



## What is PERSONALIZED LEARNING?

Over the past few years, personalized learning has been expanding across the country. Schools and districts have been trying to make learning more individualized for all students. Some states have even overhauled their education system to replace it with a more personalized approach. But no two schools or districts are doing the exact same thing. There is no one definition for personalized learning.

Personalized learning allows all children to receive a customized learning experience. Students learn at their own pace with structure and support in challenging areas. Learning aligns with interests, needs and skills, and takes place in an engaging environment where students gain a better understanding of their strengths.

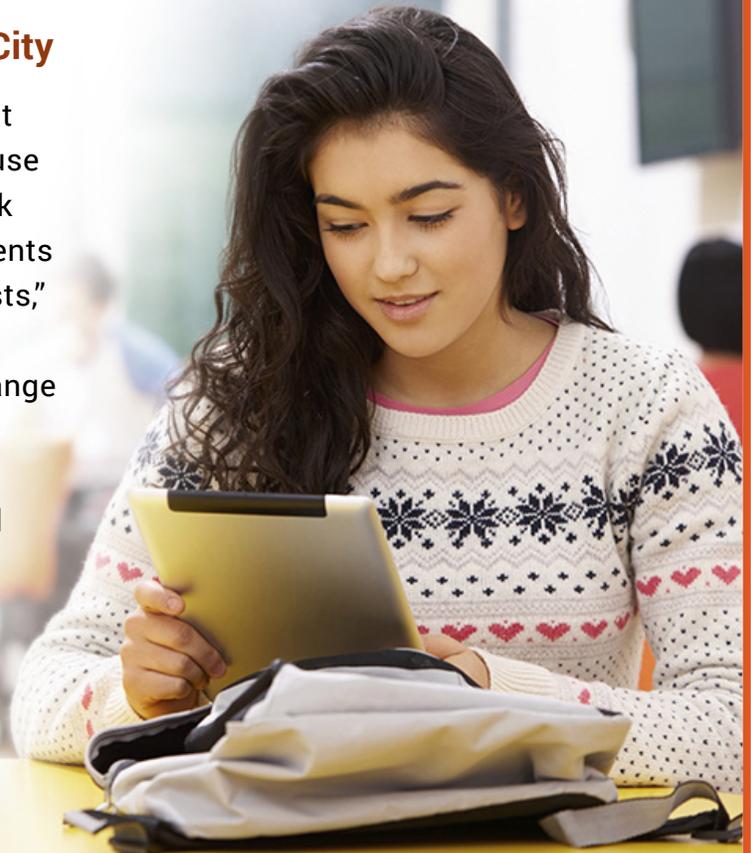
These terms may be used to describe personalized learning or may be used along with it:

- Competency-based education
- Project-based learning
- Flexible learning environments
- Learner profile
- Personal learning path
- Digital learning
- Blended or online learning

## What does PERSONALIZED LEARNING look like in the CLASSROOM?

### Brooklyn Lab Charter School in New York City

The school developed its own unique software that acts as a learning plan for all students. Students use it to submit homework, and teachers use it to track student learning, take attendance and more. Students can follow and complete certain “loops” or “playlists,” which include individualized activities and tasks based on what they’re learning. The activity can range from basic to advanced, depending on a student’s level of performance. Assessments along the way help teachers determine whether a student should move ahead. The technology can also flag areas where remediation or additional work is needed. Students, with help from teachers, use this technology to reflect on where they’ve met the standards and what their next goal is.



## What role do PARENTS play in PERSONALIZED LEARNING?

We surveyed more than 1,000 parents to find out what they thought of personalized learning. Most had not heard much about it, but almost every parent wanted to learn more!

Here's how parents can learn about personalized learning in their own community—and get involved to make sure these systems meet the needs of students with disabilities.



## LEARN WHAT YOUR SCHOOL IS DOING

**Find out if your school has any personalized learning initiatives and how they might impact your child's education.**

- Find out what your school calls its personalized learning initiative and how long it has been in place.
- Ask your principal who in your school is responsible for implementing personalized learning initiatives.



## UNDERSTAND HOW YOUR SCHOOL WILL MEET DIVERSE NEEDS

**If your school is implementing personalized learning, ask how it meets the needs of students with disabilities.**

- Ask your principal or special education director how your school and district incorporate practices that support students with disabilities.
- Join with other interested parents and meet with your special education director and the personalized learning team to discuss how they can collaborate.



## MAXIMIZE THE BENEFIT OF PERSONALIZED LEARNING

**Take advantage of the new ways parents can engage in personalized learning if your district is implementing it.**

- If your school uses online systems, portals or apps to collect and monitor student work, you can track your child's progress and ensure that high expectations are part of the everyday learning experience.
- Many personalized learning systems produce valuable data. Ask your child's teacher if data from your child's schoolwork might be useful in making sure your child is receiving the right supports.

