

EDUCATIONAL TRACK/PATHWAY FOR STUDENTS WITH AN IEP:
High School Diploma
Or
Certificate of Completion

High School Diploma

A general education diploma is awarded to students meeting all of the graduation requirements as defined by the Waterford School District.

- 4 credits in English Language Arts
 - 4 credits in Mathematics
 - 3 credits in Science
 - 3 credits in Social Studies
 - 2 credits in World Languages
 - .5 credit in Physical Education
 - .5 credit in Health
 - 1 credit in Performing and Visual Arts (PAVA)
 - 1 additional credit in PAVA or Career Technical Education
 - 5 Elective Credits
- 24 total credits

*Necessary/specific classes needed are not listed, but must be taken/passed

Potential paths to a diploma:

- Traditional high school
- Career and Technical Education
- Personal Curriculum
- On-line or virtual learning
- Early College programs
- A combination of options

Personal Curriculum

The Personal Curriculum (PC) is a process to modify specific credit requirements and/or content expectations based on the individual learning needs of a student. It is designed to serve students who want to accelerate or go beyond the Michigan Merit Curriculum (MMC) requirements *and* students who need to individualize learning requirements to meet the MMC requirements.

The PC option allows the Waterford School District board to award a regular high school diploma provided the student completes the requirements of the PC, including as many of the content expectations of the MMC as practicable.

State statute allows personal curriculum modification in order to:

- Go beyond the academic credit requirements by adding more math, science, English language arts, or world languages credits; or completing a department-approved formal career and technical education program.
- Modify the State Content Standards for Mathematics.
- Modify, when necessary, the credit requirements of a student with an Individualized Education Program (IEP).
- Modify credit requirements for a student who transfers from out of state or from a nonpublic school and is unable to meet the MMC requirements.

Regarding a student with a disability who needs to modify any of the credit requirements:

The modification, which is deemed necessary because of the pupil's disability, is to be consistent with both the pupil's educational development plan and their Individualized Education Program (IEP). Their IEP will identify the appropriate course or courses of study and the support, accommodations, and modifications necessary to allow the pupil to progress in the curricular requirements.

When approved and enacted, the specified coursework and its curriculum become the measurable goals, which will be monitored through progress reports and report cards.

Potential Adverse Effects of Using a Personal Curriculum

PC modifications that reduce the number of content expectations mastered by the student may affect the student's:

- Performance on the Michigan Merit Exam (MME)
- Admission to, and/or preparedness for success in college
- Eligibility for college scholarships
- Admission to a trade school
- Ability to secure a job in the career of choice
- Eligibility for NCAA athletic programs

Certificate of Completion

The state of Michigan has endorsed the requirements for a high school diploma, which is awarded at the local school district level when a student has met the academic and district requirements. While there are many paths a student with or without an IEP may travel to a diploma, there is only one diploma. For students with an IEP whose disability impacts their ability to meet the requirements for a diploma, there is what has become known as the Certificate of Completion.

A Certificate of Completion is not an academic credential. There are no state course or grade requirements for receiving a Certificate of Completion. Generally, student's progress is measured by their IEP goals, and the curriculum focuses on daily living, employment and social/emotional skills needed for independent or supported adult living. The student's IEP team will determine whether the student's course of study will be on a diploma or Certificate of Completion track.

Effects of being awarded a Certificate of Completion:

The following may not accept the Certificate of Completion documentation and students therefore may not meet eligibility/admissions requirements to: 4-year universities/colleges, some community colleges and technical schools, the military, and/or employers. Students can still participate in senior graduation activities if they choose, and may be eligible to continue receiving special education services until age 26, as determined by the IEP team and the student's progress on IEP goals.

Adult Transition Programs

Lifetracks is an adult transition program run by the Waterford School District. Students are eligible for this program if they have completed high school but did not receive a diploma. The decision to place a student in Lifetracks is made by the IEP team.

Students attending Lifetracks will focus on functional academics, social skills, adaptive living skills, and employability skills. The Lifetracks team will work closely with the student and parents or guardian to determine the student's personal post-secondary or transition goals. Participation in Lifetracks will lead to increased levels of self-awareness and individual competencies needed to achieve the student's transition goals. While students with IEP's who have not received a diploma are eligible for special education services until the age of 26, many meet their transition goals and exit the program before this age.

*Students attending Kingsley Montgomery School will work with their IEP teams and home district to determine a post-secondary placement.