

## What are competencies?

Competencies are combinations of attitudes, skills and knowledge that students develop and apply for successful learning, living and working. They accentuate aspects of learning that apply across all subject areas.

This learning guide is designed for use by instructional leaders and professional learning communities or as a self-paced study to explore competencies.



Use this learning guide after viewing the *Competencies in Action* video clip: [Shark Lake Development Project—Michael Strembitsky School](#).

## Synopsis:

In this brief video, students at an Alberta school demonstrate how they discover, develop and apply competencies by using an allocated budget to bid on a lot in the fictitious Shark Lake Development, and then working in collaborative groups to construct a scale-model home.

## Key understandings:

- The *Ministerial Order on Student Learning (#001/2013)* outlines the goals and standards applicable to the provision of education in Alberta. The eight competencies listed below capture the intent and essence of the Ministerial Order and are supported by national and international educational research.
- Alberta's Kindergarten to Grade 12 curriculum promotes development of the following competencies:
  - Critical Thinking
  - Problem Solving
  - Managing Information
  - Creativity and Innovation
  - Communication
  - Collaboration
  - Cultural and Global Citizenship
  - Personal Growth and Well-being
- Through competencies, students develop and connect key aspects of knowing, thinking and doing across a variety of learning contexts, both within and outside school.
- As student develop competencies through learner outcomes, they acquire knowledge, skills and attitudes that contribute to their success as lifelong learners and active citizens.

## Questions for discussion:

- Which of the 8 competencies were integral to this project?
- How can relevant, authentic experiences enhance the development of competencies?
- How do competencies support the attainment of learner outcomes in our Programs of study?
- A focus on competencies opens the door to opportunities and challenges. Describe how competencies might support the learning in your classroom and explore potential roadblocks.
- How can competencies be used to foster a positive mindset, increased metacognition, and a deeper awareness of personal strengths and areas for growth?
- How can teachers infuse competencies into their planning and anticipate ways to coach students to become more competent thinkers and communicators?

## For more information:

[Competencies FAQs for Educators](#) (Alberta Education)  
[Streamlined expression of Competencies – Descriptions, Indicators and Examples](#) (Alberta Education)  
 Support for awareness and understanding of [Learning Through Competencies](#) (ARPCD)  
[Ministerial Order on Student Learning \(#001/2013\)](#) (Alberta Education)  
 Learn more about essential conditions that support implementation planning for new educational policies and initiatives at <http://www.essentialconditions.ca>

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