Blackboard Classroom:
Personalize learning and automate success with the PLD

> The PLD [in Blackboard Classroom] automates a lot of things we should be doing anyway. It guarantees that parents and students are receiving the information they should in order to help the student succeed... It enhances the good work teachers do."
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> **Kate Peterson**
> **Montana Digital Academy, Teacher & Instructional Designer**

Every student is unique and deserves learning that is personalized to meet his or her specific needs. But, how can teachers possibly find the time to accomplish this with the realities of teaching such as large class sizes, limited prep time, the vastly divergent needs, skills, and abilities of each student, and all the other demands placed on teachers today?

With Blackboard Classroom's Personalized Learning Designer (PLD), teachers can automate elements of their class to differentiate instruction, improve student engagement, and simultaneously increase teacher efficiency.

For teachers, it's like having a personal assistant:

- Remediate or accelerate learning paths based on each student's performance within a class.

- Transform into a "super teacher" overnight by automating communications with students, parents, and other key stakeholders to ensure timely flow of information and improve student success.

- Quickly identify key behaviors so you can take relevant actions to impact student success at the right time. Give every student the attention they need within your class.

For students, the PLD enables a more personalized experience:

- Students receive personalized, timely notifications that encourage greater interaction in their classes. Increased student engagement leads to improved student achievement.

- Students encounter class content and rigor when they are ready, at the right time, and at the right pace based on their individual needs. Whether students need extra help or are ahead of the curve, they will be able to get the most out of every class.

- More informed parents and other key stakeholders, such as guidance counselors, can be more involved in more meaningful ways with their student to cultivate greater gains in achievement. Children with more involved parents do better in school.

Make the PLD Work for You

With Blackboard Classroom's Personalized Learning Designer (PLD), teachers can automate elements of their class to differentiate instruction, improve student engagement, and simultaneously increase teacher efficiency.

The PLD uses rules to trigger automated events in your class. When creating a rule, there are 3 basic components:

1. EVENTS

An event is what triggers the rule, or causes it to run.

2. CONDITIONS

A condition determines if there are actions when an event occurs. If there are no conditions, actions happen automatically.

3. ACTIONS

An action is what happens when the right conditions are met.

Applications of the PLD are really limited only by your imagination. You can combine numerous different events, conditions, and actions within rules to make the PLD work for you. Some examples:

- After a student earns 65% on a quiz, he receives an automated e-mail with including a number of specific improvement suggestions. His parents were CCed on the message.

- Two students take a quiz. One earns an A and receive an email with positive reinforcement. The other receives a D and is redirected to a remediation lesson on the topic.

- Each element of a class can be designed to open after a student completes the previous element. When a student's performance does not meet minimum criteria, more activities about the same topic are provided. Upon success, the next element is made available.

- Three students are in the same class, but when they log into the class, they see different activities. Different content has been made available to them based on previous and ongoing assessments and interaction within the class.

- If a quiz is viewed, but the learner has not reviewed the content in a particular lesson, Blackboard Classroom can show an alert instructing them to review it before taking the quiz.

- When a discussion forum is viewed, Blackboard Classroom can show an alert with instructions that you don't want the student to overlook.

REAL WORLD EXAMPLE

Using the PLD in Blackboard Classroom, Montana Digital Academy breaks down classes into modules so students feel a greater sense of accomplishment at each milestone.

"We build a linear learning path that chunks learning into bite-size pieces so students can experience small successes to motivate them to move through the course."

Mike Agostinelli
Montana Digital Academy,
Instructional Program Director

Personalized Learning Designer

Automated, personalized welcome popup message

Student voice and choice for mastery project

Automated progress report to parent

Begin Lesson

INCREASED STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

Lesson pre-check determines pathway

Retention check
Forced redirect until completion

Mastery Complete

The PLD increases teacher productivity and effectiveness