Course of Study and Personal Curriculum

Laurie Vanderploeg
PASE January 2015

Long Hard Look at Short IEP Question: Problems with "Course of Study" (COS)

Provide notice that a purpose of IEP will include COS determination
- In IEP invite or on the IEP itself
- Very important decision
- General Education Diploma
- Certificate of Completion
- Michigan has only one diploma option and one certificate option

What Diploma Options Are There?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MMC (required by law)</th>
<th>MMC Plus (recommended by law, district's preference)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student meets MMC requirements, with or without PC</td>
<td>Student meets MMC requirements, with or without PC, plus any additional district requirements</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
## Certificates Are a District Decision

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Certificate of Completion</th>
<th>Certificate of Acquisition</th>
<th>Certificate of Transition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Student completes vocational training and/or workforce-based learning.</td>
<td>Instructor rates performance on associated vocational skill sets.</td>
<td>Student demonstrates proficiency on ACT WorkKeys in academic skills.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Instructor rates performance on related skills, e.g., attendance, social skills, self-advocacy, following rules and directions, hygiene.</td>
<td>Individualized participation and integration into the community.</td>
<td>Inductive reasoning, finding information, locating information, and applied mathematics.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*NOTE:* Vocational training not synonymous with CTE.

## Course of Study Decisions
* Parents need to know early on that graduation with a regular high school diploma requires documented proficiency/mastery of MMC requirements with or without a PC.
* Diploma ends educational eligibility.

## Keys to Improved COS Decisions
* COS decisions
  * Should not be based on stereotypes of proficiency related to
    * eligibility category
    * educational placement
    * credit status
    * attendance
    * disciplinary status
  * Should be based on student performance data prepared in anticipation of the IEP COS discussion.
Course of Study in Other States

Not just a question of diploma or not
Treated as substantive part of the transition IEP
- 4 year layout of courses supporting the exit outcome and the student’s post-secondary vision.
Embeddedness
- Facilitates the coordination of credit acquisition and transition
- Higher probability of meeting diploma and transition needs in a timely fashion
Communication with parents begins early on.

Personal Curriculum

U of M Study

Concern when MMC legislation enacted in 2006 was overutilization of PC
Results of 2013 study to the contrary
- Underutilized by students with disabilities
- Primary users were students without disabilities
- Rigor up
- Modify Algebra II
Considerations

- Districts must afford students with disabilities an equal opportunity to participate in diploma track and to graduate with a district diploma
- Does not equate to per se right to a diploma
- Does require an "individualized consideration as to whether students with disabilities would benefit from a personal curriculum before determining whether they would be placed on a certificate track"

Committee Identified Barriers to PC Implementation

Districts must develop proficiency based MMC/PC decision rules for the awarding a credit
- The percentage of curriculum standards, or alternatively, which standards (power standards) must be mastered to earn a credit
- The level of proficiency that must be demonstrated to say that a standard has been mastered
- Alternate decision rules for students with disabilities below which PC Development Teams cannot go in modifying MMC requirements through the PC process.

Personal Curriculum

- MDE, LEA and PSA shall not limit or discourage the number of pupils with a PC on any basis other than the best interests of the individual pupil
- Option to include teacher or counselor
- Group developing the PC does not need to have in-person meeting
- Parent monitoring of progress
- Note: A request seeking modifications beyond the alternate decision rules would by definition create an alternate curriculum, which cannot be the basis for a regular high school diploma and would exceed the authority of the PC development team.