**The IEP and the Personalized Education Plan (PEP)**

**What is the Personalized Education Plan (PEP)?**

WVBE Policy requires that schools work with every student and his/her family to create a personalize education plan (PEP) that focuses on *career* preparation. Starting as early as kindergarten, schools must provide ongoing opportunities for personal interests and career exploration. During the 8th grade year, school counselors work with each student and his/her family to develop the plan that includes course selections for the next 2 years. During the 9th grade and each year after each student reviews and updates his or her PEP. There are times when it is appropriate to invite community agencies or related service providers to be part of the PEP development. The PEP is a shared responsibility between the school, the student, and the family. (See WVBE Policies 2510 and 2315.)

**How is the PEP different from the IEP?**

The PEP is specifically addresses career planning, and middle school counselors usually initiate developing the PEP. Although special education teachers keep in touch with families about transition planning and the IEP process, school counselors can provide information to families on financial planning for college, on how to talk with their students about career planning, and on who to talk to within the community or in postsecondary institutions about disability services. Though secondary transition services (See Policy 2419, Sec. 2.F) are detailed in the IEP by age 16, the PEP documents that the student, family, and the school have worked together to design a plan of action to meet graduation requirements so that the student is prepared for the path he/she has chosen to pursue after graduation.

**What are the PEP requirements?**

Each student’s PEP identifies course work that will lead directly to placement in entry-level, credit-bearing academic college courses, an industry-recognized certificate or license, or workforce training programs. Each student’s PEP identifies high school courses that enable students to master the knowledge and skills needed to succeed in the global workplace and postsecondary education.

**Does a student pursuing a Modified Diploma also develop a PEP?**

Yes. Middle school staffs provide a school-wide, systematic guidance and advisory approach to ensure that PEP planning and career exploration are multi-faceted and individualized for every student. The 8th grade counselor usually leads the development of the plan by guiding students and their families through thoughtfully explored individual interests and aptitudes in relation to academic and career planning. School transition, vocational and counseling professional work with families and community agencies to choose appropriate interest inventories, vocational assessments, and work value inventories.

**For more information.**

For details specific to your county, contact your child’s school counseling office and/or case manager.