

PERSONALIZATION and FLEXIBLE PATHWAYS

Glossary

BLENDED LEARNING

An education program in which content and instruction are delivered both in a traditional classroom setting and through virtual learning that allows for student choice around time, place, path, and/or pace.

CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CTE)

An educational program that supports attainment of a high school diploma, designed to provide students with technical knowledge, skills and aptitudes that will prepare them for further education and enhance their employment options or lead to an industry-recognized credential. CTE in Vermont is available to high school students through 17 regional CTE centers.

COMMUNITY BASED LEARNING (SERVICE LEARNING)

A program that combines meaningful service to the community with a student's learning goals. Students improve their academic and transferable skills and personal development by applying what they learn in school to a valuable, significant, and necessary service that has real consequences for the community; they then reflect on their experience to reinforce the link between their service and their learning.

DIFFERENTIATED INSTRUCTION

Instructional strategies designed to help students meet proficiency based on individual learning needs and styles. The learning goals are the same, yet the teacher provides choice and exercises flexibility in methods of assessment, grouping and instruction to create the best learning experiences for all students.

DUAL ENROLLMENT

Enrollment by a secondary student in a credit-bearing course offered by an accredited postsecondary institution and for which, upon successful completion of the course, the student will receive credit toward graduation from the secondary school in which the student is enrolled and postsecondary credit from the institution that offered the course.

EARLY COLLEGE

Full-time enrollment by a 12th grade Vermont student for one academic year in a program offered by a partnering postsecondary institution. The student receives credit from the secondary school and from the postsecondary institution.

EXPANDED LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

High quality programs within communities and schools designed to serve learners on a regular basis by providing unique opportunities for academic growth, hands-on learning, and personal development. Often these programs are provided by schools in collaboration with non-profit organizations, museums, and other local entities. These opportunities can occur beyond traditional school hours and outside of the school building.

FLEXIBLE PATHWAYS

Any combination of high-quality expanded learning opportunities, including academic and experiential components, which build and assess attainment of identified proficiencies and lead to secondary school completion, civic engagement and postsecondary readiness. Flexible pathways allow students to apply their knowledge and skills to tasks of personal interest as part of the personalized learning planning process.

HIGH SCHOOL COMPLETION PROGRAM

A potential component of a flexible pathway for any Vermont student who is at least 16 years old, who has not received a high school diploma, and who may or may not be enrolled in a public or approved independent school. The assigned school district works with the local adult education center and the student to develop a personalized learning plan. The school district shall award a high school diploma upon successful completion of the plan.

INDIVIDUALIZATION

Learning outcomes, instructional and assessment strategies and educational experiences customized to meet the needs of individual students.

PERSONALIZATION

A learning process in which schools help students assess their own talents and aspirations, plan a pathway toward their own purposes, work cooperatively with others in challenging tasks, maintain a record of explorations, and demonstrate their learning against clear standards in a wide variety of media, all with the close support of adult mentors and guides. – *National Association of Secondary School Principals*

PERSONALIZED LEARNING

Systems and approaches that deepen student learning by incorporating each student's interests, strengths and needs - including student voice and choice in what, how, when and where they learn - to achieve the goals of active engagement, academic success, and preparation for post-secondary opportunities. While often less formalized, personalized learning and personalized instructional approaches are critical to students in kindergarten through grade 6 as well.

PERSONALIZED LEARNING PLAN (PLP)

A plan created by the student, parents/guardians, and teachers that defines the scope and rigor of academic and experiential opportunities that support the student in secondary school completion, postsecondary readiness and civic engagement. The planning process, occurring at least annually, includes goal setting and reflection to ensure the student's emerging abilities, aspirations, dispositions and interests chart the student's path toward proficiency.

PROJECT-BASED LEARNING

An approach to education in which learners explore real-world problems and challenges to address learning targets.

VIRTUAL LEARNING

Learning delivered through a Web-based platform that employs a variety of digital tools, content, and supports and allows for student choice around time, place, path, and/or pace. Virtual learning can facilitate both individual and collective learning, and can occur synchronously and asynchronously.

WORK-BASED LEARNING

An educational program or experience involving student interactions with industry or community professionals in real, virtual, online, or simulated work environments that exposes learners to postsecondary options, provides opportunities for skill development and proficiency attainment, and allows students to reinforce and deepen their school-based learning.