

Personalized Education Philosophy & Goals

The Personalized Education Philosophy and Goals statement has 10 interwoven points. The first point is a statement that sums up the overall purpose of education, noting that it is to empower students to find their own paths to their own dreams; create life-long learners who are prepared for both the modern world and the future; and to empower individuals to make a positive impact in the world. The remaining points expand upon this philosophy, presenting the how and why of it, while listing specific goals.

Education's purpose is to empower students to find their own paths to their own dreams; to create life-long learners who are prepared for both the modern world and the future; and to empower individuals to make a positive impact in the world.

To this end, a personalized education program is student-centered; a student's educational program is tailored to the student's learning styles, interests, current skill levels, and personal goals.

Learning is competency- and mastery-based, allowing for extra time and assistance to master concepts a student finds difficult, while also allowing the student to move quickly through previously-mastered material, and eliminating arbitrary limitations on student progress.

However, as Dewey notes in *Democracy and Education*, "not the target but hitting the target is the end in view," so more important than learning specific concepts is learning how to learn, and gaining competencies that will aid in the hitting of many targets, both current and those yet to be imagined.

Therefore, education must be forward-leaning, recognizing that the "real world" for which students are being prepared is dynamic, with exponential changes especially in technology.

To adequately prepare students for a future that is difficult to even imagine, a personalized education program places the greatest value on creativity and the ability to engage in independent, critical thinking.

Students are guided to become self-cognizant, life-long learners prepared not just for today's world but equipped to continue learning for whatever the future holds.

As such, a personalized education program is student-driven; students take an active role in their education, from the development of their education plans to collaboration with course instructors.

Instead of taking authoritative roles or seen as the sole purveyors of knowledge, instructors are instead mentors, offering guidance and feedback while respecting the diverse needs and goals of each student.

Students also learn to identify and understand cause-and-effect relationships, recognizing connections that span and go beyond content areas, and engage in proactive behaviors leading to personal development and engagement in the service of their community and beyond.