

Show What You Know and graduate ready for the real world

About Personalized Learning in Your Child's School

Did you know? Your child's school uses a Competency Based System (CBS) to help teachers customize the way your child learns, according to his or her strengths and challenges. CBS enables all students to:

- **Learn at a customized pace**—progressing quickly in strength areas, and receiving extra help from teachers in areas of challenge
- **Master knowledge and skills**—demonstrating confidence and ability in one area of knowledge and skills before moving on to the next
- **Real-time student information**—at any time, parents and teachers can go online to see where a student is excelling and where they need additional time and extra help in order to grow

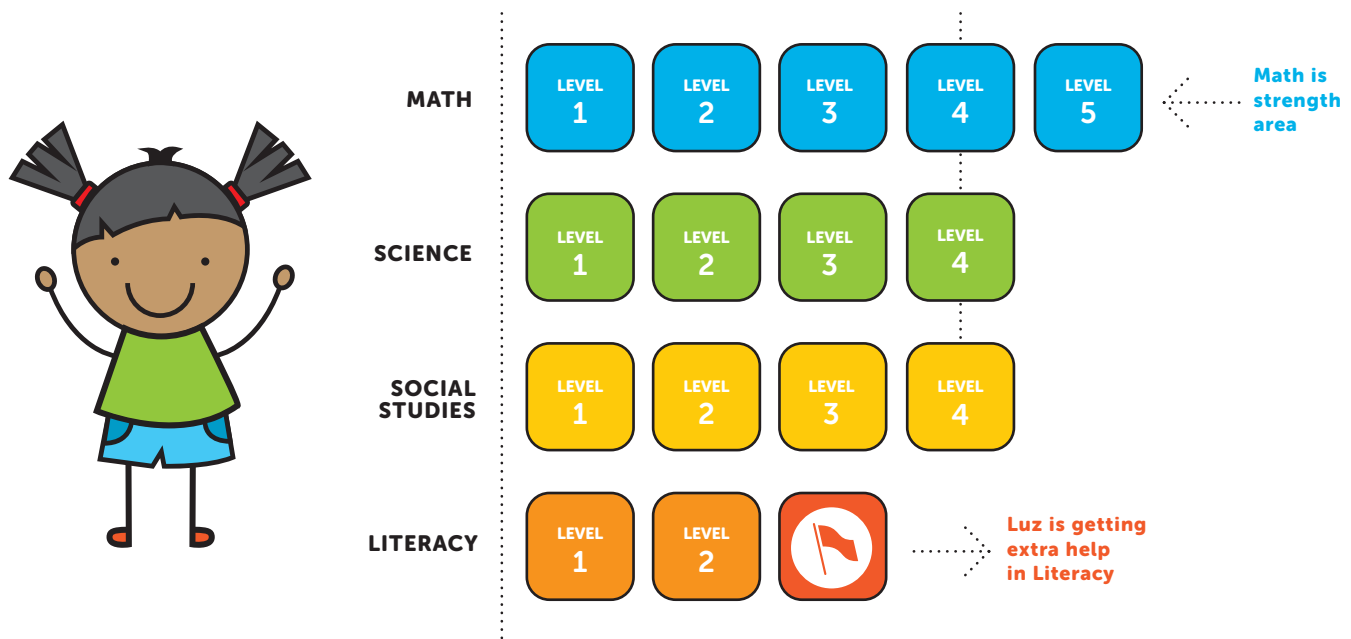
Meet Luz

AGE
9

TRADITIONAL GRADE LEVEL:
4th Grade

Luz is 9 years old, and in a traditional school she'd be in fourth grade. Since Luz is great at math, she is already working in Math Level 5, which is above-average. Literacy is a challenge area, so Luz is getting extra help from teachers as she works in Literacy Level 3. She's right on track in Science and Social Studies.

The average performance level for Luz is 4



How Personalized Learning Works

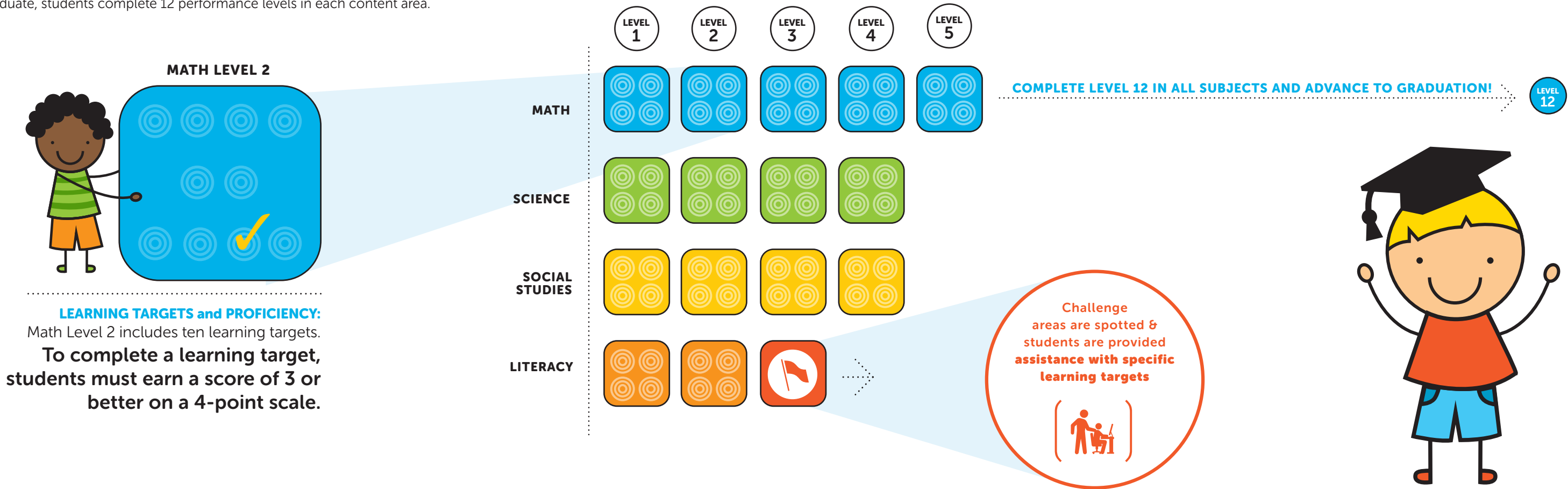
The Westminster Public Schools Competency Based System (CBS) presents knowledge and skills as a series of blocks that build up on each other. Students show that they have mastered one block—called a **learning target**—before moving on to the next. Within each content area, there is a collection of learning targets that make up a **performance level**. Students complete all of the learning targets within one performance level before moving on to the next level. To graduate, students complete 12 performance levels in each content area.

HELPFUL TERMS:

Learning Target:
A group of knowledge and skills that students master.

Proficiency:
Is demonstrated when a student scores 3 or better on a 4-point scale, which must happen in order to complete a learning target.

Performance Level:
A collection of learning targets in each content area. Students move on to the next performance level when they demonstrate proficiency in all of its learning targets.



Learning Targets

Traditional Approach:

All students move through the same content at the teacher's pace.

Personalized Approach:

Students learn at a customized pace, mastering groups of knowledge and skills called learning targets. To complete a learning target, students must earn a score of 3 or better on a 4-point scale. A variety of learning targets make up each performance level.

Example:

Math Level 2 includes ten learning targets. A student must earn a score of 3 or better to complete each learning target; they must complete all targets to move on to the next performance level.

Performance Levels

Traditional Approach:

Students are placed in one grade level according to their age, for the entire year for all subjects.

Personalized Approach:

Students work in a performance level in each core content area according to their demonstrated abilities.

Example:

A typical fourth-grader may work in Math Level 5, Literacy Level 3, Social Studies Level 4 and Science Level 4. This would mean that math is a strength area and literacy is a challenge area.

Student Proficiency

Traditional Approach:

Students move up one grade level in all subjects each year, regardless of their ability in each subject.

Personalized Approach:

Students learn at a customized pace. They move from one performance level to the next when they have demonstrated proficiency in all of the learning targets that comprise that level. Students complete Level 12 in all subjects to graduate.

Example:

A student may complete all of the learning targets in Literacy Level 3, and move on to Literacy Level 4, during the middle of the school year. Or, he may start a new school year continuing his work from the previous year on learning targets in Math Level 2.

To learn more about Westminster Public Schools Competency Based System, visit cbswps.org or call 720-542-5084.

westminsterpublicschools.org • 6933 Raleigh Street • Westminster, CO 80030
Phone: (303) 428-3511 • Fax: (303) 428-2810

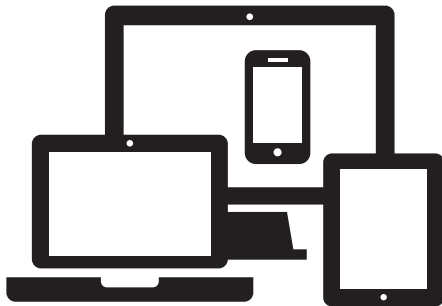
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How Parents Can Help



- **Once a week, log in to your student's EMPOWER learning management system, at empowerwps.org. Check his or her progress on learning targets as well as the learning activities they have engaged in to demonstrate competency.**
- **Talk to your student about the learning targets he or she enjoys, and ask about areas where he or she may be struggling.**
- **Once a month, talk to your student's teacher(s) about strength and growth areas. Praise his or her successes, and offer to help with any challenges.**
- **If you need help using EMPOWER, ask for resources at your school's main office or visit cbswps.org. Click on "Parents," then "Parent Tools" to launch the CBS Wiki page.**



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