Introduction to Personalized Learning

OVERVIEW
This course is designed to introduce participants to the essential elements of Personalized Learning. Based on the report from the 2010 Symposium of educational leaders from organizations, ASCD, SIIA and CCSSO, "Innovate to Educate: System [Re] Design for Personalized Learning", components for transformation in creating a personalized learning environment will be introduced each week. The purpose of this course is to provide background information including research and theories that support a personalized learning environment. The scope of the course will introduce a component important to personalized learning each week.

Goals and Objectives:
During this course, participants will:

1. Reflect on best instructional practices as they apply to personalized learning
2. Recognize essential elements to redesigning education for personalized learning
3. Engage in activities that will develop understanding of a personalized learning environment through flexible, anytime, anywhere learning
4. Explore the changing role of the teacher in a personalized learning environment
5. Create authentic student centered learning opportunities
6. Construct a plan for a current learning environment; classroom, school, or district to move forward with next steps for implementation of Personalized Learning through follow up eLearning modules.

AUDIENCE
This course is for administrators, teachers, technology specialists, curriculum specialists, professional development specialists, or other school personnel. Participants are expected to have regular access to computers and the Internet, and proficiency with email and current web browsers.

STRUCTURE
This course is divided into five sessions, including orientation. Sessions One and Five are approximately 2 hours. Sessions two, three, and four are approximately 4 hours. Each session includes readings, activities, and an online discussion among course participants. Participants should expect to spend 16 hours in this course to adequately complete the work.
The outline for the workshop is as follows:

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**Course Syllabus:** A more detailed description of each session is provided in the course syllabus.

**ASSESSMENT**
Specific questions about assessment, expectations or requirements should be directed to the facilitator of this course.

eLearning Delaware uses the following criteria to determine successful completion of this course:

- Participation in all session discussion forums;
- Completion of the course’s final project, submitted to the facilitator and/or posted in the appropriate discussion forum or file share; and
- Completion of the orientation and final course surveys.

**Discussion Participation**
Participants are expected to respond to the online discussion prompt in each of the course sessions with a minimum of three substantial postings: an original posting and responses to the postings of at least two other course participants. Guidelines for discussion postings, as developed by the EdTech Leaders Online, are available at the following URL:

http://www.edtechleaders.org/documents/discussion_guidelines.htm
**Course Activities**
Participants are expected to complete the required course readings and activities as posted in each of the session assignment pages. Activities may include exploring websites related to course content, watching online video clips, using specific technology applications, and working on the final project.

**Final Project**
Participants are expected to complete and submit the final project during the final workshop session. Final projects are individual efforts and participants are expected to work independently on the final project throughout the course. Team products are not acceptable without prior, written approval and will only be approved if the product is worthy of the time and effort of multiple participants.

As a final project for this course, participants will develop and implement a plan for personalizing learning in your environment, i.e. classroom, school or district. Once you have downloaded this document, save it to your computer with a filename that includes your last name, such as: “PersonalLearning_FP_Jones.doc”.

You will revisit this document in each session, adding relevant information as you explore topics in the course. You will submit your completed template to the facilitator at the end of this course. The template is a Microsoft Word document.

**Course Surveys**
Participants are expected to complete two surveys: an orientation survey and a final survey.

**STANDARDS**
This course meets the standards for Content, Instructional Design, and Technology as defined in the National Standards of Quality for Online Courses, published by the International Association for K–12 Online Learning (iNACOL).

For Teachers, this course meets the following standards as defined by the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE):

Standard 1: Facilitating and Inspire Student Learning and Creativity
Standard 3: Model Digital Age Work and Learning
Standard 5: Engage in Professional Growth and Leadership standard

For Administrators, this course meets the following standards as defined by the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE):

Standard 1: Visionary Leadership
Standard 3: Excellence in Professional Practice
Standard 4: Systemic Improvement
ABOUT THIS WORKSHOP
This course was developed by Delaware educators as part of the eLearning Delaware initiative. eLearning Delaware (eLDE) is overseen by the Delaware Center for Educational Technology (DCET) / Delaware Department of Education (DDOE) and provides online professional development to the Delaware educational community. This course cannot be copied or modified without written permission of eLDE / DCET / DDOE.

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Overview of Each Session

Orientation:
Introduce yourself to the class with information about the class that you teach or your role in your school or organization. You may also upload a photo of yourself or something that represents you.

Session One: Introduction to Personalized Learning
This course session will introduce and explore the meaning of personalized learning. Essential Elements of the ReDesign framework will be examined, along with supporting research and theories for exploration.

Session Two: Policy Enablers
AND
Flexible, Anytime/Everywhere Learning
This course session will explore Policy Enablers and the first of five Essential Elements of personalized learning. For personalized learning to thrive, symposium participants suggested that the framework of education should be adapted or modified.

Session Three: Redefine Teacher Role and Expand “Teacher”
AND
Project-based, Authentic Learning
This course session will explore two more of the five Essential Elements of personalized learning. Participants will discuss how to shift from one of delivering and directing knowledge to facilitating students in discovering learning, developing interests and devising a path to mastery. Students often wonder how what they are doing in the class will relate to real life. Project-based, authentic learning is an excellent way to answer that question. Using this methodology will motivate students and lead to deep understanding of content concepts.
**Session Four: Student Driven Learning Path**
This course session will explore two essential elements of Personalized Learning: Student Driven Learning Paths and Mastery/Competency Based Learning. When planning for truly personalized learning within the classroom, there are several key elements, which must be included. Through this session, you will learn about the importance of choice and providing instruction to match student needs. You will also focus on the measurement of progress and attainment of student goals.

**Session Five: Summary: Moving Forward with Next Steps**
This course session will synthesize the Essential Elements of Personalized learning. Participants will finalize their plans for redesign within their own learning environments addressing one or more of the Essential Elements introduced in this course and determine steps for their group to move forward with additional professional development through other Personalized Learning Course modules offered through eLearning Delaware.