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**Competency-Based Education Resources**

**Advancing Competency-Based Pathways to College and Career Readiness: A State Policy Framework for Graduation Requirements, Assessment and Accountability** (2013), Achieve

Available at <http://achieve.org/files/13-195%20Achieve_CBP_07018.pdf>

This brief outlines a framework to assist states in building a policy structure that contributes to statewide adoption and implementation of competency-based pathways (CBP) that support all students in reaching college and career readiness, as defined by the Common Core State Standards. The framework is designed to assist states in framing internal planning conversations, including setting a vision for a state policy structure and identifying and weighing options to move toward this vision.

**Building Competency-Based Pathways: Successes and Challenges from Leaders in the Field** (2011), American Youth Policy Forum

Available at <http://www.aypf.org/resources/building-competency-based-pathways-successes-and-challenges-from-leaders-in-the-field/>

This forum provided an overview of competency-based pathways to education and described programs that have successfully utilized these pathways to move all students to success in high school and beyond. Speakers highlighted how innovative learning environments that base student advancement upon mastery of measurable learning objectives have been effective for different types of students in both traditional and alternative education settings.

**College and Career Development Organizer** (2012), National High School Center

Available at <http://www.ccrscenter.org/sites/default/files/NHSC_CCROrganizer_2012.pdf>

This organizer synthesizes an increasingly complicated and crowded field of college and career readiness initiatives. The organizer, composed of three strands, can be used to map the efforts of SEAs and LEAs as well as the many organizations devoted to researching and providing support for college and career readiness. The organizer can also be used as a set of building blocks to help SEA, LEAs, schools, and other organizations develop college and career readiness strategies and initiatives to address student needs.

**Competency Education Series: Policy Brief One** (2013), KnowledgeWorks

Available at <http://www.knowledgeworks.org/sites/default/files/Competency-Education-Series%20-Policy-Brief-One.pdf>

Part one of the Competency based education series includes a working definition for competency education, examples of states doing the ground breaking work in this area and an appropriate role for the federal government to remove policy barriers and to create diagnostic and assessment tools to measure effectiveness. Included in this publication is a continuum to help innovators and policymakers differentiate between full-scale competency models and those that have begun to pave the way for this work.

**Deeper Learning Defined** (2013), The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation

Available at <http://www.hewlett.org/uploads/documents/Deeper_Learning_Defined__April_2013.pdf>

Deeper learning is an umbrella term for the skills and knowledge that students must possess to succeed in 21st century jobs and civic life. This brief describes deeper learning framework, and details the six competencies which define deeper learning opportunities.

**Exploring Implications for State Policy in Competency-Based Education Webinar** (2013), American Youth Policy Forum and College and Career Readiness and Success Center

Available at <http://www.aypf.org/resources/exploring-implications-for-state-policy-in-competency-based-education/>

This webinar highlighted current efforts across the country, identified promising practices in states, and shared resources available for states. Kate Nielson, Policy Analyst, National Governors Association, highlighted national trends and identified major questions when considering competency-based pathways and systems. Diane Smith, Director, Teaching and Learning Initiative, Oregon Business Education Compact, and Sandra Dop, Consultant for 21st Century Skills, Iowa Department of Education, discussed how their states have conceptualized, developed, and implemented such systems. Carissa Miller, Deputy Executive Director, Council of Chief State School Officers, addressed how the ILN is supporting communities of practice across ILN states to implement competency-based education within their broader framework of college and career readiness and personalized learning.

**How State Educational Leaders are Advancing Competency Education** (2013), CompetencyWorks

Available at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wtlBU1i_OLA&feature=youtu.be>

States have called into question the time-based system based upon the Carnegie unit and are now rapidly advancing an alternative system based on ensuring students are becoming proficient each step of the way along their educational journey. This webinar provides information from state education leaders about their experiences and insights in advancing competency education (or proficiency-based education. Presenters include Susan Patrick from iNACOL, Don Siviski from the Maine Department of Education and Jason Glass from the Iowa Department of Education.

**Jobs for the Future Students at the Center**

Available at <http://www.jff.org/projects/current/education/students-center/1367>

Students at the Center synthesizes and adapts for practice current research on key components of student-centered approaches to learning. The goal is to strengthen the ability of practitioners and policymakers to engage each student in acquiring the skills, knowledge, and expertise needed for success in college and a career.

**League of Innovative Schools Monthly Webinar Series**

Available at <http://lis.newenglandssc.org/webinars#webinar11>

The Great Schools Partnership is pleased to offer a series of free monthly webinars on ten critical school-improvement topics for educational leaders and teachers, many of which are focused on competency-based learning.

**Logic Model from Success at Every Step** (2009), American Youth Policy Forum

Available at <http://www.aypf.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/SuccessAtEveryStep.pdf>

The resource sets forth a logic model that illustrates the complexity of the process for youth to develop the foundational knowledge, skills, abilities, and personal resources required for success in careers, lifelong learning, and civic engagement, as well as the various systems and service providers that support youth at each step of the developmental pipeline.

**Making Mastery Work** (2012), Nellie Mae Education Foundation

Available at <http://www.competencyworks.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/Making-Mastery-Work-NMEF-2012-Inline.pdf>

This report highlights the work of ten schools participating in the Proficiency-Based Pathways Project (PBP), which was led by the Nellie Mae Education Foundation and developed to build broad understanding of the implementation of mastery-based approaches to teaching and learning in rural, urban, and suburban schools in New England. They look at issues including the creation of a transparent mastery and assessment system, time flexibility, curriculum and instruction, leadership for competency education development, and the role of data and information technology in a competency-based education model.

**Moving to Mastery: A National Policy Forum on Competency-Based Education** (2013), American Youth Policy Forum

Available at <http://www.aypf.org/resources/moving-to-mastery-a-national-policy-forum-on-competency-based-education/>

This forum highlighted important research, policy trends, and issues for advancing competency-based education. The forum showcased experts from leading state and district efforts to transform K-12 student learning using competency-based education and discussed federal policy issues and recommendations for the United States.

**Necessary for Success: Building Mastery of World-Class Skills – A State Policymakers Guide to Competency Education** (2013), Competency Works

Available at <http://www.competencyworks.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/inacol_cw_issuebrief_building_mastery_final.pdf>

This document shares state education leader insights into re-engineering the policy and practices of our K-12 systems; introduces the main concepts behind competency-based learning; studies important initial steps taken by states in introducing this emerging model; and considers creating a culture of competency within state agencies. It details leading states’ policy approaches to reforming their education systems to support competency-based pathways.

**Proficiency-Based Teaching and Learning in Oregon: An Evolution from State Policy to Practice** (2011), Oregon Department of Education,

Available at <http://www.ode.state.or.us/teachlearn/standards/creditforproficiency/proficiency-based-tl-evolution.pdf>

This paper describes the evolution of Oregon’s state policy referred to as “Credit for Proficiency” to a proficiency-based teaching and learning system focused on teachers’ practice and student learning. See also Defining Proficiency-Based Teaching and Learning. From Practice to Policy

**Promising Practices and Considerations for Districts in Competency-Based Education**

**Webinar** (2013), American Youth Policy Forum and College and Career Readiness and Success Center

Available at <http://www.aypf.org/resources/promising-practices-and-considerations-for-districts-in-competency-based-education/>

This webinar looked at two districts that have pioneered the development of competency-based approaches and examined how policies can support or hinder district level systems-change. Thomas Rooney, Superintendent, Lindsay Unified School District, California discussed the district’s motivation and approach to pursuing a district-wide competency-based system. Linda Laughlin, Assistant Superintendent, RSU 18, Maine and Co-Chair of the Maine Cohort for Customized Learning (MCCL) shared her district’s progress and how collaborations such as MCCL can support the work happening in individual districts. This webinar also identified key policy questions that districts should consider as they pursue competency-based education pathways and systems. Matthew Lewis, Senior Research Scientist; Professor, Pardee RAND Graduate School, and Jennifer Steele, Policy Researcher, RAND Corporation served as respondents and shared preliminary lessons from ongoing research of several competency-based districts across the country.

**State Strategies for Awarding Credit to Support Student Learning** (2012), National Governors Association

Available at <http://www.nga.org/files/live/sites/NGA/files/pdf/1202EDUCREDITBRIEF.PDF>

This policy brief provides a brief overview of states with strategies that encourage flexible policies for awarding credit and a competency-based education system and discusses how governors can lead efforts to foster alternative methods of awarding credit.

**Scanning the Policy Landscape** (2012), National Governors Association

Available at <http://www.nga.org/files/live/sites/NGA/files/pdf/1210StateStrategiesStudentLearningPolicy.pdf>

This policy audit scan provides governors with a tool to examine the state policy environment and design long-term strategies and short-term action steps to create competency-based pathways in which students progress based on mastery of skills.

**When Success Is the Only Option: Designing Competency-Based Pathways for Next Generation Learning** (2010), Susan Patrick and Chris Sturgis

Available at <http://www.inacol.org/cms/wpcontent/uploads/2012/09/iNACOL_SuccessOnlyOptn.pdf>

This paper is an introduction to competency-based pathways, a necessary condition to realizing the potential of next generation learning. The most important finding from this investigation is that competency-based pathways are a re-engineering of our education system around learning.