

From Computers to Competencies: Why We Canned the "Canned" Curriculum

Rachel Tambornino
Alternative Education Coordinator
Mauston School District

Case Scenario #1

Todd is a senior with severe AODA issues. In his junior year, he was truant 102 out of 180 days. He has earned 2 credits out of the 28 he needs to earn his diploma. His test scores put him at a 5th grade reading level. What do you do? How do you help him to be successful?

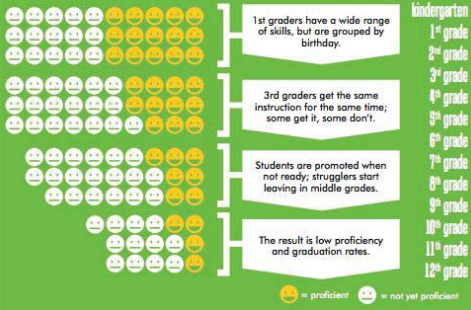
Case Scenario #2:

Liz is a junior who has been in a treatment facility for two years. She has severe mental health issues that limit her ability to be in a traditional setting. She is completely disconnected from everything. She has 1.5 credits, reading level at 12+. What do you do?

What exactly is Competency (or Proficiency) based Education?

what's wrong with the current system?

Batch processing students by birthday is ineffective and inefficient today.



Why make the change from what we are doing?

The 5 Flaws of the Carnegie Model

1. It's based on a fixed mindset
2. It's time based
3. Dependent on extrinsic motivation
4. High variability in how teachers determine proficiency - Knowing 60% and 100% of the material results in the same outcome - obtaining a half credit
5. Carnegie is organized for efficiency and not effectiveness- 3,500 standards K-12 (Marzano 2011)



Achieving Success with Competency Education

1. Students advance upon demonstrating mastery
2. Explicit and transparent learning objectives
3. Students receive timely and differentiated support
4. Aligned assessments
5. Nurturing a growth mindset and culture of learning
6. Build intrinsic motivation
7. Embed accountability



Why We Canned The "Canned" Curriculum

- The burn out
- Lack of engagement and proficiency
- Other pathways



How We Got Here

- The Need
- Developmental Process
- Hands-on and Field Trip Based
- Alignment
- Continual Revision



What We Do

- Hands-on Labs
- LOTS of Field Trips
- Build Background Knowledge
- Develop Social Skills
- New Experiences
- WRITE!
- READ!



First Things First

- Build a Family
- Community of Respect, Tolerance, and Honesty
- Teacher Included!
- SHOW You Care and are Committed



What It Looks Like

Our Transcripts
Sample Competencies:

Science

Social Studies

Math

English

Life Skills



We Go Places

- Find a place and build a competency around it
- Think outside the box
- Mostly free
- About the “experience”
- Field Trip=Reduced Competency



We Write And We Read...

- Every competency has a writing component
- Mandatory reading time and log
- Not excused from certain competencies
- Daily English and Math
 - Journals, News Article, Grammar, and Math Problems



And Then We Write And Read MORE!

- Social Studies mostly all Document Based Questioning
- Thank You Notes
- Reader’s Workshop
- Technology used:
 - Google Docs!
 - NoRedInk.com
 - Newsela.com



What The Data Says

- 2012 81% graduation rate of at-risk kids.
- 2014 98% graduation rate.
- Between 2014-Present students reading levels have gone up on average 3.9 GRADES a year.



What Data Can't Measure

- First time:
 - out of the county
 - out of the state
 - at a 3D or Imax movie
 - at a non-fast food restaurant
 - at a musical/play
 - LIKING SCHOOL
- Confidence, social skills, and FAMILY



Questions? Want To See It In Action?

Rachel Tambornino

rtambornino@maustonschools.org