

# Glossary of Key Terms

**Accommodations:** Changing the context, setting or procedures for learning an expectation or guideline (see alternative instructional delivery methods)

From the IDEA REGS - The terms “accommodations” and “modifications” are terms of art referring to adaptations of the educational environment, the presentation of educational material, the method of response, or the educational content. They are not, however, examples of different types of “education”.

**Adult Mentoring:** Structured opportunities for adults outside of education to work with students and assist them with understanding MMC expectations and course credit guidelines, as well as providing role models for success.

**Alternative Instructional Delivery Methods:** Instructional strategies teachers use to teach content expectations and guidelines such as apprenticeships, tutoring, or problem centered learning.

**Assessment:** All of the many different ways that measure a student’s skills or knowledge in a subject area. A process for gathering information about a student’s future direction, present level of performance, and/or progress towards an identified goal/outcome.

**Challenging Curriculum:** A rigorous sequence of content learning expectations and subject matter designed to prepare students for postsecondary success on state and national standards.

**Career Pathway:** Broad grouping of careers that share similar characteristics and employment requirements.

**Certificate of Completion:** An alternative LEA Board approved means of recognizing a student’s school accomplishments. This certificate is provided to the student when they fulfill the documented requirements for postsecondary success outlined in the student’s EDP, IEP (or both) and are ready to leave school for employment or when the student is aging out of school. This certificate is given in place of a high school diploma as the student’s education program has followed a course of study that does not meet the standards of the MMC.

**College Credit Opportunities:** Options for students to further their academic and personal interests at a college or university after they have exhausted the course work offered at their local high school.

**Context or Setting:** Changing the teaching and learning environment to facilitate the learning of content expectations or guidelines. Context or setting also refers to the instruction and learning environment.

**Credit:** A marking documented on a student’s transcript that denotes proficiency in the corresponding area of the MMC.

- The Board of Education must determine what constitutes proficiency in order for the student to receive credit.
- Failure to earn the minimal level of proficiency means that the student has not earned the required MMC or district determined credit, which may jeopardize the student's ability to attain a high school diploma.

**Credit Bearing Course:** Courses that are counted towards a diploma.

**Curriculum/General Curriculum:** The curriculum that is generally available to all students. In Michigan, the curriculum or general curriculum referenced by IDEA is the Michigan Merit Curriculum (MMC) in addition to any additional LEA required curricular expectations. The curriculum consists of designated content area expectations/strands and benchmarks. It is expected that all students will receive instruction in the general curriculum. For some students this will require implementation of supplemental aides/services including accommodations, modifications and support services. Failure to provide access to the general curriculum and/or implement IEP specified supplemental aides and services could result in denial of FAPE for a student with a disability.

**Disabilities:** A condition that may hinder learning (EI, LD, ASD, etc.) requiring special education and related services that meet the requirements of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 or IDEA 2004. A condition that impacts a student's progress and/or achievement in the general curriculum. Students may qualify for specific learning support under section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 or IDEA 2004.

**Dual Enrollment:** Courses taken at a community college, college or university which simultaneously earns high school and college credit.

**Flexible Scheduling:** Adjustments in a school's schedule to modify the time, length or sequence of a class period or school day to facilitate learning.

**Integrated Instruction:** An instructional technique in which the teacher incorporates educational objectives from more than one subject or discipline into a single lesson, unit, or course.

**Lower-level Course:** A course that does not meet rigorous content related to state and or national standards and content expectations.

**Modification:** An adjustment or change in the credit requirements, context, or delivery of a content expectation of the Michigan Merit Curriculum. A modification should not change the learning requirement for the student.

**On-line Learning:** A structured learning activity that utilizes technology with intranet/internet-based tools and resources as the delivery method for instruction, research, assessment, and communication.

**Personal Literacy Plan:** A plan designed for students who are reading below grade level, including assistance from a reading specialist/literacy coach to raise the student’s reading/writing/numeracy skill levels.

**Post-secondary Education:** Planned learning which takes place after a student exits the K-12 educational system.

**Practicable:** This is an inclusive term that means as much of the subject area content expectations as is possible/feasible. For student’s with disabilities using the PC option, the school “shall incorporate” as much of the content expectations in the area(s) being modified as is reasonably doable for the individual student, while maintaining the legislative intent of increased rigor for all students. There is a threshold of competence or proficiency that must be attained by the student in order to maintain the legislative intent of increased rigor for all students. This proficiency level must be determined by each local Board of Education for students with and without disabilities in order for a student to receive “credit”.

**Proficient:** Demonstrated competence or skill allowing the student to receive credit

**Proficiency:** The level of competency or skill required by the student in order to receive credit.

**Project Based Learning:** An alternative method of instruction in which a project is used to learn and assess specific MMC learning expectations or course credit requirements.

**Specialized Instruction:** Individualized method of instruction designed to meet the individual needs of a student.

- § 300.39(b)(3) defines *specialty designed instruction* as adapting the content, methodology, or delivery of instruction to address the unique needs of the child and to ensure access to the general curriculum so that the child can meet the educational standards within the jurisdiction of the public agency that apply to all children.

**Work Based Learning:** Meeting specific MMC learning expectations or course credit requirements in an employment setting.