



## Why Competency-based Education

**Improved teaching and learning:** Learning experiences are designed to enable mastery and there is clear alignment and transparency between what students are expected to learn and the pathway to get there.

**Individualized student progression:** Students learn at their own pace and move on as they demonstrate mastery.

**Student agency and investment:** Learning goals are transparent and students and self-direct their own learning.

## A Phased Approach to the Implementation of Competency-based Education

### PHASE 1:

#### **Developing a common language**

As a first step in implementing a competency-based system, practitioners focus on norming around prioritized competencies and rubrics/performance definitions to create a shared language that informs some instructional decisions. More importantly, this common language is the basis for student self-assessment and feedback practices, ensuring that mastery is a universally understood benchmark. During this phase, transformative learning experiences that enable mastery are piloted.

### PHASE 2:

#### **Building core systems**

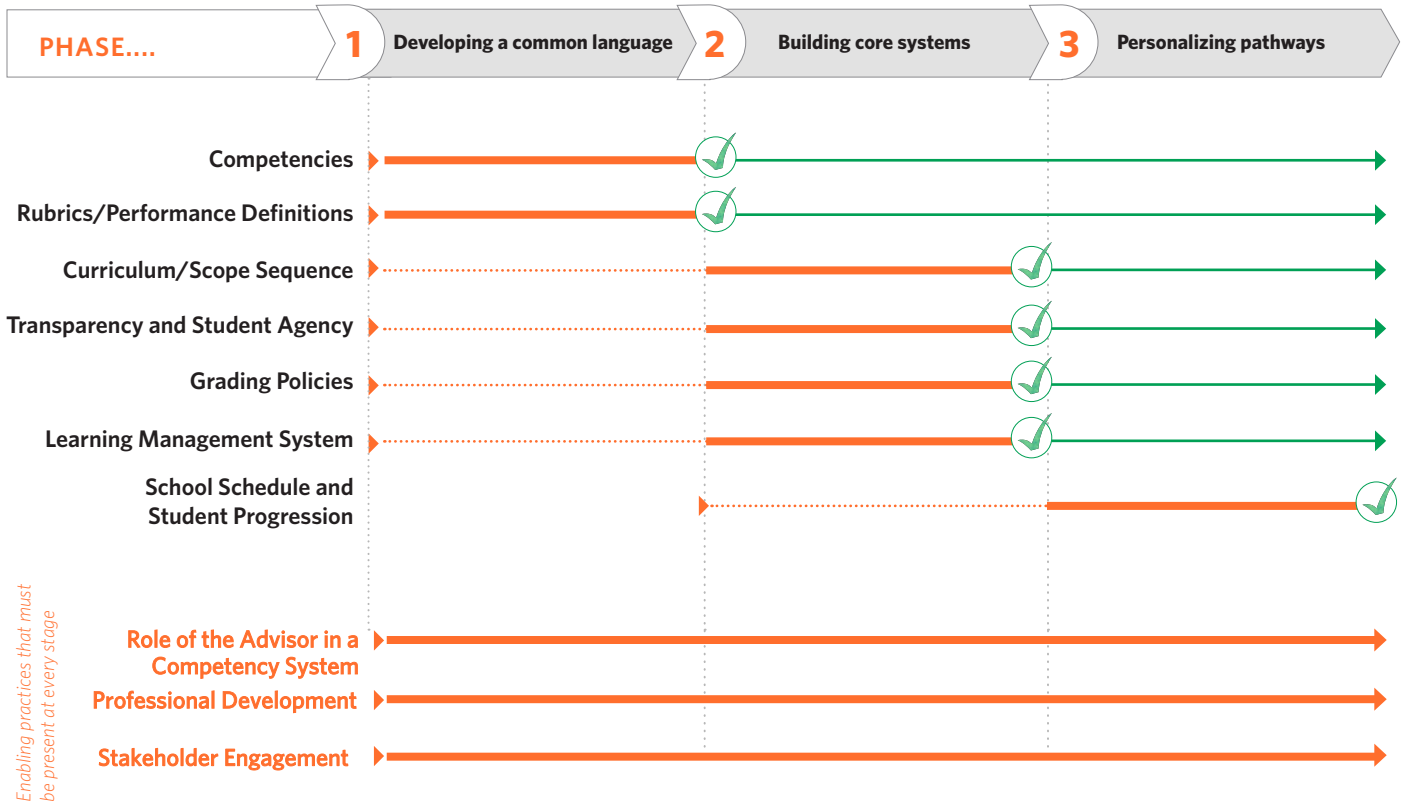
As the school community gets more confident in using competency-based language to drive instruction, assessment, and student feedback practice, it's time to begin making more significant adjustments to the curriculum and systematizing grading policies. In this phase, likely the longest one, transformative learning experiences become the core of teaching and learning. Practitioners also begin considering what LMS can best support transparency and agency.

### PHASE 3:

#### **Personalizing pathways**

Once new grading practices have been adopted and a curriculum scope and sequence has been built around competencies, the school community is ready to make adjustments to the way students progress to graduation. This will likely require meaningful shifts to the school schedule and a full implementation of an LMS to track student progress.

# At a Glance: Focus areas by phase



## About Springpoint

Springpoint is a national nonprofit that partners with districts, charters, and communities to design and launch innovative high schools that can meet the needs of all students, preparing them for college and career success. Our team of experienced school leaders, coaches, teachers, and Superintendents draw on their expertise in instructional design, transformative learning experiences, community partnerships, positive youth development, competency-based education, national charter systems, and innovative district initiatives. We are driven by the promise of student-centered school models and help partners “do school differently” by providing school design and planning workshops, implementation supports, customized coaching, and adult learning experiences.



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