



The Power of Competencies to Realize the Vision of the Portrait

A Nevada Department of Education initiative

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KnowledgeWorks on behalf of the NV Future of Learning Network



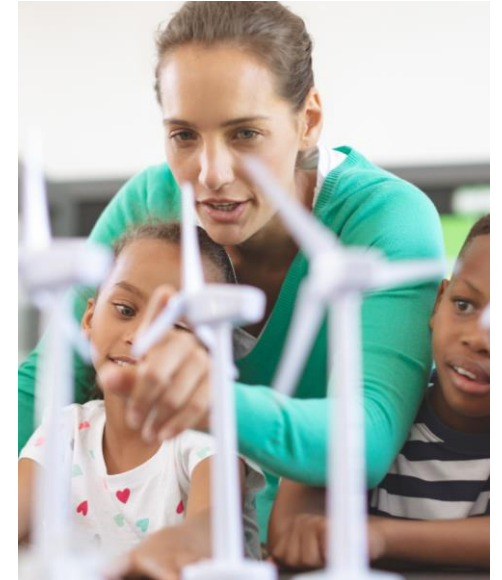
PAST

- Time is the constant, learning is the variable
- Academic content
- One way transfer of knowledge



FUTURE

- Constant is learning, time is the variable
- Academic content and life ready, transferrable skills
- Knowledge and skill through collaboration and application



Why does learning need to evolve?



Disengaged Students

Nearly 35 percent of Nevada students were chronically absent (missing 10% or more of enrolled school days) in the 2022-23 school year.



Unprepared Workforce

74% of hiring managers recognize a skills gap. 48% of hiring managers say candidates lack the skills to fill open jobs.



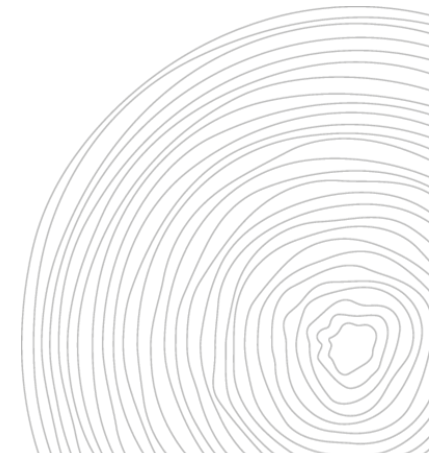
Teacher Shortages

Nevada is leading the nation in teacher shortages. This isn't a matter of teachers giving up; rather, it's a reflection of the underinvestment and lack of professional autonomy that have impacted the teaching profession.

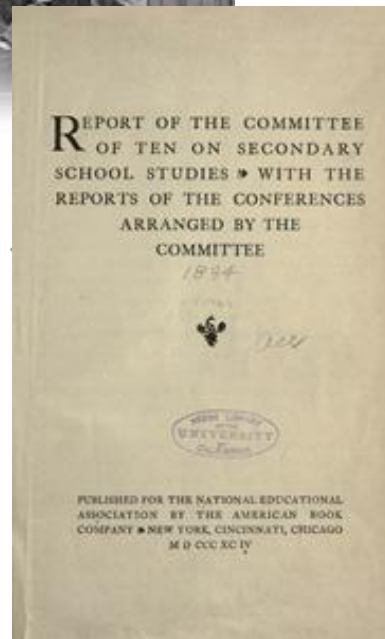


Misaligned Metrics

Constituents continue to report that measurement systems do not measure what Nevadans say matters most (the Portrait).



How did we get here?



Evolution of the Vehicle



Evolution of Learning Goals



Establishment of core disciplines



Common core-like state standards frameworks



Carnegie units & credentialing



The future of learning goals

The Most Common Question in Traditional Classrooms

“

**Why do I have
to learn this?**

”





Portrait of a Nevada Learner

A unified community vision

Who are students becoming?



Competencies

The application of knowledge

*How should students be able
apply what they know?*



Standards

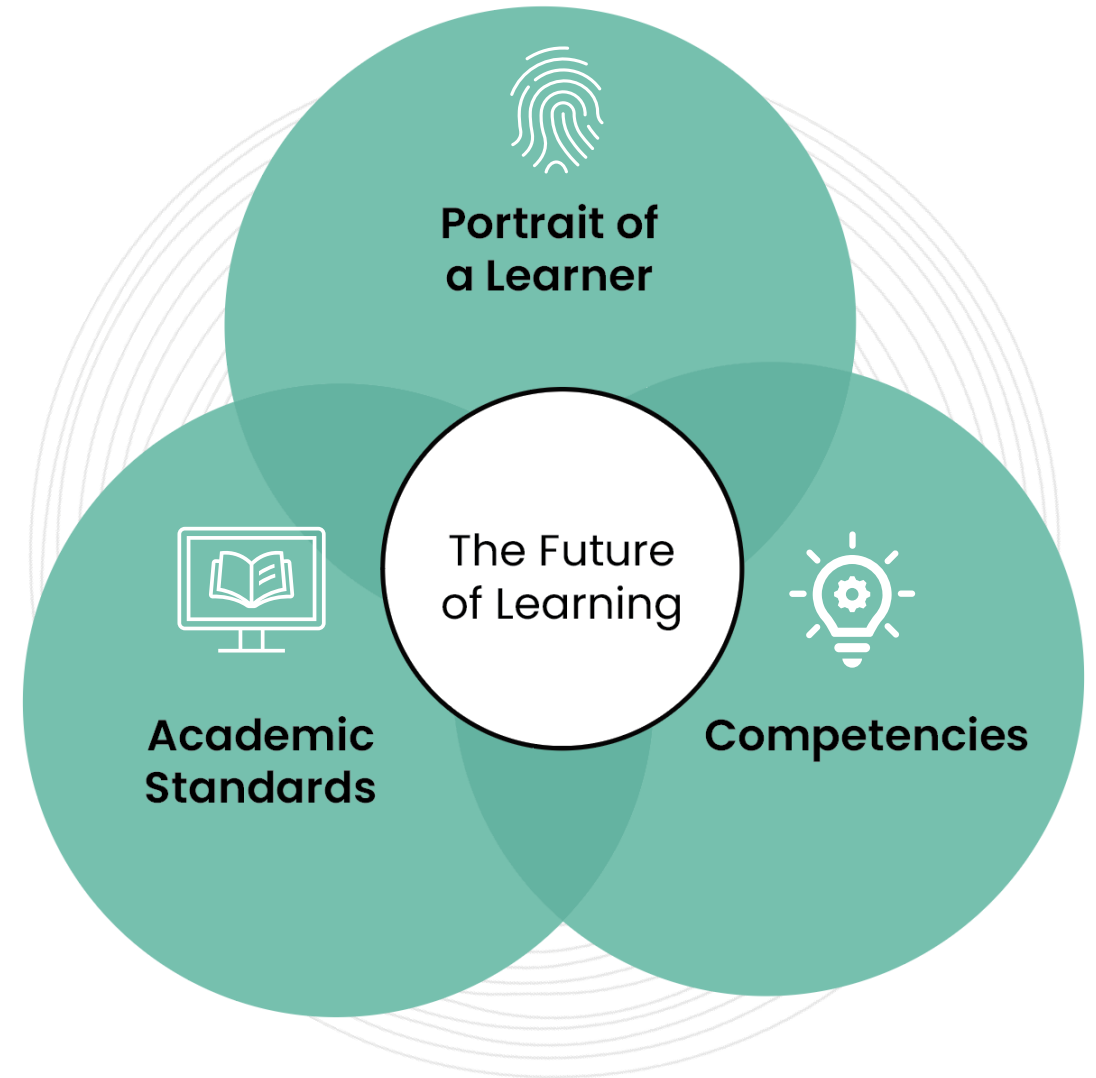
A rigorous foundation of knowledge

What should students know?



Brain Science

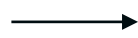
What does the brain
science say?



Learning Goal Continua

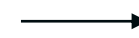
Standards-based

- Disciplines as the main organizing unit of school
- Skills operating in the background



Competency-aligned

- Disciplines as the main organizing unit of coursework
- Skills built in out-of-class time experiences



Competency-based

- Skills as the main organizing unit of school
- Disciplines as a driver of skill development

CRITICAL THINKING: LEARNING CONTINUUM

Pre-K	Nevada learners identify solutions across contexts
K-2	Nevada learners develop critical and creative thinking skills to show solutions across contexts
3-5	Nevada learners connect critical and creative thinking skills to show solutions across contexts
6-8	Nevada learners formulate critical and creative thinking skills to generate potential solutions across contexts
High	Nevada learners apply critical and creative thinking skills to generate viable solutions across contexts



CBE Pivot: A Social Studies Example

Traditional Systems

- Course: US I
- Topic: Civil War
- Assignment: Essay
- Score: A-F/0-100
- Student next steps?
- Connection to other learning?

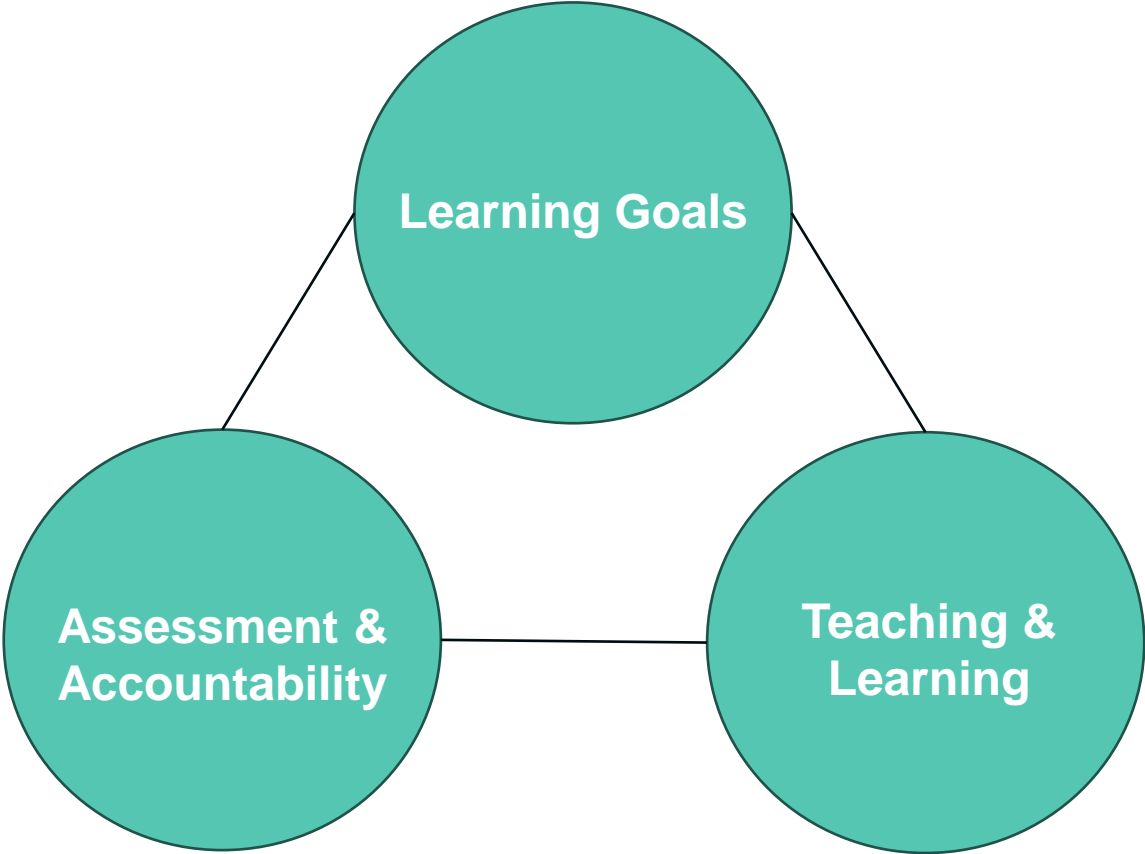
Competency-based Systems

- Course: US I
- Competencies: Critical Thinking
- Topic: Civil War
- Assignment: Essay (or other)
- Score: Competency Rubric
- Student next steps
- Connection to other learning

How do we get from here to there?



Begin with the End in Mind



What can competencies do?



Competencies address student engagement by creating learning environments that are transparently and consistently oriented toward meaningful, life-ready skills and building student agency.



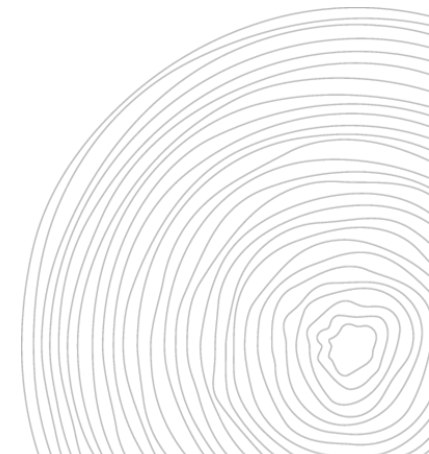
Competencies address workforce readiness by providing educators the classroom tools for transparently developing critical skills to prepare for the work of the future.



Competencies address teacher workforce shortages by rekindling a joy for teaching by providing a consistent framework for the development of authentic skills and supporting more effective cross-curricular collaboration.



Competencies create alignment and coherence between the goals articulated in the Nevada Portrait and measurement systems.



Turn & Talk

How might your working group drive the momentum of the Network?





Thank you.



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