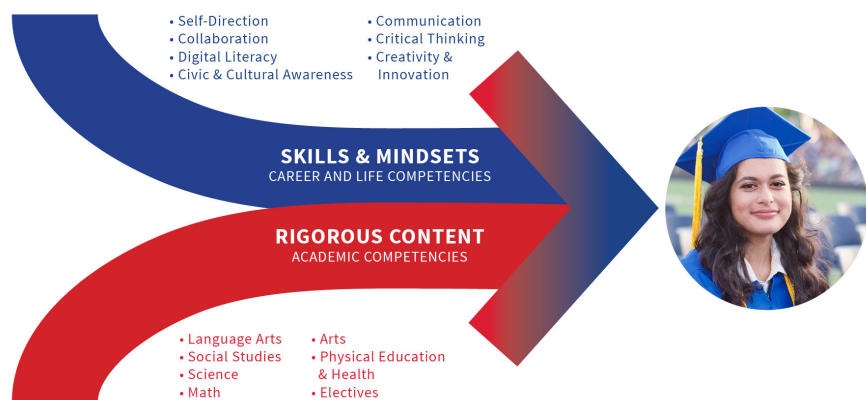


Competency-based learning is a way of learning that focuses on mastering specific skills and knowledge. Instead of just spending a set amount of time in a classroom on a particular topic, it's about students deeply understanding and being able to apply learning throughout their lives. We have two types of competencies in Spring Lake Park Schools:

- **Academic competencies** are aligned to different content areas and the Minnesota state standards for those areas.
- **Career and life competencies** are skills and mindsets needed for success in school and beyond.



This approach to learning helps students learn in a way that works best for them. It's personalized and flexible. Students focus on what they need to learn and understand deeply before they move on to the next concept. This helps students build on and develop the skills they need for their next steps.

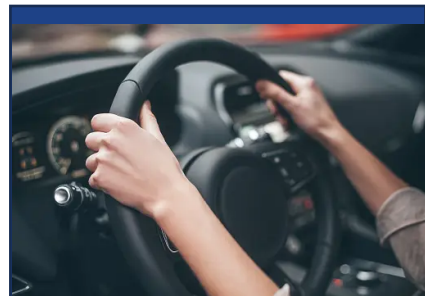
KEY ELEMENTS

UNDERSTANDING WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW — Competencies are clear goals that represent the most critical and enduring concepts from each content area and the skills and mindsets needed to be successful.

- There are 4-8 competencies in each content area.
- Competencies are consistent from kindergarten through grade 12. They grow in complexity at each level.
- Each competency includes what students need to demonstrate to be proficient in that competency.

LEARNING AT A FLEXIBLE PACE — Learning is supported to provide flexibility for students to take more time on things they find difficult and go faster through things they understand quickly. Descriptions of what the learning looks like when a student is beginning to grasp the concept, when learning is in progress and when a student is proficient is embedded in a tool teachers use, called a rubric, to determine where students are in their learning.

SHOWING WHAT YOU KNOW – Competency-based learning requires kids to show their learning. They have to apply and transfer their learning to real situations and in authentic ways. Through tests, projects, or other applications of their skills, they produce examples that show what they know.



DRIVING OUR LEARNING

Competency-based learning is a little like learning to drive.

- At the *beginning*, you learn the rules of the road in a classroom.
- When learning is *in progress*, you practice with support and guidance.
- When you are *proficient*, you show what you know to get your license. At this point, you know what to do when you hit a patch of ice, and you do it.

Applying your learning in a real situation – proficiency – is the ultimate goal.