

Competencies



A competency is

“a combination of skills, abilities, and knowledge needed to perform a specific task.”

U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics. *Defining and Assessing Learning: Exploring Competency-Based Initiatives*. 2001




Description

- ◆ Competencies identify what a student should know or be able to do.
- ◆ Competencies are clear and concise.
- ◆ Competencies “bundle” a set of skills, abilities and knowledge.

Why use competencies?

- ✓ *State requirement by 2008*
- ✓ *NEASC learning standards*
- ✓ *Clarification of core knowledge and skills*
- ✓ *It just makes sense!*





Core Competencies

- ◆ Cover a range of cognitive domains
- ◆ Are based in knowledge and application
- ◆ Build to at least one creative or critical thinking skill



Building Competency

- ◆ Students' experiences should develop from the simple to the complex through their four years of high school.

(Learning Projections)



Tie to Standards

- ◆ National Standards
- ◆ NH Frameworks
- ◆ District Curriculum
- ◆ School Mission Statement

Tie to Mission Statement

CHS Academic:

1. Read, write and speak effectively
2. Exhibit critical thinking and problem solving skills
3. Use resources to obtain information and facilitate learning

CHS - Civic/Social:

1. Exhibit personal responsibility
2. Work cooperatively in an atmosphere of mutual respect
3. Contribute to the stewardship of the community





Building Competency

- ◆ Multiple opportunities to practice should be imbedded in each competency.




Assessment

- ◆ If knowledge or a skill cannot be assessed, it cannot be considered a core competency.



Standards-Based Assessment

- ◆ In a Standards-Based Assessment structure, evaluations are based on the core competencies established for each course.
- ◆ Final grades reflect the degree to which students have mastered the core competencies.



Consider 2 to 5 Core Competencies per course because

- ◆ it bundles like skills.
- ◆ it's necessary in order to provide multiple assessments for each competency.
- ◆ it facilitates student and community understanding.

Driving



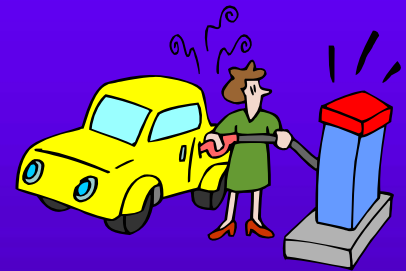
If you took a Driver's Education course, the competencies could be

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the rules of the road.
2. Drive safely following the rules of the road.

Driving

These would not be core competencies:

1. Operate the radio
2. Read a map
3. Change the oil
4. Fill the gas tank



Music

Titles/Clarifiers

- ◆ Perform Music
- ◆ Read Music
- ◆ Respond to Music
- ◆ Relate to Music





Music Core Competency Specific

- ◆ Students will analyze and describe music.



These would NOT be Band core competencies:

- ◆ Read a B^b scale
- ◆ Analyze a Broadway Musical score



Competency Considerations

- ◆ **Core competencies should span most of the semester.**
- ◆ **Students need time to practice and gain knowledge and skills, so units are poor substitutes for core competencies.**
- ◆ **Homework is NOT a competency.**



Core Competency Summary

- ◆ Do my competencies measure knowledge or skills?
- ◆ Are they tied to the school's mission and state standards?
- ◆ Can I assess them?
- ◆ Do they prepare students for higher level classes and/or life beyond high school?



Assessment Tools

- Read-assess reading abilities
- Perform-assess performance abilities
- Evaluate-assess abilities to analyze, describe and evaluate performances
- Relate-assess abilities to relate music to other art forms and disciplines



Perform

- ◆ Concerts/Festivals
- ◆ Individual live performances
- ◆ Individual taped/DVD performances
- ◆ SmartMusic performances



Read

- ◆ Live performances
- ◆ Video tape/DVD performances
- ◆ SmartMusic-tracks how much time was spent on assignment



Evaluate

- ◆ Oral presentations
- ◆ Writing samples, scored using rubrics*. (Some exemplars would be helpful)

* In particular, school wide rubrics help maintain consistency across all disciplines.



Relate

- ◆ Papers/powerpoint presentations
- ◆ On demand writing assignments
- ◆ Exams



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Grading/Evaluation

- ◆ All assignments must align with one or more competencies.
- ◆ If an assignment cannot be graded, it is not a competency



Assessment tools

- Read-assess reading abilities
- Perform-assess performance abilities
- Evaluate-assess abilities to