

**DEPARTMENT OF CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION  
Wilmette Public Schools**

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**INFORMATION ITEM**

**Date: February 26, 2018**

**To: Members, Board of Education**

**From: Building Principals  
Grade Level Administrators  
Assistant Principals**

**Gail Buscemi, Business Manager**

**Romy DeCristofaro, Ph.D., Assistant Director of Special Services**

**Tony DeMonte, Director of Technology & Media Services**

**Heather Glowacki, Ed.D., Administrator for Human Resources**

**Katie Lee, Administrator for Curriculum & Instruction**

**Denise Thrasher, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent**

**Subject: 2017 - 2018 Strategic Plan Update: Personalized Learning**

**BACKGROUND**

On October 23, 2017, the Board of Education approved the implementation of the 2017-2018 District 39 Strategic Plan. The yearly planning cycle includes Strategic Plan updates. In January, an executive summary report focused on mid-year updates of the action steps identified under Continuing Strategic Initiatives and Annual Business. This report will be a new initiative update on Personalized Learning.

**New Strategic Initiatives Update**

***Personalized Learning - Year 1 Developing***

Personalized Learning is an instructional model that is gaining momentum in education. It is grounded on the idea that the learning needs of diverse student populations are often not addressed due to fixed time, place, and traditional classrooms. Proponents of Personalized Learning claim that student engagement and commitment to learning increase as they become more actively involved in designing their learning experiences. This involvement is often

referred to as student agency. For example, a student may have a choice of learning environment, selection of subject matter, learning approach, and pace of learning. Personalized learning puts students at the center and empowers them to take control of their learning.

District 39 is committed to learning and exploring innovative approaches to prepare our students for the future. Therefore, we have focused on providing learning opportunities for administrators. Throughout the year, meeting time has been dedicated to sharing and discussing research gathered through articles/books and attending workshops/conferences. Initial research revealed many different interpretations of Personalized Learning. As a result, delivery models varied based on how schools and other organizations defined it. In addition, we have compiled a list of schools where site visits will be arranged and/or phone interviews will be conducted in March and April.

Two questions guide our work that is outline in the chart below:

- What is Personalized Learning?
- What are the different models/levels of implementation that would best fit the needs of District 39?

**Personalized Learning - Actions Steps Plan**

<b>Timeline &amp; Status</b>	<b>Action Steps</b>
October <i>completed</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• District 39 consulted with Education Elements. They provided a “Learning about Personalized Learning” playlist of resources on Student-Centered Learning that includes articles, videos, and various artifacts to explore.</li> <li>• Administrators created meeting agenda items by month.</li> </ul>
November <i>completed</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Administrator attended the North American Council for Online Learning Conference. They are the leading voice in online, blended and competency-based education.</li> </ul>
December <i>completed</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Administrators were presented with an overview of Personalized Learning and compared the meaning behind personalization, differentiation, and individualization.</li> </ul>
January <i>completed</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Administrators learned about the characteristics of Personalized Learning and reflected on current D39 practices that align with them.</li> </ul>
February <i>completed</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A list of schools implementing Personalized Learning was compiled and administrators signed up for site visits and/or calls.</li> </ul>
March/April <i>in progress</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Site visits and/or phone interviews will take place and reported back to the administrative team.</li> </ul>

April <i>in progress</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Administrators will discuss the role of a school leader in Personalized Learning.</li> <li>• A representative from the Community Review Committee will share their findings so that their input will be considered in how District 39 defines Personalized Learning.</li> </ul>
May <i>in progress</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Administrators will draft a definition of Personalized Learning for District 39 and share with the Committee of the Whole.</li> </ul>
June <i>in progress</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A board report will be presented on Personalized Learning as a part of the end of year Strategic Plan review.</li> <li>• Following the June Board meeting, administrators will develop plans to address next year's action steps.</li> </ul>

**CONCLUSION**

District 39 administrators have worked diligently toward achieving the goals and/or outcomes of the 2017-2018 Strategic Plan. In May/June, the Board will be presented with a draft definition of Personalized Learning for District 39. The Board may expect a full Strategic Plan review in June.

**Recommended for presentation to the Board of Education,**



**Raymond E. Lechner, Ph.D., Superintendent**