



# Performance Standards

for CBE

K-12 and Postsecondary Institutions

Effective July 1, 2022

# Competency-Based Education Certification

## What it means

Competency-Based Education (CBE) is designed to measure mastery of learning, while empowering and preparing learners for their future college and career opportunities in an increasingly global economy. The concepts of CBE blend nicely with Cognia's philosophy of meeting individual learners' needs. Cognia's CBE Certification Standards provide a set of evaluative criteria that form the foundational elements of a high-quality CBE program within a school or system and contain concepts that serve as a roadmap for implementing high-quality CBE practices and processes. Additionally, the CBE certification process allows Cognia Review Teams to evaluate an institution's CBE implementation and provide feedback that validates current practices and informs opportunities for continued improvement.

## Keys to CBE Learning

In addition to meeting Cognia's CBE Certification Standards and Assurances, a quality CBE program is:

- Thoroughly embedded in and supported by the institution
- Defined by clear concise expectations for learning
- Based on achievement of outcomes, not seat time
- Focused on using assessment as a learning opportunity

## Rating the standards

During an institution's Self-Assessment and Certification Engagement Review, each standard will be rated according to a unique four-point scoring rubric. The point-value definitions appear below.

<b>LEVEL 4</b>	<b>Demonstrating noteworthy practices producing clear results that positively impact learners</b>
<b>LEVEL 3</b>	<b>Engaging in practices that provide evidence of expected effectiveness that is reflected in the standard</b>
<b>LEVEL 2</b>	<b>Developing or improving practices that provide evidence that effort approaches desired level of effectiveness</b>
<b>LEVEL 1</b>	<b>Reflecting areas with insufficient evidence and/or limited activity leading toward improvement</b>

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# CBE Standards

## STANDARD 1

Leaders and professional staff members demonstrate commitment to competency-based education through ongoing research, targeted professional development, focused hiring practices, and leadership support.

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## STANDARD 2

Leaders maintain an infrastructure that supports competency-based education at all levels throughout the institution.

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## STANDARD 3

Leaders and professional staff provide rigorous, common expectations for learning (knowledge, skills, and dispositions) that are explicit, transparent, measurable, and transferable.

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## STANDARD 4

Learners are empowered to make important decisions about their learning experiences, how they create and apply knowledge, and how they demonstrate their learning.

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## STANDARD 5

Learners actively engage in learning using different pathways and varied pacing.

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## STANDARD 6

Learners actively engage in timely, differentiated support based on their individual learning needs.

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## STANDARD 7

Learners experience assessment as a meaningful, positive, and empowering learning process that yields timely, relevant, and actionable evidence.

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## STANDARD 8

Learners demonstrate evidence of progress through mastery of competencies and skills.

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