



Educational Development Plan (EDP)

Educational Development Plans (EDPs) are plans created by all students about career goals and action plans for reaching their goals. EDPs help students think about long-term education and career plans before entering high school. By going through this process, students learn more about themselves, consider different options for their future, and develop a more specific path for preparing for their career choice.

Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) and EDPs

Although both the IEP and EDP promote positive outcomes after high school, they are two different documents with different purposes. EDPs do not replace IEPs. IEPs are created for students meeting special education eligibility under the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act* (IDEA). Per IDEA, during transition planning, educators gather information about a student's interests and strengths through age-appropriate assessments and work with the student to develop measurable postsecondary (after high school) goals related to education, training, employment, and, when appropriate, independent living skills. EDPs help students identify career paths and the education needed to reach career goals. Sometimes in developing the IEP, information from the EDP may be used to assist in transition planning. For additional EDP and IEP considerations, see the [MDE Educational Development Plan Fundamentals document](#).

Timing of EDPs

In Michigan, all students are required to have a completed EDP when they enter high school. EDPs must be started during the 7th grade year and must be completed during the 8th grade year, but is continuously updated through the student's high school years.

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Elements of the EDP

Michigan does not have a specific form to use when creating an EDP. However, EDPs must include certain elements. The following list includes some of what is to be documented in an EDP:

- **Personal Information:** The student's name, date of birth, and grade level. This information is confidential and protected under the *Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act* (FERPA). For more information about FERPA, see the Family Matters document [Privacy and Access to Records](#).
- **Career Goal(s):** Career path and goals for reaching a defined career.
- **Educational/Training Goals:** The level of education needed to meet career goals.
- **Assessment Results:** A summary of assessment results that are important for making career or job decisions. Assessments may be done through career interest surveys, observation, testing, student projects, and more.

Creating an EDP gives students a chance to plan for the future while in school.

- **Career Opportunities:** Students gain awareness of projected jobs in Michigan as part of the EDP process. Pure Michigan Talent Connect, [Career Explorer](#) is a good resource for high school students who are preparing for a job search.
- **Parent Consultation/Endorsement:** Parents should have the option of reviewing and agreeing with their child's EDP. Reviewing the EDP can help parents be knowledgeable about careers and jobs their child is interested in pursuing.

Resources



[Michigan Alliance for Families:
Transition to Adulthood](#)

- [Michigan Department of Education: Educational Development Plan Fundamentals](#)
- [Michigan Department of Education: Sample EDP](#)