

Student-centered learning empowers students to be active participants in their own education. What students learn, how they learn it, and how their learning is assessed are all driven by each individual student's needs and abilities.

This week, we dive into state policies and practices that bring student-centered and competencybased learning to life.

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State Spotlights



The **Nebraska** Department of Education introduced a new approach to assessments that gives teachers more timely information to support student success.

The new year-long assessments include multiple measures of learning: formative assessments that enable educators to monitor student understanding and adjust instruction in the moment; interim assessments that track academic growth and target learning needs; and summative assessments that measure achievement relative to Nebraska's content area standards

According to Commissioner of Education Matthew Blomstedt, the new assessments aim to help students "prepare for success in post-secondary education, career, and civic life."



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High schools in **Vermont** are implementing personalized learning plans as part of a statewide effort to help schools better meet the individual needs of their students.

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A personalized learning pilot program in **Utah** responds to educators who expressed interest in moving toward a student-centered model. With overwhelming response from district and charter schools, Utah continues to build the framework to roll out competency-based education by fall 2018.

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Louisiana's efforts to implement student-centered learning led the Department of Education to publish Strategies for Success: A Guidebook for Supporting Students with Disabilities to help schools cater to all students and their unique learning needs.

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Illinois State Board of Education

Illinois State Superintendent Tony Smith announced the Competency-Based High School
Graduation Requirements Pilot Program will be welcoming six additional school districts creatively
using technology, assessments, staffing, schedules, and local partnerships to maximize
opportunities for students.

With these additional six districts, the pilot program now has 15 school districts dedicated to removing the constraints of "seat time," allowing student-driven learning inside and outside the classroom. Each school district has a unique strategy for implementing competency-based learning and teaching.

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Must Read

CCSSO's Innovation Lab Network worked with New Profit's Reimagine Learning Fund and the America Forward coalition to develop *Advancing Equity through Personalized Learning - Equity and Personalized Learning: A Research Review*, a resource to help state agencies of education motivated to adopt and refine policies and practices to ensure access to personalized learning for students who have been historically underserved.

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Tools & Resources



The National Governors Association's *Expanding Student Success: A Primer on Competency-Based Education from Kindergarten Through Higher Education* discusses how states encourage student success by providing targeted learning support.

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In this report, Advancing Personalized Learning through Effective Use and Protection of Student Data, the National Association of State Boards of Education discusses how good student data privacy policies recognize the potential for personalized learning to accelerate student achievement while also guaranteeing safe, secure access to a predetermined, transparent set of student data.

The report also recommends actions state boards can take to foster personalized learning and data protection.

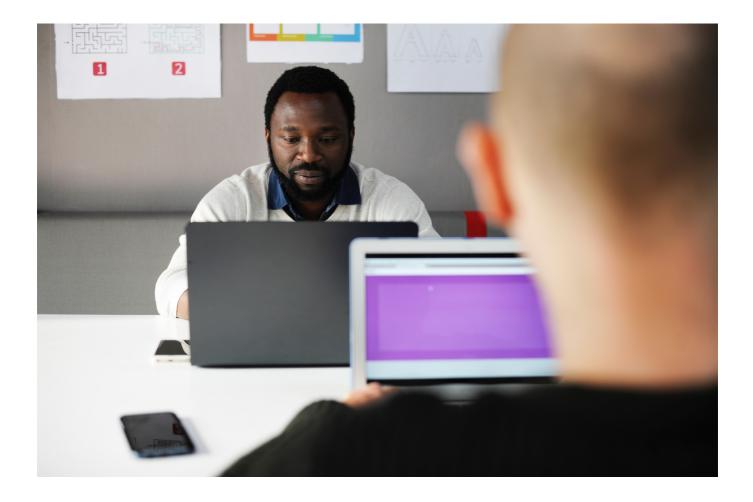
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The National Conference of State Legislation's Student-Centered Learning Commission is a bipartisan group of state legislators studying policy options, obstacles and recommendations to help states move forward with systems that support student-centered learning opportunities.

The Commission is studying innovative policy options that enable student-centered learning to thrive, including competency-based learning and mastery-based progressions, personalized learning, technology and distance learning options that allow students to learn anywhere/anytime and have ownership over their learning, and new approaches to classroom and school building design and staffing.

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Promising States Policies for Personalized Learning is a valuable resource for state policymakers. This report from iNACOL explores how states are creating policy conditions to support personalized learning, moving forward with initiatives to develop personalized learning pilot programs, hosting task forces to explore policy issues and needs, and taking a comprehensive policy approach for supporting advanced personalized learning models.

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KnowledgeWorks published a policy framework, A State Policy Framework for Scaling

Personalized Learning, that guides states and districts in working together to create flexibility to scale personalized learning.

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8 states have developed competency-based education pilot programs that foster personalized learning



States are seeking innovative ways to meet students where they are and ensure they are truly college- and career-ready.

This report from the Foundation for Excellence in Education highlights how states are rethinking education through innovation and pilot programs. *Policy, Pilots and the Path to Competency-Based Education:* A National Landscape demonstrates that states can take advantage of existing flexibility to develop their own pathways to competency-based education.

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We want to hear from you!

Send your state's stories or organization's resources to communications@ccsso.org





The States Leading campaign celebrates the progress states are making toward providing equitable education for all students through the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and innovative polices in other key areas of education, such as early childhood education, teacher preparation, and career readiness, among others.

Thank you to our proud partners:

The Council of Chief State School Officers
Education Commission of the States
The National Association of State Boards of Education
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National Governors Association

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