

## **Who Is Required to Have an Educational Development Plan (EDP)?**

All students are required to develop an EDP with guidance from school advisors. When applicable, parents and community contacts should also be included. EDPs are “living” documents and are updated as student interests and abilities become more obvious and focused.

## **Why Do Students Need an EDP?**

The Michigan Merit Curriculum (MMC) legislation (P.A. 141 of 2007) states that, “The board of a school district or board of directors of a public school academy shall provide the opportunity for each pupil to develop an educational development plan during grade 7, and shall ensure that each pupil reviews his or her educational development plan during grade 8 and revises it as appropriate before he or she begins high school. An educational development plan shall be developed, reviewed, and revised by the pupil under the supervision of the pupil’s school counselor or another designee qualified to act in a counseling role under section 1233 or 1233a selected by the school principal and shall be based on high school readiness scores and a career pathways program or similar career exploration program. An educational development plan shall be designed to assist pupils to identify career development goals as they relate to academic requirements. During the process of developing and reviewing a pupil’s educational development plan, the pupil shall be advised that many of the curricular requirements of this section and section 1278a may be fulfilled through career and technical education.”

The first step in developing an individualized approach to learning is the EDP. An EDP documents an ongoing process in which a learner identifies both career goals and a plan of action to achieve them. The EDP does not take the place of either an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or a Personal Curriculum (PC).

## **Developing an EDP**

State law requires local schools to provide an opportunity for students to begin developing an EDP in Grade 7 and requires that every student has an EDP before entering high school. By preparing the initial EDP in middle school, students can better plan their high school curriculum to meet their post-school goals. The EDP is a secondary/postsecondary planning tool to direct the student’s educational plan and career planning activities. Schools use paper EDPs, electronic EDPs, or Web-based systems such as *myDreamExplorer* or *Career Cruising* to help students write their education and career goals, including strategies and high school classes that will help them reach these goals. The development of the EDP can be accomplished as a part of a class in a two-three week unit or completed with the assistance of a school counselor or a paraprofessional who specializes in career development facilitation. In addition, a free online career exploration course called *CareerForward* is available through Michigan Virtual University (MVU) as a resource. The *CareerForward* course provides a good starting point for students to explore the world of work in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. For more information on *myDreamExplorer* and *CareerForward*, visit [www.mivhs.org/Students/Career-Planning](http://www.mivhs.org/Students/Career-Planning).

## **The Importance of Starting Early**

EDPs start in Grade 7. Many schools develop EDPs with students beginning in Grade 8. However, the statute clearly states that students should be provided the opportunity to develop an EDP in Grade 7. Beginning the process a year earlier gives students additional time to think about career and education goals and gives each student time to prepare for the rigor demanded at the high school level.

## **Before You Begin**

The primary emphasis of the EDP is to develop a student’s statement of career goals and a plan of action for reaching them. Through the EDP process, each student becomes more aware of the connection between a career goal and the requirements for attaining that goal. The EDP provides opportunities for a student to learn about himself or herself, to understand career pathway options, and to explore postsecondary education and training. The EDP engages each student to think about the credits he or she needs to take in middle school and high school, and how those credits coordinate