

COMPETENCY BASED LEARNING
DESIGN STUDIO CONFERENCE

AUGUST 15, 2019



CONCORD, NH



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Session 1: 9:30 - 10:30

***Foundations to Stand the Test of Time: Critical School Structures to Support a Successful CBL System.**

Jonathan Vander Els - V & S School Solutions

ROOM: GRANITE 1

Transitioning to a competency-based system takes vision, collaboration, and an unrelenting focus on what's best for kids. Join Jonathan Vander Els, the former principal of a nationally recognized model Professional Learning Community and a PLC Associate who works with schools across the country, to learn about the foundational pieces necessary for a school to not only implement, but sustain competency-based practices to support each and every student's learning.

Competency Education and Social Emotional Learning

Brian Hastings - Conway Elementary School

ROOM: CAPITAL

In this session we will review the Social Emotional Learning Competency areas, dive into "I can" statements in some of the sub-categories and discuss school-wide implementation of SEL competency-based education.

Equity and Opportunity: The Promise of Competency Based Learning and Why It Matters

Michael Turmelle - NH Charitable Foundation

ROOM: GRANITE 2

Schools expend tremendous resources attempting to address challenges and barriers faced by learners. Even after those Herculean efforts and massive expenditures, the end result is that traditional schools continue to do well by a certain population of learners, while those who have been historically marginalized continue to struggle. How well do you know your students? Do you know who is at greatest risk? And do you know what life will look like for those marginalized learners if you aren't successful in righting the ship? This session looks at equity in education from a data perspective. Some of the data is shocking. My hope is that this information will spur you and your school-district to double-down on efforts to create a more competency-based and personalized approach to education.

Competencies, Mimosas and Chardonnay

John Dinger and Amy LaBelle- Somersworth Middle School

ROOM: CONCORD

Come and hear about our journey to transform learning in our school from a team level to a school-wide competency-based system. We will talk about what it's been like to build the plane and fly it at the same time. We will talk about grading, assessment, and changing the conversation with students about their learning.

Supporting Struggling Learners in Sanborn's CBL System: Leveraging Flexible Learning Time For RTI

Robert Dawson, Steve Krzyzanowski, Heidi Leavitt - Sanborn Regional HS

ROOM: MERRIMACK

Looking for ways to move struggling learners forward? Sanborn's "Focused Learning Time" is a blend of advisory and a flexible study hall model where teachers and students have choice and voice in how time is spent. These daily blocks allow students to engage in enrichment, re-teaching, and intervention activities such as adding honors to a college-prep class, meeting with clubs, remediating work, or spending quality time with a teacher. Come learn how we have integrated both. this model over a multi-year period for all students.

Session 2: 10:40 - 11:40

***Grading and Reporting in a Competency-Based System**

Brian M. Stack - NH High School Principal

ROOM: GRANITE 1

In this session, participants will learn about the flaws in traditional grading practices, and discuss how to implement school-wide competency-based grading practices that measure "what students learn" rather than "what they earn". Topics will include reassessment, rubric-based grading, separation of behaviors from academics, and how schools can find ways to report traditional measures such as GPA and rank. Practical examples will be shared.

Competency-Based Learning in an Elementary Classroom

Terry Bolduc, Sandown North Elementary School

ROOM: CAPITAL

Implementing competency-based education into an elementary classroom may feel like a daunting task but educators are often already doing much of what needs to be done! In this session, participants will hear from an experienced educator about the five elements of CBE and what each element looks like in an elementary classroom. Resources will be shared to assist educators in learning more about competency-based education, build upon and deepen their own practices, and provide ideas to help implement best practices back in their own classrooms.

Making the Shift to Competency-Based Learning: Creating Effective Collaboration Between Teachers and Administrators

Benjamin Helfat, M.Ed., M.S.T., Adam J. Silk, MD - Boston Adult Technical Academy

ROOM: GRANITE 2

In order to engage staff in shifting to competency-based learning, a school must have a staff climate and culture that encourages growth, collaboration, and leadership. This shift is not easy, nor is it a one-time event. Creating a positive staff culture is slow and ongoing, requiring techniques that are owned and controlled by staff and teacher leaders. This session is designed for schools looking to increase positive staff culture to prepare teachers and staff to take on more of a leadership role in the school. We will go over the major tenets and practices of RELATE groups. We will contextualize how RELATE groups have increased collaboration and leadership at schools, and will model how a RELATE group may run.

Cross Curricular Collaboration: Working Together for Competency Education

Ashley Harbel, Brittany Lombardo, Julia Ryan - Sanborn Regional HS

ROOM: CONCORD

In the Competency Based Education system, we assess the big ideas and concepts of the content area, focusing on student learning outcomes/skills and the evidence that students provide to show what they know and are able to do. This unique educational system allows us freedom in the type of units and assessments we build for our students. Because content is the vehicle to build these skills, we are able to align our curriculum with other content areas and develop single performance assessments that span multiple classes. Come learn techniques to collaborate with your peers and create cross curricular connections for your students. We will discuss our team model and experience building these units and assessments, as well as help you brainstorm ideas on how to bring these types of projects back to your school and district!

Developing a Scope and Sequence for Extended Learning Opportunities

Joseph Boggio, Abby Gerrish, Karen Thompson - Hinsdale School District

ROOM: MERRIMACK

Fifth grade students in the After-School Program acted as mentors to kindergarten and first grade students attending the program. The goal of the program was to begin to develop skills in the area of Work/Study Habits. Particular attention was given to creativity, collaboration and communication. Fifth grade students benefited from regular meetings with an adult mentor and ultimately presented their learning to the Hinsdale School Board at the March 2019 meeting.

Session 3: 1:00 - 2:00

***Introduction to Performance Assessment: The Key to Competency**

Ann Hadwen - Exeter Region Cooperative School District

ROOM: GRANITE 1

To be successful in today's world students need to be able to solve complex problems, synthesize information and draw conclusions, apply concepts to unfamiliar situations, and ultimately be prepared for anything that our fast-paced, technologically-advanced world has in store for them. To ensure student success, it's imperative that we assess what students are able to **do** with what they learn. Performance tasks require students to apply content and skills to a novel situation which is the key to determining competency. This session will focus on performance task basics, aligning with standards and competencies, creation, implementation, and assessment of performance tasks.

Own It! Fostering Self-Directed Learning in the Classroom

Meghan Lewis, Jessica Lombardi - Winthrop Elementary School, Melrose, MA

ROOM: CAPITAL

An essential facet of competency based learning is the development of self-directed and lifelong learning skills. Small changes to instructional practice can support students' development of self-directed learning skills, and instill a lifelong love of learning. This session will focus on specific instructional strategies that can be implemented to support students in developing self-directed and lifelong learning skills, and building the competencies they need to be successful as they reach adulthood. Specific strategies will include goal setting, digital portfolio creation, student-led conferences, flexible seating, project based learning, and learning menus.

Personalized Learning 35 Years Later: A first hand journey of Personalized Learning from a small town Principal & Student

Karen Thompson, Dr. Dennis Littky - Hinsdale School District

ROOM: GRANITE 2

In this presentation you will hear about the history of personalized learning from a very "personal" perspective. 37 years ago, Dennis Littky met Karen Thompson as a junior in high school. He implemented a then radical idea that if you can personalize learning to allow students to find their strengths and follow their passions, you can indeed light a spark that could possibly change the life of each student you encounter. That is indeed what he was able to do with a small school in Winchester NH and many of the students that attended Thayer High.

Through a series of short stories you will hear how this man was at the grass roots level of educational reform and how his innovation and courage changed a school and began to change the face of what education should look like. His determination, his commitment and most importantly his belief in his students is what Karen Thompson credits her success and love of learning to. Dennis and Karen will share where their story began 37 years ago and how one principal who believed in one student at a time has changed the lives of so many. Personalized learning can and does make a difference in the lives of our students. This presentation will allow the audience to hear how it took shape and has changed the direction for the life of one NH educator. "Kids don't care what you know until they know that you care" and this presentation will demonstrate how at the very core of everything we do as successful educators is personalized.

Connecting Students to Competencies Through Personalized Content

Kerrie Alley-Violette - Sanborn Regional HS

ROOM: CONCORD

In education today we have the opportunity to engage students in their learning by giving them voice and choice in how they learn. Extended Learning Opportunities (ELO) give students control of how they master a competency and defend their learning. This session will provide multiple models of extended learning opportunities and how to connect this model with competency-based education, as well as, ways to incorporate career education through your school.

The IWS List: Using a School-Wide Approach to Help Students Meet Deadlines

Steve Krzyzanowski, Robert Dawson, Heidi Leavitt - Sanborn Regional HS

ROOM: MERRIMACK

Looking for ways to move struggling learners forward? The "IWS (Insufficient Work Shown) List" is a strategy that actively encourages students to complete missed or incomplete summative assessments by providing a 'hook'. Come learn how we have integrated this to motivate students to complete their work.

Session 4: 2:10 - 3:10

***The Competency Mindset: Transitioning from the traditional classroom**

Ashley Harbel, Brittany Lombardo - Sanborn Regional HS

ROOM: GRANITE 1

In this session Brittany Lombardo, Social Studies teacher, and Ashley Harbel, English teacher, will discuss how they made the move from traditional classrooms to a Competency Based Education system at Sanborn Regional High School. Highlighted topics will include changes in classroom instruction, assessment, and grading practices. They will also discuss the benefits of intervention/enrichment and professional learning communities in a CBE environment.

Multiple Paths to the Same Goal: Supporting the 4C's and Fostering Student Agency with Hyperdocs and Badges

Melanie Acevedo, Susan Jones - Melrose Public Schools

ROOM: CAPITAL

Designing dynamic learning experiences that support the 4C's (critical thinking, creativity, communication, and collaboration) can be challenging in an upper elementary school classroom. Come learn how to use a hyperdoc framework and digital badging to engage and challenge all learners while maximizing your time to provide just in time support for students. This hands-on session will allow you to simulate this experience from the students perspective as you engage, explore, create & collaborate, and reflect on strategies to implement personalized learning with your own students.

Cannonballing into the Proficiency Pool! Leveraging Student Choice Playlists and Transferable Skills Digital Badging to Place Students in Charge of Their Own Learning

Noah Hurlburt

ROOM: GRANITE 2

Why dip your toes, when you can dive in? This interactive workshop will provide resources and reflections on creating a culture of student-centered learning within your classroom. No time to reinvent the wheel? You don't have to! From proficiency playlist design, to leveraging student designed Digital Badging of transferable skills, the workshop will focus on the design elements that provide student voice and choices in their own learning, increasing agency within the classroom. We will address differentiation for all student abilities, and the possibilities for formative assessment opportunities to track learning along the journey. Attendees will have the opportunity to backwards design their thinking about curriculum, student reflection, teacher feedback, and how a focus on skill development can lead to interdisciplinary connections that take down the walls within schools.

Curiosity Shop: Students Explore, Discover and Create in an Individualized and Collaborative Environment

Elizabeth H. Juster - Londonderry High School

ROOM: CONCORD

In a competency-based education, learners have the opportunity to explore, discover and create in an environment that is both individualized and collaborative. Sounds great but how does it work? How do teachers embrace and support multiple modes of learning- lecture, workshop, small group, and individual? Part of the answer lies in a classroom's design and function. Through the story of one classroom's transition from traditional to competency-based, participants will have the opportunity to discover how to create and leverage the power of both an agile classroom and a class website to support their ongoing efforts to deliver a competency-based education.

Preparing learners for the opportunities and challenges of their lifetime: Personalizing learning to foster self-determined learners

Jason Reath, Sandra Savard - Riverview High School, New Brunswick, Canada

ROOM: MERRIMACK

Participants will develop a collective understanding of the self-determination theory of motivation and how they can apply the concepts of autonomy, competence, and relatedness to the design of personalized learning at the classroom and school level for both students and staff. Participants will reflect on their current practices and plan for future learning that promotes agency, self-efficacy, and self-determination to prepare learners for the challenges and opportunities of their lifetime.

* Ideal for those who are new to CBL.