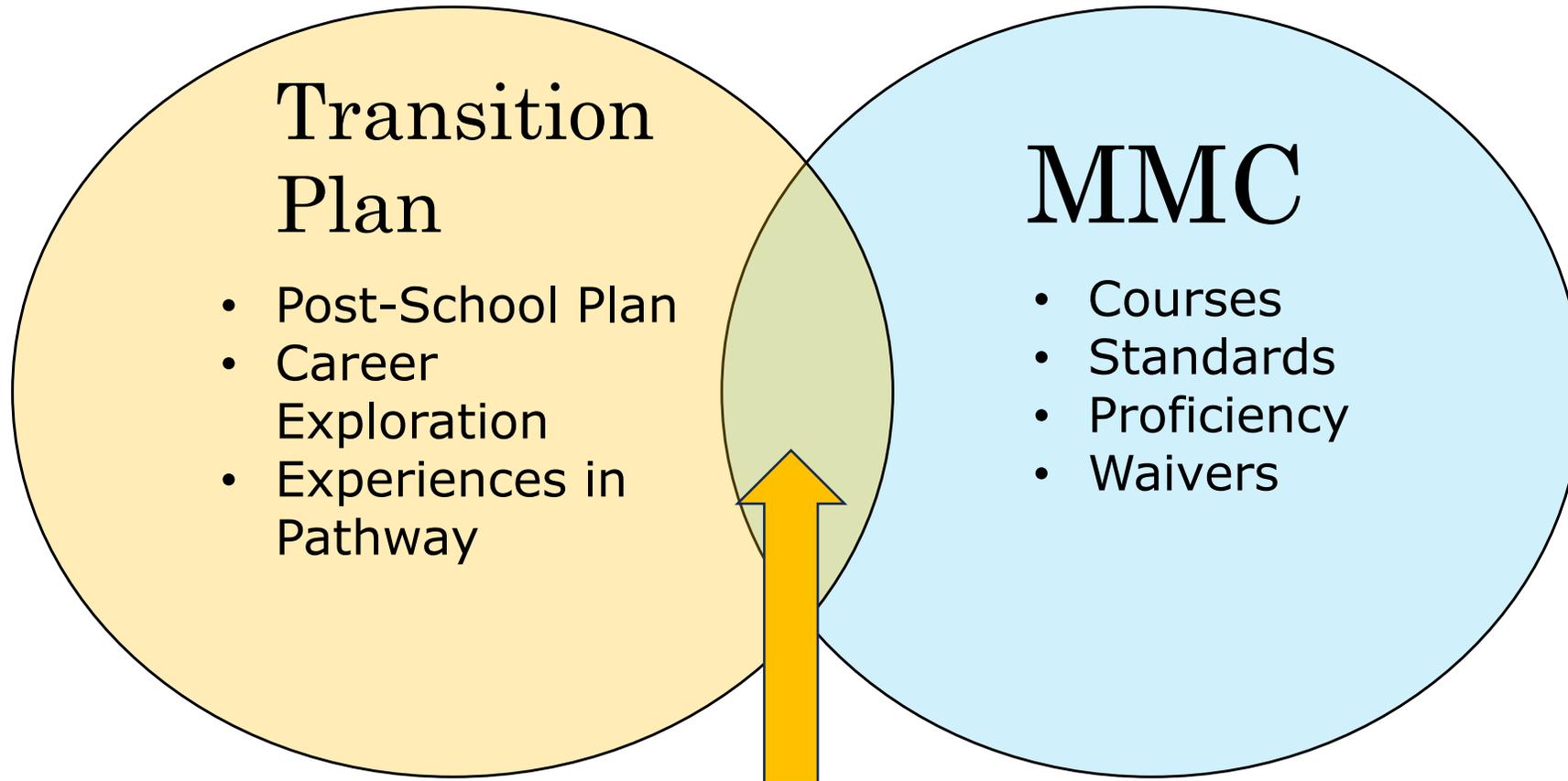
- High School Diploma with PC
- Earn less than 18 MMC credits
 - Plus, any district additions
 - PC waives certain MMC credits
 - Same exact diploma as Option #1

High School Outcome's in Michigan

- **Option #3**
- Certificate of Completion
 - No credit requirements
- Not legally recognized as a high school diploma
 - Students **could** continue receiving special education services including transition services through age 26.



High School Outcome's in Michigan



Career and College
Readiness

High Schools have a Responsibility

- What is the responsibility to students and families?
 - What happens if a student is handed a diploma without the skills and abilities to head to their “next”?
- Few jobs (only 10%) allow students to make a livable wage without some type of post-secondary education.
- Students will need a degree, certification, or license to support themselves.





Michigan Merit Curriculum

- MMC Credits are based on **PROFICIENCY**, not seat time or course completion.
- Students must learn it (**Standards**) to EARN it (**Credit**)
- Algebra 2 is NOT required, math proficiency is!

Career & College Ready
MICHIGAN



Michigan Merit Curriculum

Michigan High School Graduation Requirements (18 credits)

English Language Arts (ELA) — 4 Credits

- Proficiency in State Content Standards for ELA (4 credits)

Mathematics — 4 Credits

- Proficiency in State Content Standards for Mathematics (3 credits); and
- Proficiency in district-approved 4th Mathematics credit options (1 credit) (Students MUST have a math experience in their final year of high school.)

Online Learning Experience

- Course, Learning, or Integrated Learning Experience.

Personal Finance — ½ Credit (Effective with students entering 8th grade in 2023)

- Proficiency in State Content Standards for Personal Finance

Physical Education & Health — 1 Credit

- Proficiency in State Content Standards for Physical Education and Health (1 credit); or
- Proficiency with State Content Standards for Health (1/2 credit) and district-approved extra-curricular activities involving physical activities (1/2 credit).

Science — 3 Credits

- Proficiency in State Content Standards for Science (3 credits); or
- Proficiency in some State Content Standards for Science (2 credits) and completion of a department-approved formal Career and Technical Education (CTE) program (1 credit).

Social Studies — 3 Credits

- Proficiency in State Content Standards for Social Studies (3 credits).

Visual, Performing, and Applied Arts — 1 Credit

- Proficiency in State Content Standards for Visual, Performing, and Applied Arts (1 credit).

World Language — 2 Credits

- Formal coursework or an equivalent learning experience in Grades K-12 (2 credits); or
- Formal coursework or an equivalent learning experience in Grades K-12 (1 credit) and completion of a department-approved formal CTE program; or an additional visual, performing, and applied arts credit (1 credit).

Courses vs. Credits

- The Michigan Merit Curriculum reimagines what the diploma represents. With credit based on student proficiency instead of seat time, the diploma represents what the students knows and can do, not the courses that they took. Credits don't have to equate courses; instead courses, CTE programs, work internships, and other learning opportunities can provide pieces of a variety of credits – filling up the credit pipeline.

- The legislation also allows for specific credit requirements and/or content standards to be modified based on the individual learning needs of a student. It is designed to serve students who want to accelerate or go beyond the MMC requirements as well as students who need to individualize learning requirements to meet the MMC requirement.

For specific information regarding the MMC law, please refer to the online [Michigan Merit Curriculum Frequently Asked Questions](#).

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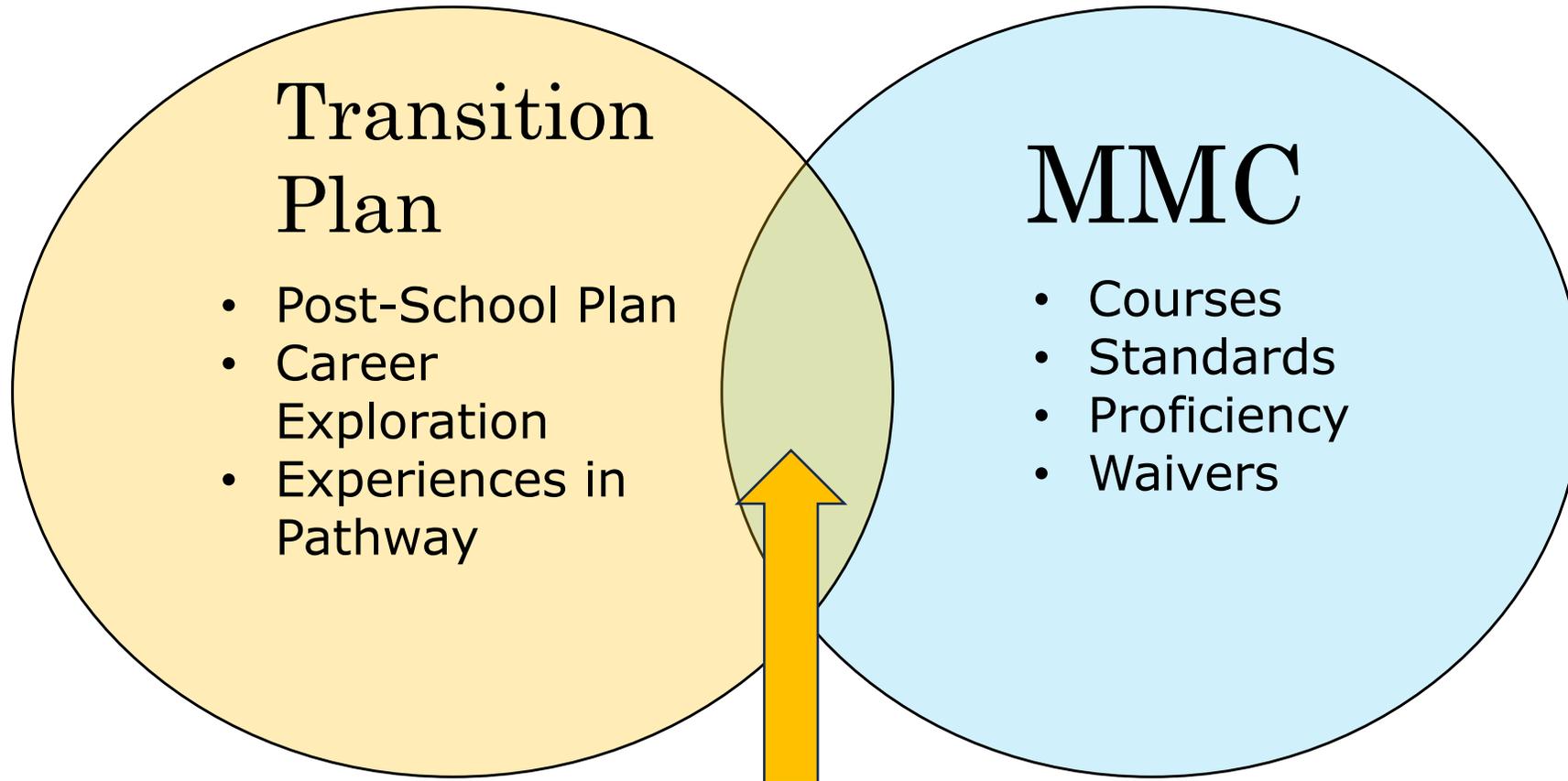
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Michigan Merit Curriculum

- Does every student need the MMC in full?
- Does every student need to earn all 18 credits to be career and college ready?

Transition Planning & the MMC



Career and College
Readiness



Transition Planning & the MMC

- Flexibility in granting credit is just as important as flexibility for waiving credit.
- The PC is not the answer or the first option when students are behind in proficiency or credit deficient.
- The Transition Plan is the only document that determines if a PC is needed.
- Without a solid post-school plan, a PC should not be considered.



Personal Curriculum (PC)

- The PC is an option any student or family can explore to waive certain graduation requirements and earn a diploma.
- Any modification to a student's graduation requirements needs to be consistent with the student's post-school plan and goals.
- With or without a PC, the high school diploma is documentation that the student possesses the knowledge and skills necessary for postsecondary success.



Personal Curriculum (PC)

What it is

- It is simply an MMC credit WAIVER.
- An optional district tool to make minor changes to the MMC.
- Individualized and aligned to EDP and IEP/Transition Plan if applicable.
- A proactive, team-based process.
- An amendable, living document.
- A way to make high school make sense for many students.



Personal Curriculum (PC)

What it isn't

- A way to remove courses/credits that are too hard or that the students doesn't want to do.
- A replacement for interventions or differentiated instruction.
- A blanket policy, one size fits all.
- A last-minute decision to save graduation.



Personal Curriculum (PC)

- **IEP Modification:** Allows the waiving of standards/credits in any MMC content area. The idea is to align a student's course of study with their transition plan and the achievement of their postsecondary goals.
 - PC Modifications must align with the rigor a student might need for success into their desired career pathway.
 - PC can remove MMC content/credits that are unnecessary for the student's goals.



Families Role in the MMC & PC

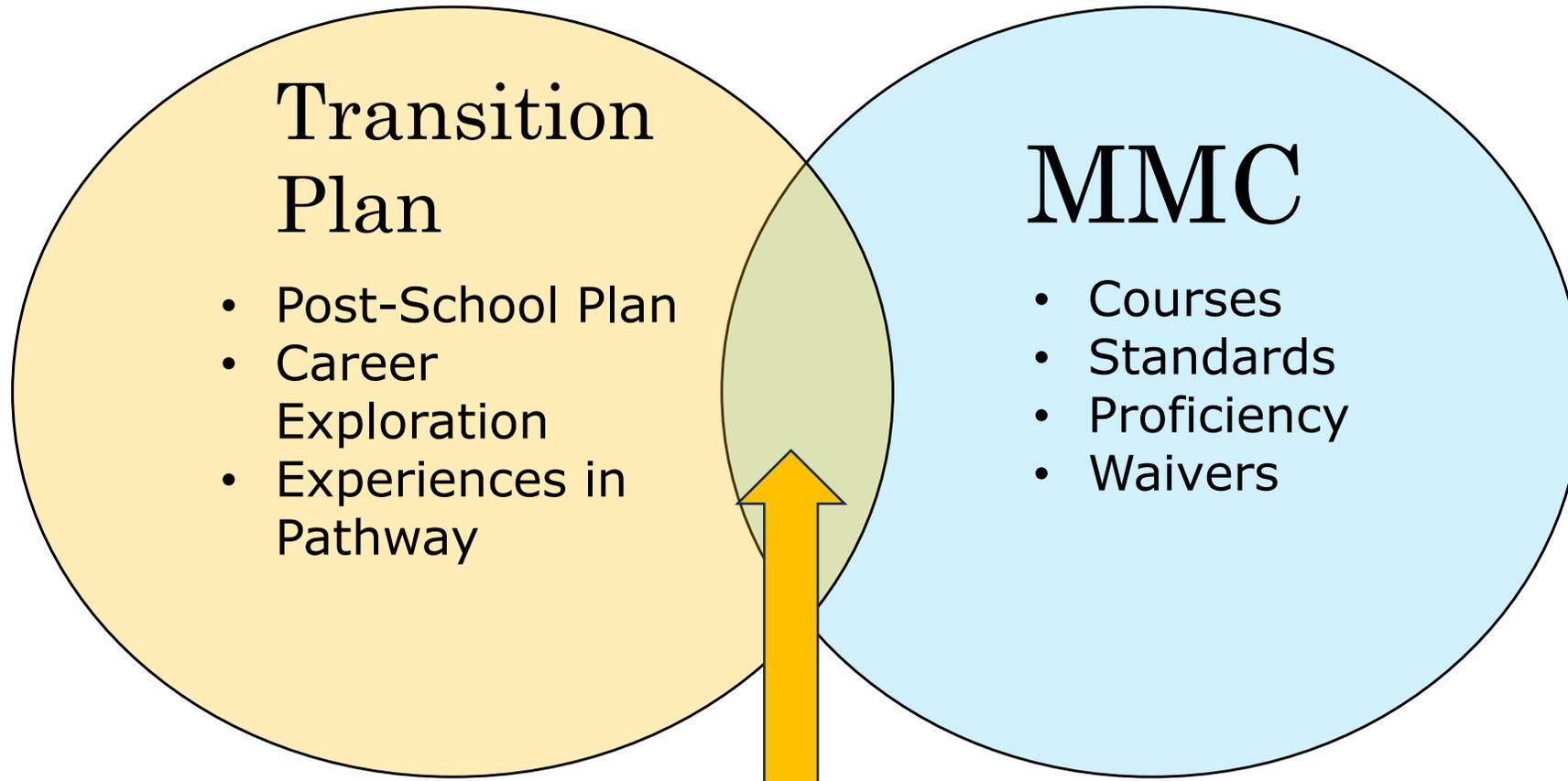
- Understanding the Graduation Requirements and options for earning credit.
- Supporting the development of the Educational Development Plan (EDP) and Transition Plan.
- Initiating the PC request to adjust MMC requirements based on post-school goals.
- Participating on the PC team which must include the parent or guardian.
- Reviewing and approving the PC, parent approval is required.
- Encouraging academic success and consistent involvement.



Families Role in the MMC & PC

- Reach out to your district to find out local PC process.
 - The PC process looks different in every district.
- Remember:
 - The PC can only be developed and approved by a district.
 - They do not have to approve any PC's; it is an optional tool.
 - Every district has their own board policy for granting credit and their diploma.

Transition Planning & the MMC



Career and College
Readiness



Personal Curriculum: Scenario A

- Post-School Goal
 - Dental Hygienist, Community College 2-year program.
- Potential Credit Modifications
 - World Language (1 or 2 credits waived)
 - Math (1 credit, student will not take Alg. 2)
- What could they do with “found” time?
 - Work-Study Experience
 - Career and Technical Education
 - Interventions



Personal Curriculum: Scenario B

- Post-School Goal
 - Electrician, Apprenticeship through local Business
- Potential Credit Modifications
 - World Language (1 or 2 credits waived)
 - Math (1 credit, student will not take Alg. 2)
 - Science (1 credit)
 - Social Studies (1 credit)
- What could they do with “found” time?
 - Work-Study Experience
 - Career and Technical Education
 - Interventions



Personal Curriculum: Scenario C

- Post-School Goal
 - Mechanic, Trade School/Vocational Program
- Potential Credit Modifications
 - World Language (1 or 2 credits waived)
 - Math (1 credit, student will not take Alg. 2)
 - Science (1 credit)
 - Social Studies (1 credit)
- What could they do with “found” time?
 - Work-Study Experience
 - Career and Technical Education
 - Interventions



Personal Curriculum: Scenario D

- Post-School Goal
 - High School Math Teacher, 4-year University
- Potential Credit Modifications (Only if University doesn't require it)
 - World Language (1 or 2 credits waived)
- What could they do with "found" time?
 - Work-Study Experience
 - Career and Technical Education
 - Interventions



Questions and Closing

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Michigan Alliance for Families

In collaboration with



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