



Tools and Resources

Competency-Based Education

Education Commission of the States

www.ecs.org

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Competency-Based Education: Who's Doing What

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Who is working to further the concept of competency-based education? This document is designed to direct policymakers to the various organizations who are doing so. Their resources could be useful in developing and implementing effective competency-based education policy.

Organization	Information and Focus	Initiatives, Publications, and Web-Based Resources
Education Commission of the States (ECS) 700 Broadway, Suite 810 Denver, CO 80203 303.299.3600 www.ecs.org	The Education Commission of the States was created by states, for states, to work with governors, legislators, chief state school officers, higher education officials, and other leaders across all areas of education, from pre-K to college and the workforce. Since 1965, ECS has tracked policy, translated research, provided unbiased advice, and created opportunities for state policymakers to learn from one another as they improve their education systems.	Projects <i>State Education Policy Database on Proficiency-Based Approaches</i> http://www.ecs.org/html/IssueSection.asp?issueid=290&s=What+States+Are+Doing Web-Based Resources <i>Additional High School Graduation Requirements and Options</i> (February 2007) http://mb2.ecs.org/reports/report.aspx?id=740 <i>Selected Research and Readings on Proficiency-Based Approaches</i> http://www.ecs.org/html/IssueSection.asp?issueid=290&s=Selected+Research+%26+Readings Publications <i>The Progress of Education Reform 2011: Credit Recovery and Proficiency-Based Credit</i> (June 2011) http://www.ecs.org/clearinghouse/94/23/9423.pdf <i>Helping Students Get a Head Start on the "Real World"</i> (May 2010) http://www.ecs.org/clearinghouse/86/05/8605.pdf
Achieve 1400 16th Street NW, Suite 510 Washington, D.C. 20036 202.419.1540 www.achieve.org	Achieve is a bipartisan, nonprofit organization that helps states raise academic standards, improve assessments, and strengthen accountability to prepare all young people for postsecondary education, work, and citizenship.	Publications <i>Advancing Competency-Based Pathways to College and Career Readiness</i> (July 2013) http://www.achieve.org/files/13-195%20Achieve CBP_07018.pdf

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<p>American Institute for Research 1000 Thomas Jefferson St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20007 202.403.5000 www.air.org</p>	<p>AIR is a behavioral and social science research organization. AIR aims to use the best science available to bring the most effective ideas and approaches to enhancing everyday life.</p>	<p>Publications</p> <p><i>Are Personalized Learning Environments the Next Wave of K–12 Education Reform?</i> (August 2013) http://www.air.org/files/AIR_Personalized_Learning_Issue_Paper_2013.pdf</p>
<p>Alliance for Excellent Education 1201 Connecticut Avenue NW, Suite 901 Washington, D.C. 202.828.0828 www.All4ed.org</p>	<p>The Alliance for Excellent Education is a Washington, D.C.-based national policy and advocacy organization that works to improve national and federal policy so all students can achieve at high academic levels and graduate from high school ready for success in college, work, and citizenship in the 21st century. The Alliance focuses on America’s six million most at-risk secondary school students—those in the lowest achievement quartile—who are most likely to leave school without a diploma or graduate unprepared for a productive future.</p>	<p>Publications</p> <p><i>Strengthening High School Learning and Teaching in New Hampshire’s Competency-Based System</i> (January 2013) http://www.all4ed.org/files/StrengtheningHSTeachingLearningNH.pdf</p> <p><i>Communities in Schools’ Performance Learning Centers: Utilizing Student Supports and Alternative Settings for Dropout Prevention</i> (April 2009) http://www.all4ed.org/files/CaseStudyPLCs.pdf</p> <p><i>Expanding Performance Learning Centers® to Prevent Student Dropout</i> (February 2008) http://www.all4ed.org/files/CISGAPProfile042209.pdf</p>
<p>Business Education Compact 12655 SW Center Street Suite 430 Beaverton, OR 97005 503.646.0242 www.becpdx.org</p>	<p>The Business Education Compact (BEC) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization founded in 1984. The BEC’s mission to “Make Learning Real” is fulfilled through highly effective programs that prepare students for their future and success in school and work.</p>	<p>Publications</p> <p><i>It’s About Time</i> (2012) http://www.becpdx.org/proficiency/BEC_IAT_short.pdf</p>
<p>The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching 51 Vista Lane Stanford, CA 94305 650.566.5100 www.carnegiefoundation.org</p>	<p>The Carnegie Foundation is committed to developing networks of ideas, individuals, and institutions to advance teaching and learning. Carnegie joins together scholars, practitioners, and designers in new ways to solve problems of educational practice. Toward this end, Carnegie works to integrate the discipline of improvement science into education with the goal of accelerating the field’s capacity to learn to improve.</p>	<p>Initiative</p> <p><i>Rethink the Carnegie Unit</i> The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, an independent research and policy organization based in Stanford, CA, has received a \$460,000 grant from The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation to support research on the Carnegie Unit and its role—past, present, and future—in American education. It will lead a program of research and analysis that will lay the groundwork for a potential redesign of the Carnegie Unit. The project includes substantial input from a range of stakeholders and will culminate in the release of a report that analyzes the value of the Carnegie Unit in today’s educational context and examines the potential consequences of creating a new unit of learning. http://www.carnegiefoundation.org/newsroom/press-releases/carnegie-foundation-receives-funding-rethink-the-carnegie-unit</p>

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		<p>Publications</p> <p><i>50-State Scan of Course Credit Policies</i> (July 2013) http://commons.carnegiefoundation.org/wpcontent/uploads/2013/08/CUP_Policy_PDF1.pdf</p> <p><i>Improvement Research Carried Out Through Networked Communities: Accelerating Learning about Practices that Support More Productive Student Mindsets</i> (June 2013) This white paper was presented at a White House meeting, Excellence in Education: The Importance of Academic Mindsets. (June 2013) http://www.carnegiefoundation.org/sites/default/files/improvement_research_NICs_bryk-yeager.pdf</p>
<p>Center for American Progress 1333 H St. NW, 10th Floor Washington, D.C. 20005 202.682.1611 www.americanprogress.org</p>	<p>The Center for American Progress is an independent, nonpartisan educational institute dedicated to improving the lives of Americans through progressive ideas and action. Building on the achievements of progressive pioneers such as Teddy Roosevelt and Martin Luther King Jr., their work addresses 21st-century challenges such as energy, national security, economic growth and opportunity, immigration, education, and health care.</p>	<p>Publications</p> <p><i>A ‘Disruptive’ Look at Competency-Based Education</i> (June 2012) http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/highereducation/report/2012/06/07/11680/a-disruptive-look-at-competency-based-education/</p>
<p>Center on Reinventing Public Education (CRPE) 425 Pontius Ave N Suite 410 Seattle, WA 98109 206.685.2214 www.crpe.org/</p>	<p>Through research and policy analysis CRPE seeks ways to make public education more effective, especially for America’s disadvantaged students. CRPE helps redesign governance, oversight, and dynamic education delivery systems to make it possible for great educators and programs to do their best work with students.</p>	<p>Publications</p> <p><i>Getting Down to Dollars and Cents: What Do School Districts Spend to Deliver Student-Centered Learning?</i> (November 2012) http://www.crpe.org/sites/default/files/pub_scl_dollarsandcents_nov12.pdf</p>
<p>Council of Chief State School Officers 1 Massachusetts Ave NW Washington, D.C. 20001 202.336.7000 www.ccsso.org/</p>	<p>The Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) is a nationwide, nonpartisan, and nonprofit membership organization. CCSSO is committed to creating a public education system that prepares every child for lifelong learning, work, and citizenship.</p>	<p>Publications</p> <p><i>Knowledge, Skills, and Dispositions: The Innovation Lab Network State Framework for College, Career, and Citizenship Readiness, and Implications for State Policy</i> (February 2013) http://www.ccsso.org/Documents/ILN%20Knowledge%20Skills%20and%20Dispositions%20CCR%20Framework%20February%202013.pdf</p> <p>Web-Based Resources</p> <p>http://www.ccsso.org/Resources/Programs/Personalized_Learning_Experiences.html</p>

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<p>Competency Works www.competencyworks.org</p> <p>A collaboration: American Youth Policy Forum</p> <p>iNACOL (International Association for K-12 Online Learning)</p> <p>Jobs for the Future</p> <p>Metisnet</p> <p>National Governors Association</p> <p>Nellie Mae Foundation</p>	<p>CompetencyWorks is a new online resource to provide information and knowledge about competency education through a website, a blog filled with practitioner knowledge and policy advancements, and a wiki to make it easy to get examples of materials. CompetencyWorks provides resources for new innovators and early adopters so they can rapidly learn about past mistakes, lessons learned, and different approaches to inform their work.</p>	<p>Publications</p> <p><i>The Art and Science of Designing Competencies</i> (July 2012) http://www.nmefoundation.org/getmedia/d191a967-3f77-4530-ad4a-b199fbd94bc3/CompetencyWors-IssueBrief-DesignCompetencies-Aug-2012?ext=.pdf</p> <p><i>The Learning Edge</i> (December 2012) http://www.competencyworks.org/wpcontent/uploads/2012/12/iNACOL_CW_IssueBrief_LearningEdge_full.pdf</p>
<p>Digital Learning Now! 1660 L St. NW, 10th Floor Washington, D.C. 20036 850.391.4090 www.digitallearningnow.com</p>	<p>Governors Jeb Bush and Bob Wise convened the Digital Learning Council in August 2010 to develop the roadmap to integrate current and future technological innovations into public education. The Digital Learning Council brought together some of the brightest and most respected minds in the United States, all focused on working together to shape the principles and policies of digital learning. This diverse group of leaders hailed from education, government, philanthropy, business, technology and think tanks to develop policy actions for local, state, and federal lawmakers and policymakers to advance digital learning.</p>	<p>Publications</p> <p><i>The Shift from Cohorts to Competency</i> (January 2013) http://www.digitallearningnow.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/CB-Paper-Final.pdf</p>
<p>Diploma Plus 100 Franklin St., Suite 705 Boston, MA 02110 Office 617.443.0050 www.diplomaplus.net/home.html</p>	<p>Diploma Plus seeks to develop, implement, and sustain, in partnership with school districts and communities, innovative educational approaches and small schools that provide rigorous and student-centered alternatives for youth who have been failed by the traditional system in order to nurture their power as learners and enable them to complete high school college- and career-ready.</p>	<p>Web Resource Links</p> <p>Diploma Plus Model http://www.diplomaplus.net/model.html</p> <p>Diploma Plus Innovations http://www.diplomaplus.net/innovations.html</p> <p>Diploma Plus Competencies http://www.diplomaplus.net/assets/diploma-plus-competencies--final.pdf</p> <p>Web Resource Links http://www.diplomaplus.net/resources.html</p>

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<p>EDUCAUSE 1150 18th St., NW, Suite 900 Washington, D.C. 20036 202.872.4200 www.educause.edu/</p>	<p>EDUCAUSE helps those who lead, manage, and use information technology to shape strategic IT decisions at every level within higher education.</p>	<p>Web Resource Links</p> <p>Online Library Includes publications from Achieve, iNACOL, Lumina Foundation, and others http://www.educause.edu/library/competency-based-learning</p> <p>Includes publications from Next Generation Learning Challenges http://www.educause.edu/focus-areas-and-initiatives/teaching-and-learning/next-generation-learning-challenges/resources</p>
<p>iNACOL (International Association for K-12 Online Learning) 1934 Old Gallows Road Suite 350 Vienna, VA 22182 888.956.2265 www.inacol.org/</p>	<p>The mission of the International Association for K-12 Online Learning (iNACOL) is to ensure all students have access to a world-class education and quality blended and online learning opportunities that prepare them for a lifetime of success.</p>	<p>Publications</p> <p><i>Necessary for Success</i> (February 2013) http://www.competencyworks.org/resources/briefing-papers/</p> <p><i>Re-Engineering Information Technology</i> (February 2013) http://www.competencyworks.org/resources/briefing-papers/</p> <p><i>Cracking the Code</i> (July 2011) http://www.nmefoundation.org/getmedia/7bb4a61d-502d-455e-9960-542902d44ed3/iNACOL-CrackingCode-full-report?ext=.pdf</p> <p><i>It's Not a Matter of Time</i> (July 2011) http://www.nmefoundation.org/getmedia/826ed1c4-576e-4dbf-b981-1c8ceb43f230/iNACOL-Its-Not-A-Matter-of-Time-full-report?ext=.pdf</p> <p><i>When Success Is the Only Option</i> (November 2010) http://www.nmefoundation.org/getmedia/ff40e810-7da2-4ff2-88dc-13076a582bcb/iNACOL-WhenSuccessOnlyOptn?ext=.pdf</p> <p><i>Clearing the Path</i> (December 2010) http://www.competencyworks.org/resources/briefing-papers/</p>
<p>Jobs for the Future 88 Broad St., 8th Floor, Boston, MA 02110 617.728.4446 www.jff.org/</p>	<p>Jobs for the Future (JFF) identifies, develops, and promotes education and workforce strategies that expand opportunity for youth and adults who are struggling to advance in America today.</p>	<p>Publications</p> <p><i>Aligning Competencies to Rigorous Standards for Off-Track Youth</i> (December 2012) http://www.jff.org/sites/default/files/AligningCompetencies_112812.pdf</p> <p><i>Using Educational Competencies to Help Students Get Back on Track</i> http://www.jff.org/sites/default/files/BOT_UsingEdTechnHelpStudents_040913.pdf</p>

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<p>KnowledgeWorks Foundation PO Box 15775 Washington, D.C. 20003 513.929.4777 www.knowledgeworks.org/</p>	<p>KnowledgeWorks Foundation is a social enterprise focused on creating sustainable improvement in student readiness for college and careers. Through a portfolio of school and community approaches, KnowledgeWorks provides innovative tools, training, and assistance to school leaders, teachers, and community stakeholders.</p>	<p>Publications</p> <p>Competency Education Series</p> <p><i>An Emerging Role for Competency Education</i> (April 2013) http://www.knowledgeworks.org/sites/default/files/Competency-Education-Series%20-Policy-Brief-One.pdf</p> <p><i>Federal Innovation Competitions: A Catalyst for Competency Education</i> (June 2013) http://knowledgeworks.org/sites/default/files/Competency-based-education-policy-brief-two.pdf</p>
<p>National Governors Association Hall of States 444 N. Capitol St., Ste. 267, Washington, D.C. 20001 202.624.5300 www.nga.org/</p>	<p>The National Governors Association Center for Best Practices (NGA Center) develops solutions to public policy challenges and is the only research and development firm that directly serves the nation's governors.</p>	<p>Publications</p> <p><i>State Strategies for Awarding Credit to Support Student Learning</i> (February 2012) http://www.nga.org/files/live/sites/NGA/files/pdf/1202E-DUCREDITBRIEF.PDF</p>
<p>Nellie Mae Foundation 1250 Hancock St., Suite 205N Quincy, MA 02169 781.348.4200 www.nmefoundation.org/</p>	<p>The Nellie Mae Education Foundation is working to reshape public education across New England to be more equitable and more effective— so every learner graduates from high school prepared for success. With new approaches expanding learning beyond the school calendar and walls, all learners can develop skills and knowledge for life in our changing world.</p>	<p>Publications</p> <p><i>Making Mastery Work</i> (November 2012) http://www.competencyworks.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/Making-Mastery-Work-NMEF-2012-Inline.pdf</p>
<p>New America Foundation 1899 L St., N.W., Suite 400 Washington, D.C. 20036 202.986.2700 http://newamerica.net/</p>	<p>The New America Foundation is a nonprofit, nonpartisan public policy institute that invests in new thinkers and new ideas to address the next generation of challenges facing the United States.</p>	<p>Publications</p> <p><i>Cracking the Credit Hour</i> (September 2012) (With Education Sector) http://higheredwatch.newamerica.net/sites/newamerica.net/files/policydocs/Cracking_the_Credit_Hour_Sept5_0.pdf</p>
<p>Software & Information Industry Association 1090 Vermont Ave., NW Sixth Floor Washington D.C. 20005 Main: 202.289.7442 http://siiia.net</p>	<p>The Software & Information Industry Association (SIIA) Education Division serves and represents more than 150 member companies that provide software, digital content, and other technologies that address educational needs.</p>	<p>Publications</p> <p><i>Innovate to Educate: System [Re]Design for Personalized Learning</i> (November 2010) http://siiia.net/pli/presentations/PerLearnPaper.pdf</p>

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U.S. Department of Education 400 Maryland Ave., SW Washington, D.C. 20202 800.USA.LEARN (800.872.5327) www.ed.gov	The U.S. Department of Education is a federal, cabinet-level agency that establishes federal education policy.	Web Resource Links http://www.ed.gov/oii-news/competency-based-learning-or-personalized-learning

Did we miss something? Contact Vincent Scudella, a researcher at ECS, at vscudella@ecs.org or 303.299.3673

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