

What are the Benefits of Personal Learning Plans?

Personal Learning Plans provide an opportunity for meeting the needs of all students. PLPs will help students reach their goals and impact student achievement and school improvement. Research indicates the following benefits of implementing Personal Learning Plans: (NASSP, 2004)

Benefits to Students

- Provide students with the valuable learning experience of goal setting and how to attain their goals (Brown & Krane, 2000).
- Encourage students to be fully involved in making decisions about their learning, earning, and living goals (Zimmerman & Schunk, 2001) (Lapan, 2004).
- Provide students with an understanding of how education is relevant to their career goals (Baker & Taylor, 1998).

Benefits to Parents

- Provide the students' families increased opportunities to be involved in their children's education (Brown & Krane, 2000).

Benefits to Schools

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Improve course enrollment patterns (Smith & Niemi, 2001).

- Increase student achievement (Frome, 2001).

Improve relationships between students, parents, schools, and community (R.W. Larson, 2000).

Increase student attendance, motivation, and engagement in school (Easton & Englehard, 1982).

- Increase extracurricular activity participation (Mahoney, Cairns, & Farmer, 2003).

Increase the number of students prepared for postsecondary entrance requirements (Easton & Englehard, 1982).

Career Fields/Cluster Model

To bring relevance to a student's Personal Learning Plan, the plan should be connected to a career goal. The Career Fields/Clusters Model below was developed to help introduce the unlimited number of career opportunities available to students.



Helpful Resource

An electronic Personal Learning Plan is available at www.NebraskaCareerConnections.org. NebraskaCareerConnections is an online tool to assist students, parents, and educators with the Personal Learning Plan process.

For Additional Information

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A Student Plan for Learning, Earning, and Living

What is a Personal Learning Plan (PLP)?

A Personal Learning Plan is a student's current plan of coursework and extended learning activities to meet the student's learning, earning, and living goals.

Ideally, the initial Personal Learning Plan will be developed in 7th grade and updated on a yearly basis throughout high school and the postsecondary years.

Why use a Personal Learning Plan?

A Personal Learning Plan helps to personalize education for each student and enables the student to prepare for the maximum number of opportunities possible upon high school graduation.

Who Should be Involved in the Personal Learning Plan Process?

Students, parents, and the school will all work together to consider choices for the student's educational experiences. When students, parents, and the school plan together, each student receives support from both home and school to meet the goals of his/her Personal Learning Plan.

Parental Involvement

Research indicates that students rely heavily on parents' advice when making postsecondary plans and decisions. Meaningful parental involvement is vital to the effectiveness of Personal Learning Plans.

Personal Learning Plan										
Name: _____		Cluster: _____		Pathway: _____						NCE
School Coursework	Grade	English/ Language Arts	Math	Science	Social Studies	Nebraska Career Education Program of Study	Requirements & Electives	Extended Learning School/Community Activities		
MIDDLE SCHOOL	7									
	8									
	9									
SECONDARY	10									
	11									
	12									
	Year 13									
POSTSECONDARY	Year 14									
	Year 15									
	Year 16									
	Year 17									



Rigorous, relevant coursework to meet learning, earning, and living goals

Helpful school and community activities to meet learning, earning, and living goals

Beginning the Personal Learning Plan Process

The Personal Learning Plan process begins with a discussion of each student's current learning, earning, and living goals. Some sample questions for discussion with the student are listed below:

Learning

What are your academic strengths and academic areas that need improvement?
 What postsecondary options are you considering?
 Does your academic transcript meet postsecondary entrance requirements?

Earning

What careers are of interest to you?
 What is required to be successful in your career of interest?
 What is the earning potential of your career of interest?

Living

Where would you like to live?
 How can you prepare yourself for the challenges of everyday life?
 How will you balance school, family, career, and leisure activities?