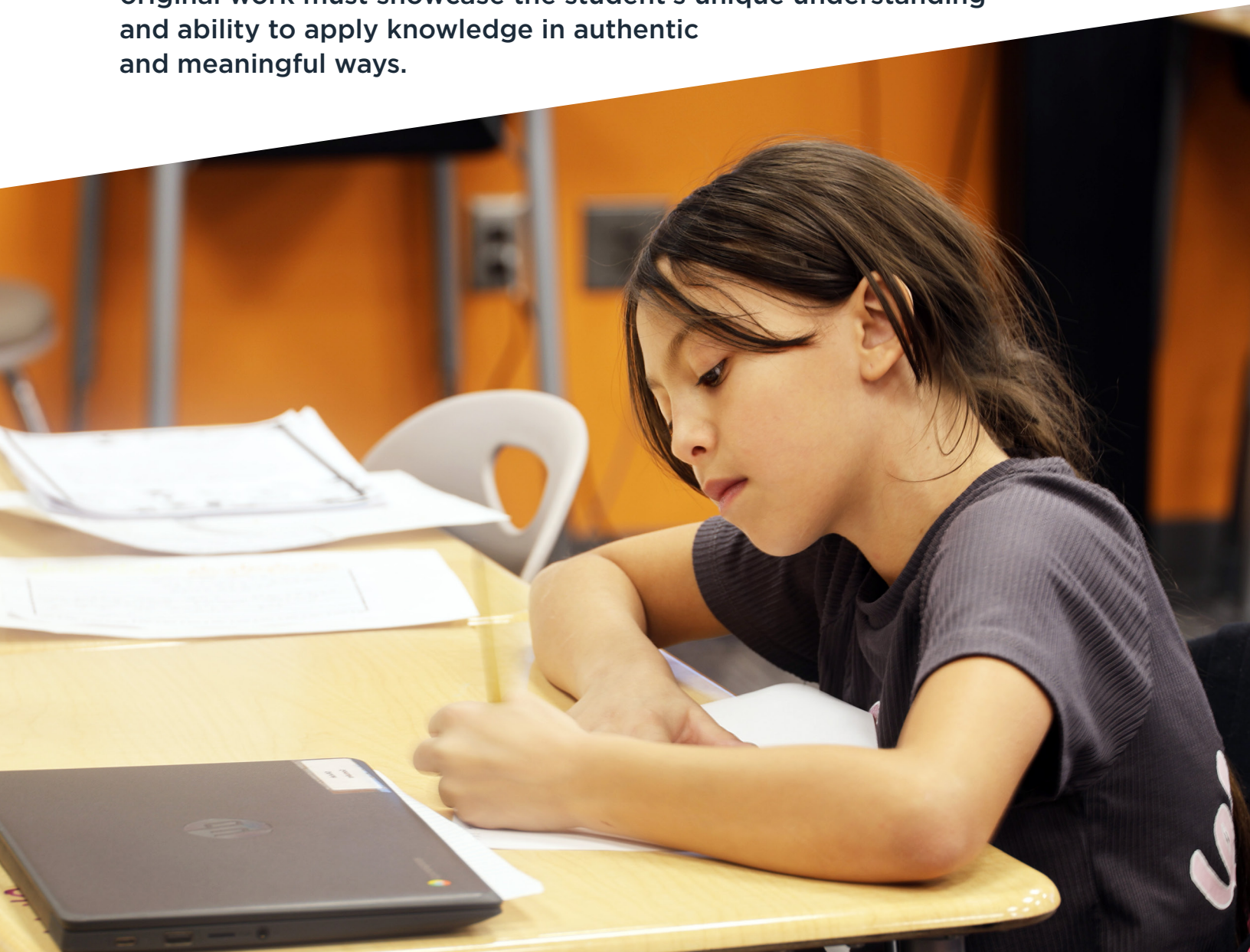


DEFINITION OF ORIGINAL WORK

ORIGINAL WORK IN A COMPETENCY-BASED PK-12 LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Original work is any creation that demonstrates a student's individual growth, mastery of competencies, and application of knowledge through critical thinking, creativity, and independent effort. While learning is often informed by collaboration, research, and digital tools—including AI—original work must showcase the student's unique understanding and ability to apply knowledge in authentic and meaningful ways.



DEFINITION OF ORIGINAL WORK

IN A COMPETENCY-BASED SYSTEM, ORIGINAL WORK IS DEFINED BY:

In a competency-based model, the focus is on how well students can apply their learning rather than just completing assignments. Therefore, original work is measured by evidence of deep understanding, independent skill application, and creative problem-solving rather than simple reproduction of information.

Demonstrated Mastery

The student shows proficiency in key skills and knowledge through independently produced work.

Independent Thought & Creativity and Authentic Application:

Original work is student-driven, reflecting their personal analysis, synthesis, and problem-solving abilities. Students create work that applies learning to real-world contexts, demonstrating transferable skills even with the use of AI as collaborator or coach.

Uphold Ethics and Adaptability

Responsible Use of AI & Resources: AI and other tools may support learning, but students must actively engage with content, critically evaluate AI-generated material, and clearly document their use of technology to maintain integrity.

ORIGINAL WORK IN A COMPETENCY-BASED PK-12 LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Elementary (PK-5)

Example 1: First Grade - Generating Narratives (ELA & Visual Art)

Competency: Demonstrates narrative skills by creating and illustrating a simple story.

Original Work: A student writes and illustrates their own short story about a talking tree.

They brainstorm ideas, develop a beginning, middle, and end, and draw pictures to match their words.

AI Use: The teacher guides a reluctant learner through the use of AI as a topic and story brainstorming tool (Tier 2).

Example 2: Fourth Grade - Defining Engineering Design Problems (Science)

Competency: Uses the scientific method to conduct an experiment and analyze results.

Original Work: A student designs an experiment to test which type of soil best supports plant growth. They document their hypothesis, track plant growth, and present their conclusions.

AI Use: The student uses AI as a coach to identify research starting points but conducts the experiment and writes the conclusions independently (Tier 2).

Example 3: Fifth Grade - Word Problems (Mathematics)

Competency: Solves multi-step word problems and justifies mathematical reasoning.

Original Work: A student solves a real-world budgeting problem, calculating costs and making financial decisions based on given constraints. They show their work and explain their reasoning.

AI Use: The student uses AI to check their calculations and receive hints on problem-solving strategies but solves and explains the problem independently (Tier 2).

DEFINITION OF ORIGINAL WORK

ORIGINAL WORK IN A COMPETENCY-BASED PK-12 LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Middle School (6-8)

Example 4: Eighth Grade - Historical Sources (Social Studies & ELA)

Competency: Analyzes historical events and expresses a unique perspective.

Original Work: A student writes a journal entry from the perspective of a child living during the American Revolution. They research historical details but use their own creativity to craft the story.

AI Use: The student asks AI for facts about daily life in the 1770s but composes their entry with original thoughts and analysis (Tier 2).

Example 5: Sixth Grade - Ratios, Rates, and Percentages (Mathematics & Problem-Solving)

Competency: Applies mathematical concepts to solve real-world problems.

Original Work: A student designs a budget for a family road trip, calculating costs for gas, food, and entertainment. They analyze the best way to stay within a set budget.

AI Use: The student uses AI to find average gas prices around the United States and for specific vehicles but performs calculations and decision-making independently (Tier 2).

High School (9-12)

Example 6: Tenth Grade - Civic Responsibility (ELA & Civics)

Competency: Constructs a well-supported argument on a contemporary ethical issue.

Original Work: A student writes an argumentative essay on the ethical use of AI in schools, citing credible sources and forming their own stance.

AI Use: The student uses AI to help summarize key articles but writes the essay independently, properly citing sources and explaining personal reasoning (Tier 2).

Example 7: High School - Natural Resources and Biotechnology (Integrated Science)

Competency: Designs and implements an innovative solution to a real-world challenge based on current scientific literature and knowledge.

Original Work: A student builds an app to track recycling habits in their community, coding the prototype and collecting user feedback.

AI Use: AI is used as an essential tool. The student uses AI to debug some coding errors but writes most of the program and analyzes the data independently. They document AI's role in the project (Tier 3).

DEFINITION OF ORIGINAL WORK

ORIGINAL WORK IN A COMPETENCY-BASED PK-12 LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Key Takeaways for PK-12 Competency-Based Original Work:

- Students must demonstrate their own mastery of learning, not just completion.
- AI can assist with brainstorming and research, but students must produce the final work independently.
- Transparency is required—students must acknowledge AI's role when used.