

# THEORY AND PRACTICE OF PERSONALIZED LEARNING

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## BACKGROUND

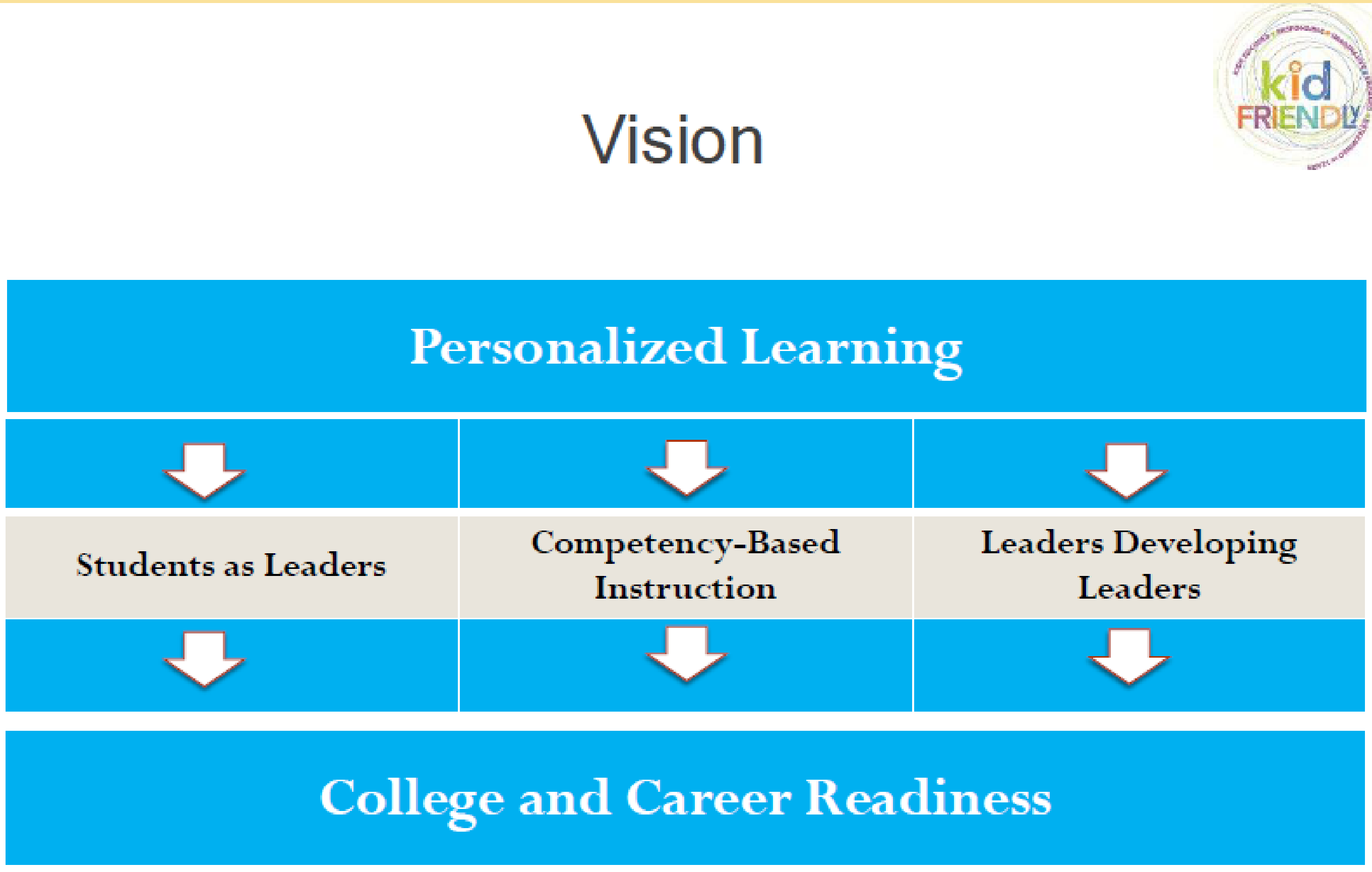
WKU’s Rock Solid team is conducting a program evaluation on GRREC & OVEC’s kid FRIENDLy Project, funded by US Department of Education. The vision of the kid FRIENDLy project is to switch the way teachers teach and the way students learn to eliminate the “why” students are learning the information they are being taught. This project moves learning towards a more “friendly” and competency-based learning that is purposeful and has clear meaning.

### kid FRIENDLy Program Goals

1. Increase the number of students who have access to highly effective teachers and leaders
2. Increase the number of students who have access to effective teachers and leaders
3. Improve the academic and non-cognitive outcomes for students in PreK-3
4. Ensure all students are on track to be college and career ready
5. All students are capable and prepared for postsecondary careers, college and/or technical schools

The *kid FRIENDLy* project has the overarching goal of personalized learning. The current project is to examine what Personalized Learning entails and how it is used in schools.

The vision of *kid FRIENDLy* is to use personalized learning to make students become leaders, us competency-based instruction, and have leaders developing leaders. Each school develops their own “personalized learning plan” and has their own group responsible for implementing it. Each school uses a template and determines what they can do to meet each standard for personalized learning.



### What Research Says about Personalized Learning

- Personalized Learning is custom made to student’s individual interest, preferences and their various learning styles (Burns, 1987).
- Differentiation, blended learning opportunities and technology are some strategies utilized in personalized learning (Flumerfelt & Green, 2013).
- Studies have demonstrated that student paced learning results in significantly more assignments completed than teacher paced learning (Crimmin, 2012).
- Personalized learning promotes high quality learning through finding and using the students strengths, talents and interests (Burns, 1987).
- Personalized learning classrooms are full of active learners who solve real world problems and are able to apply these critical thinking skills to novel situations (Berrett, 2012).

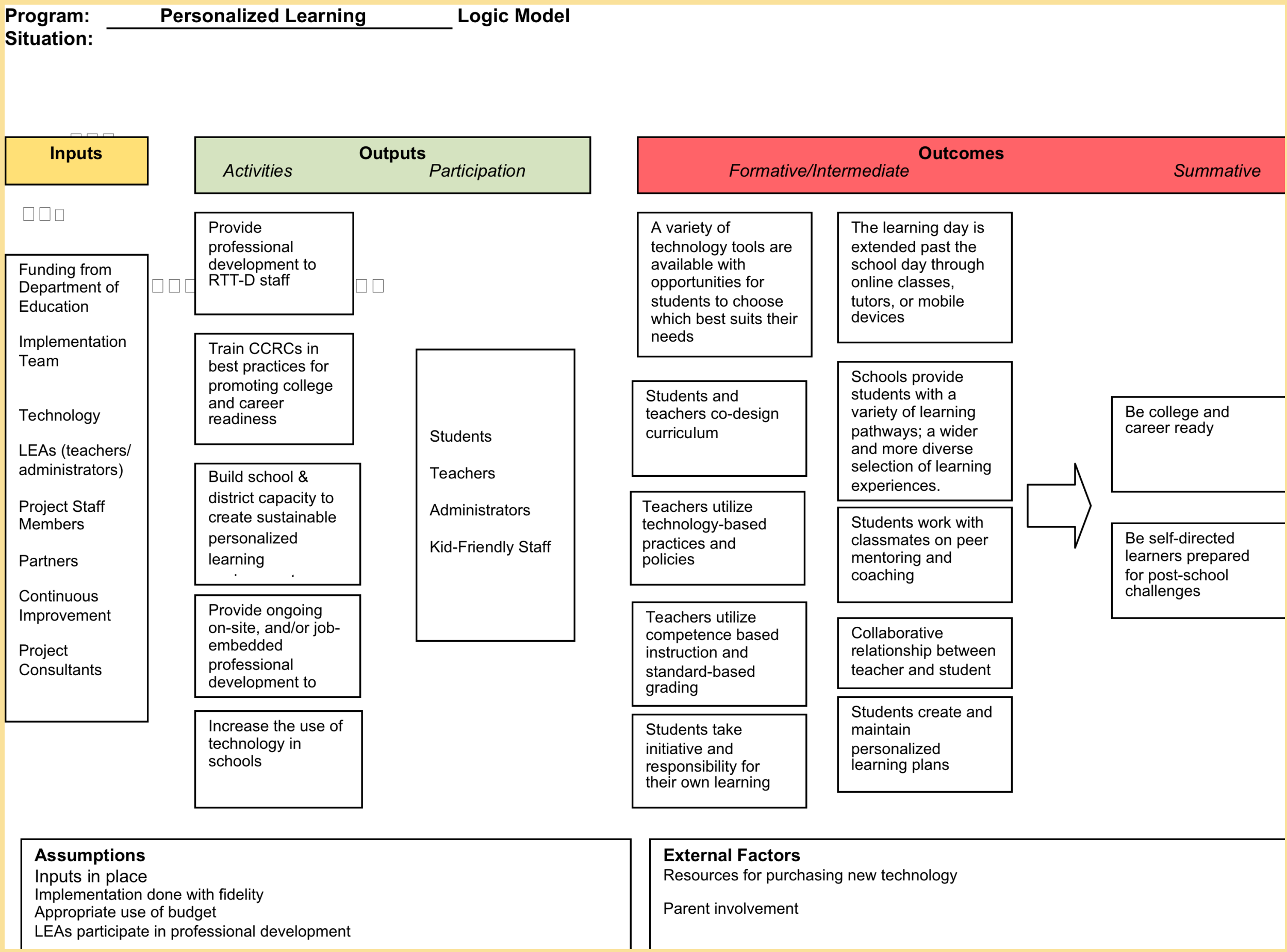


Personalized Learning uses vision, skills, incentives, resources, and an action plan to create change (Wilborn & Fuller, 2011).

### Expected Outcomes of Personalized Learning:

Through using personalized learning, students will: (Vander Ark, 2013)

- Have accelerated learning
- Use competency-based learning
- Use technology more effectively
- Be more self-directed learners
- Have more college/career resources and tools
- Understand why they are learning
- Have “new places to learn”
- Have anywhere, anytime learning



The *kid FRIENDLy* personalized learning logic model.

## NEXT STEPS

- ❖ Analyze the school personalized learning plans.
- ❖ Develop an observation protocol for personalized learning.
- ❖ Gauge the implementation of personalized learning in *kid FRIENDLy* schools.

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