

Competency Based Education

Completing the Transformation

Strategic Plan

- 1B Objective – All students are gaining the academic skills they need to succeed on the K-12 pathway and throughout their lives.
- 1B Strategy V – Implement proficiency-based advancement of students based on applicable standards of academic achievement, character development, and socio-emotional progress.

A Broader Context

- From “Proficiency Based Advancement”
- To “Competency Based Education”

Board Policy 4500

Student Promotion Policy

The Department of Education shall establish a system of student promotion which is based on academic performance and successful student progress toward identified benchmarks specified in the Hawaii Content and Performance Standards.

The Department shall provide for successful student progress by offering educational experiences of increasing difficulty and complexity. Students shall be provided appropriate remedial experiences within the regular classroom as well as through coordinated supplemental services which meet individual student needs. Each student's progress shall be systematically assessed and reported.

Board Policy (cont'd)

Grade placement of students shall be based upon developmental assessment and academic performance as specified in the Hawaii Content and Performance Standards.

Approved: 10/70; Amended: 8/84, effective 9/85, 5/86, 3/88 (renumbered), 12/96

Attributes or Essential Conditions of Next Generation Learning

(per Council of Chief State School Officers)

- Personalized Learning
- Comprehensive System of Learning Supports
- World Class Knowledge and Skills
- Performance-Based Learning
- Anytime, Everywhere Opportunities
- Authentic Student Voice

Premise

Many current practices are contrary to the Strategic Plan, Board policy, and the Elements of Next Generation Learning; while Competency Based Education aligns with all three.

Testing the Premise

- Do all children develop at the same pace?
- Do all children learn to walk at the same age?
- Do all children learn to speak at the same age?
- Does it make sense to teach children what they already know?
- Does it make sense to teach children before they are ready to learn what is being taught?

Testing the Premise (cont'd)

- Is it possible for a single letter of the alphabet to communicate the competencies mastered by a student in a particular subject area?
- Is time spent studying a fair and accurate measure of how much a student has learned?
- Does it make sense for a teacher to have a class with competencies ranging from no readiness for the subject to already fully competent in the subject?

The Five Elements of Competency Based Learning

- Students advance on mastery.
- Competencies include specific, measurable, transferable learning objectives that empower students.
- Assessment is meaningful and a positive learning experience for students.
- Students receive timely, differentiated support based on their individual learning needs.
- Learning outcomes emphasize competencies that include application and creation of knowledge, along with development of important skills and dispositions.

In one phrase: “Learning is best measured by mastery rather than time spent in the classroom.”

How Competency Based Learning Works

- All students must demonstrate what they have learned before moving on.
- Teachers are very clear about what students need to learn.
- Common, consistent methods are used to evaluate student learning.
- While learning expectations are fixed, teachers and students have much flexibility.

“In a proficiency system, failure or poor performance may be part of the student’s learning curve, but it is not an outcome.” Oregon
Education Roundtable

Hawaii Can Learn from Other States-- Leaders

- Maine
- Vermont
- New Hampshire
- Colorado

Hawaii Can Learn from Other States-- Enabling Policies

- Arizona
- Connecticut
- Iowa
- Kentucky
- Ohio
- Oregon
- Rhode Island

Hawaii Can Learn from
Other States--
Local Districts

- Alaska
- Arkansas
- California
- Florida
- Georgia
- Illinois
- South Carolina

How States are Advancing Competency Education

- Drive policy by student learning outcomes.
- Guard high academic standards.
- Expand student options.
- Create shared vision.
- Offer schools flexibility.
- Commit to continuous improvement.

Eight Ways to Upgrade State Policy

- Establish innovation zones.
- Implement competency-based diplomas.
- Provide supports and eliminate barriers to advancement.
- Address systems of assessment.
- Address accountability and quality assurance.
- Expand learning opportunities.
- Re-engineer information management systems.
- Develop the educator workforce.

Vision for K-12

- Elementary
- Middle Schools
- High Schools

The Missing Leg of the Stool

- Common Core Standards – in progress
- Accountability
 - Schools – in progress
 - Educators – in progress
- Competency Based Education - ??