How-To Guide: Setting Design Parameters for Personalized Learning

An school and district shift to personalized learning, creating alignment across classrooms and schools to ensure all students benefit from personalized learning. These parameters can be used to ensure teacher autonomy is considered throughout the planning process and to create a personalized learning journey for both students and teachers.

**How will you define personalized learning?**

- **Step 1:** Identify Guiding Principles
- **Step 2:** Scope of Implementation
- **Step 3:** Selecting Personalized Learning Strategies
- **Step 4:** Determine Level of Autonomy in Instructional Models

### Step 1: Identify Guiding Principles

**How will you define personalized learning?**

While some schools and districts implement personalized learning in whole or in part, others may adopt a more piecemeal approach. This manifests in the way that teachers and students access, use, develop, and apply personalized learning. In the former, you will find that students and teachers benefit from systematic support through aligned approaches.

**Key Questions:**

- Will teachers focus on all, some, or a single guiding principle?
- How will you define personalized learning?
- How will you select from a portfolio of content providers to include in your instructional models?
- Will teachers use the guiding principles to focus their planning?
- What specific guiding principle or multiple guiding principles will create synergy as educators develop a common focus?

**Guiding Principles:**

- **Personalized Learning:**
  - Students learn at their own pace.
  - Teachers provide individualized instruction.
  - Learning is student-centered.
  - Student needs and performance tasks inform instructional decisions and groupings.

- **Differentiated Instruction:**
  - All teachers use a variety of instructional strategies.
  - Teachers have a high degree of autonomy over instruction.
  - Students benefit from systematic support through a specified approach.

- **Individualized Learning:**
  - Teachers select from a portfolio of content providers.
  - Students benefit from systematic support through a specified approach.
  - All students should receive instruction based on their individual needs.

### Step 2: Scope of Implementation

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### Step 3: Selecting Personalized Learning Strategies

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### Step 4: Determine Level of Autonomy in Instructional Models

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### Potential Benefits to Consider

**Instructional models can be used to promote personalized learning in a variety of ways.**

**Schools:**

- Promotes student engagement.
- Supports student choice.
- Provides differentiated instruction.

**Districts:**

- Provides systematic support through a specified approach.
- Supports teacher collaboration.
- Provides differentiated instruction.

**Students:**

- Benefits from systematic support through a specified approach.
- Supports student choice.
- Provides differentiated instruction.

Review & Update Your Design Parameters

- Personalized learning is implemented, schools and districts will have more options than ever to reflect on their own design parameters, consider the needs of their stakeholders, and improve the design process of their personalized learning journey.