



Preview of the MyWays Competency Domains

The framework covers considerable ground because it embraces a whole-person approach. No one learner or one school model will address all 20 competencies in a granular, sequential way. The aim of the framework is to keep breadth and depth front of mind for the creation of individual journeys that vary based on learner strengths and interests.

Habits of Success — for learning, work, and well-being

Developing the interpersonal and intrapersonal skills, habits, and behaviors that research suggests are essential to success in learning, self-direction, and well-being.

Academic Behaviors	Going to class, participating fully, completing homework and projects, and managing time and resources
Self-Direction & Perseverance	Initiative, flexibility and adaptability, grit and tenacity, self-control
Positive Mindsets	“I belong in this learning community. My ability and competence grow with my effort. I can succeed at this task. This work has value for me.”
Learning Strategies	Study skills and strategies, goal-setting, self-regulated learning, help seeking
Social Skills & Responsibility	Interpersonal skills, empathy, cooperation, leadership, ethics, and ability to build social networks

3 Key Principles for Practice

Educators should help students to:

1. **Experience day-to-day the active, authentic learning** that enables students to work on their Habits of Success in integrated, sequenced, and explicit ways.
2. **Benefit from strong adult relationships**, which are necessary for all students to develop the Habits — and even more vital for those affected by poverty, trauma, or other challenges.
3. **Avoid the unintended and negative consequences possible in emerging measurement of Habits of Success**, particularly as part of high-stakes accountability.

Creative Know How — for a novel, complex world

Developing strength in the 4Cs (Critical Thinking, Communication, Collaboration, Creativity) as well as skills relevant to the increasingly “disorderly” world — entrepreneurship, media/IT, and practical life.

Critical Thinking & Problem Solving	Ability to analyze and reason effectively, and use systems thinking and design thinking toward solving problems in varied settings
Creativity & Entrepreneurship	The imagination, inventiveness, and experimentation to achieve new and productive ideas and solutions
Communication & Collaboration	Oral, written, and visual communication skills and the ability to work effectively with diverse teams
Information, Media, & Technology Skills	Ability to access, evaluate, manage, create, and disseminate information and media using a wide variety of technology tools
Practical Life Skills	Ability to understand and manage personal finances, health, and independence

4 Key Principles for Practice

Educators should help students to:

1. **Develop and transfer competencies in novel, real-world contexts**, incorporating a variety of complex and rapidly changing situations.
2. **Work on skills and knowledge in integrated ways** — learners need to apply skills to and through content knowledge, learning both more deeply, in a virtuous cycle.
3. **Focus explicitly on these skills** — naming, practicing, and reflecting on them, as well as being coached on them and receiving on-going and effective feedback.
4. **Explore the ways in which Creative Know How competencies are intimately interrelated** with each other and with the Habits of Success.

Content Knowledge — for the life students will lead

Developing knowledge of a broader, more future-ready range of subjects than we have today, including interdisciplinary and global literacies, and career-related technical skills for all.

English Core	Deep English learning and application across settings, aligned with the Common Core and similar standards
Math Core	Deep math learning and application across settings, aligned with the Common Core and similar standards
Science, Social Studies, Arts, Languages	Active learning of core disciplinary concepts and their application in a broad selection of liberal arts and sciences, and performing and language arts
Interdisciplinary & Global Knowledge	Integrated interdisciplinary thinking and empathetic development of global, cross-cultural, civic, environmental, and economic literacies
Career-Related Technical Skills	The integration of academic, technical, and employability skills in at least one existing career area or emerging problem space of personal interest

3 Key Principles for Practice

Educators should help students to:

1. **Focus on a few “high-leverage” constructs** in each subject that are central to the structure of the discipline, transfer, and continued learning in a world of change.
2. **Engage with content through learner-driven, purposeful, real-world experiences**, which improve learning while preparing students for life.
3. **Attain balance by developing “T-shaped” knowledge**, pursuing appropriate breadth while also developing depth of expertise in chosen areas.

Wayfinding Abilities — for destinations unknown

Developing the five Wayfinding competencies through an integrated, iterative process with multiple entry points — and particular focus on navigating transitions, learning from failure, and building social capital.

Survey the Learn, Work, & Life Landscapes	Ability to research and understand information, resources, external barriers, and internal factors relevant to upcoming transitions in school, career, and life
Identify Opportunities & Set Goals	The self-awareness, focus, and strategic thinking to cultivate individual strengths and set goals for learning, work, and life
Design & Iterate Prototype Experiences	Ability to translate goals into prototype experiences for each new stage or transition, especially the transition from high schooler to independent, contributing adult
Find Needed Help & Resources	Ability to identify, locate, and secure the time, money, materials, organizations, mentors, and partners needed to support one’s plans
Navigate Each Stage of the Journey	Ability to implement plans in the worlds of education, work, and life, making mid-course adjustments as required based on new experience

4 Key Principles for Practice

Educators should help students to:

1. **Start early**, so that building awareness of one’s own profile and interests, and of the world outside the school walls, informs learning choices and enhances relevance and motivation.
2. **Harness the Wider Learning Ecosystem** to engage with the adult world and give learners access to opportunities for developing Wayfinding Abilities.
3. **Access the kind of support necessary** to enable real progress in Wayfinding Abilities.
4. **Address the barriers to equity** inherent in competencies that are built on relationship-based supports and community-based lines of sight to college, career, and life outcomes.

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