Competency Based Education
and
Content Standards

Definitions
Components
Characteristics
Integrating Competencies and Content Standards
Mapping Competencies
Resources

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**Definitions of Competency Based Education**

- **Competency Based Education** focuses on outcomes of learning. CBE addresses what the learners are expected to do rather than on what they are expected to learn about. CBE emerged in the United States in the 1970s and refers to an educational movement that advocates defining educational goals in terms of precise measurable descriptions of knowledge, skills, and behaviors students should possess at the end of a course of study.
  - Richards and Rodgers

- **Competency Based Education** is outcome based instruction and is adaptive to the changing needs of students, teachers, and the community. Competencies describe the student’s ability to apply basic and other skills in situations that are commonly encountered in everyday life. Thus CBE is based on a set of outcomes that are derived from an analysis of tasks typically required of students in life role situations.
  - Schenck

- **Competency Based Education** is a functional approach to education that emphasizes life skills and evaluates mastery of those skills according to actual learner performance. It was defined by the U.S. Office of Education as a “performance-based process leading to demonstrated mastery of basic and life skills necessary for the individual to function proficiently in society” (U.S. Office of Education, 1978).
  - Savage

- **Competencies** consist of a description of the essential skills, knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors required for effective performance of a real-world task or activity. These activities may be related to any domain of life, though have typically been linked to the field of work and to social survival in a new environment.
  - Mrowicki

- **Competencies** are essential skills that adults need to be successful members of families, the community, and the workplace.
  - CASAS
Competency Based Education (CBE)

Assess Participant Needs

Select Competencies

Evaluate Competency Attainment

Target Instruction

CASAS IT 2005
Competency Based Education Programs

1. Specific, measurable competency statements
2. Content based on learner goals (outcomes/competencies)
3. Learner continues in program until demonstrating mastery
4. Use a variety of instructional techniques and group activities
5. Focus on what the learner needs to learn, which is the application of basic skills in a life skills context
6. Use texts, media, and real life materials geared to targeted competencies
7. Provide learners with immediate feedback on assessment performance
8. Pace instruction to learner needs
9. Have learner demonstrate mastery of specified competency statements
Are you implementing Competency Based Education in your program? 
If yes, how?

What are the benefits of Competency Based Education for adult learners?

What are some issues or problems surrounding CBE in adult education programs?

**Resources**


Definitions of Content Standards

- What learners should know and be able to do in order to meet their goals.
  -- Equipped for the Future

- Basic skills and knowledge that learners should have at specific proficiency levels

- Listening, speaking, reading, writing and math basic skills needed to perform life skills

Are you currently integrating content standards in your curriculum? If yes, how?

What are some issues or concerns you have surrounding the integration of content standards and CBE curriculum?
Listening
"I can probably fix it tomorrow."

Speaking
"This is Sam Brown in 2B. My shower is leaking."

1.4.7 Interpret information about home maintenance and communicate housing problems to a landlord.

Reading
PROBLEMS?
CALL 555-9087
Frank Gonzales
Manager 13B

Writing
May 5
The shower is leaking in 2B.
Sam Brown

R3.5 Interpret words and phrases in familiar context.

R7.2 Scan for numerical information in simple signs and flyers.

R6.1 Use simple contextual clues to get information from short announcements.

L3.6 Differentiate between statements and questions.

Report information about a problem.

Discriminate sounds that affect meaning / s / vs. / c / shower, shelf, shovel.

Use appropriate capitalization/punctuation.

Use simple complete sentences.
1.4.2
Select appropriate housing by interpreting classified ads, signs, and other information.

Reading
- For Rent
  2 Br, 2 BA apt. patio
  167 Bates St.
  $700/mo. No pets.
  Apply with John

Writing
- John,
  Came by to see apt. Please call Sue at 567-0987.
  Thanks

Math
- How much will Sue need to rent the apartment for one year?

Multiple whole numbers

R4.1 Read basic sight words.

R4.11 Interpret abbreviations in context of specific topics

Use appropriate capitalization and punctuation.

Write a simple note using complete sentences and phrases.