

STUDENT-CENTERED LEARNING IN ACTION

learning is personalized

At Sanford High School in Maine, students maintain a personalized learning plan or educational portfolio that records their progress in meeting learning standards in each subject—demonstrating their mastery of content.

learning is competency-based

Boston Day and Evening Academy has replaced the traditional year-long high school calendar with trimesters. The courses in each trimester are aligned with standards-based learning targets and benchmarks that all students must reach in order to pass.

learning happens anytime, anywhere

At the Virtual Learning Academy Charter School (VLACS) in New Hampshire, students can access courses anytime, anywhere. VLACS offers flexible schedules for students who are looking to make up credits or competencies, need to work outside of the traditional classroom setting, or want to take advanced placement courses or earn college credits.

students take ownership

At Pittsfield Middle-High School in New Hampshire, student-led conferences replace traditional parent-teacher conferences, allowing students to take the lead role in presentations that articulate academic, personal, and social growth.



student-centered LEARNING IN ACTION



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*Why should education be
one-size fits all?*

STUDENT-

*learning doesn't stop when
the final bell rings*

CENTERED

*does your brain only work when
you're sitting in a chair?*

LEARNING

*how do we prepare today's
learners for tomorrow's economy?*





ABOUT US

The Nellie Mae Education Foundation is the largest philanthropy in New England dedicated exclusively to education. We're committed to reshaping the high school learning experience by working with schools and organizations to implement the principles of student-centered learning—learning that is personalized, engaging, competency-based, and happens anytime, anywhere. Since 1998, the Foundation has distributed over \$170 million in grants.

A CHANGING WORLD DEMANDS A CHANGED SYSTEM

Today, we know more than ever about how students learn. But traditional school systems, designed in a different time for a different purpose, aren't providing the best environments to prepare students for success in today's economy.

Students engage with material in different ways, so the learning process doesn't look the same for every student. Public schools need student-centered strategies, rather than a top-down, one-size-fits-all approach, that meets students where they are and engages them in the process.

Today's innovation economy and diverse society require skills that aren't addressed in a traditional curriculum—such as critical thinking, problem solving, communication, collaboration, self-directed learning, and social-emotional skills.

WHAT IS STUDENT-CENTERED LEARNING?

Student-centered learning engages students in their own successes—and incorporates their interests and skills into the learning process. Rather than having teachers hand down information, students can engage with teachers and their peers in real time—preparing them to participate in a skilled workforce later in life.

Student-centered means:

learning is personalized

Personalized learning recognizes that students engage in different ways and in different places. Students benefit from individually paced, targeted learning tasks that start from where the student is, formatively assessing existing skills and knowledge, and addressing the student's needs.

learning is competency-based

Students move ahead when they've demonstrated mastery of content, not when they've reached a certain birthday or endured the required hours in a classroom.

learning happens anytime, anywhere

Learning takes place beyond the traditional school day, and even the school year. The school's walls are permeable—learning is not restricted to the classroom.

students take ownership

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STUDENT-CENTERED