



CompetencyWorks produced the articles and briefs located below. CSSR coaches and i3 New England Network schools were featured. Enjoy!

CompetencyWorks Issue Brief

Maximizing Competency Education and Blended Learning: Insights from Experts
March 2015

In May 2014, CompetencyWorks brought together twenty-three technical assistance providers – to include CSSR, Inc. - to examine their catalytic role in implementing next generation learning models, share each other’s knowledge and expertise about blended learning and competency education, and discuss next steps to move the field forward with a focus on equity and quality. Our strategy maintains that by building the knowledge and networks of technical assistance providers, these groups can play an even more catalytic role in advancing the field. The objective of the convening was to help educate and level set the understanding of competency education and its design elements, as well as to build knowledge about using blended learning modalities within competency-based environments. This paper attempts to draw together the wide-ranging conversations from the convening to provide background knowledge for educators to understand what it will take to transform from traditional to personalized, competency-based systems that take full advantage of blended learning.

<http://www.inacol.org/resource/maximizing-competency-education-and-blended-learning-insights-from-experts/>

CompetencyWorks: Learning from the Cutting Edge

Web Resources

Across our country, schools, districts and states are investing in innovations that re-design our education system around competency education. Rejecting the time-based system that reproduces inequities and low achievement, these innovators are designing a system in which student success is the only option. This is no easy task and we need to make sure we are learning from each other as much as possible. CompetencyWorks is an online resource to provide information and knowledge about competency education through a website, a blog filled with practitioner knowledge and policy advancements, and a wiki to make it easy to get examples of materials. CompetencyWorks provides resources for new innovators and early adopters so that they can rapidly learn about past mistakes, lessons learned, and different approaches to inform their work. CSSR, Inc. and Pittsfield Middle High School have been featured and referenced numerous times.

<http://www.inacol.org/resource/competencyworks/>



CompetencyWorks Issue Brief

Implementing Competency Education in K-12 Systems: Insights from Local Leaders
June 2015

Competency education, an educator-led reform, is taking root in schools and districts across the country. In some states, state leadership has cleared the path with policies to advance competency education, while others are transitioning with little or no supporting policy. At the same time, innovative school models are popping up all over the United States, contributing to our knowledge of new ways to organize teaching and learning within a competency-based structure. This paper seeks to pull together the district implementation strategies currently being used to convert traditional systems into personalized, competency-based ones. Findings are based on interviews and site visits conducted over the past five years as well as the knowledge shared at CompetencyWorks by leaders in the field. The districts showcased in the paper represent just a handful of all the districts converting to competency education, as there are a hundred or more that have also begun the journey to competency education. CSSR, Inc. experts Bill Bryan and Don Siviski both contributed to this brief. In addition, Tobi Chassie from Pittsfield Middle High School provided contributed expertise as well.

<http://www.inacol.org/resource/implementing-competency-education-in-k-12-systems-insights-from-local-leaders/>