Competency Statement: Teachers will demonstrate the ability to foster learner agency* through their pedagogical approaches, their relationships with learners, and the learning culture and environment they co-build with students, as they redefine their role in the learning process.

These performance indicators define the core knowledge, skills, and dispositions required to build competency.

**Performance Indicators**

- Teachers will develop an understanding and apply the principles of learner agency. 
  
- Teachers will understand the impact of their own dispositions (e.g., equity orientation, learner-centered orientation, continuous improvement orientation) and develop plans for growth through active reflection.

- Teachers will create a learning culture & environment that supports the development of agency.

- Teachers will create supportive relationships with their learners.

- Teachers will be aware of the role that they play in learning and increasingly take on a facilitative role in the learning process as they implement a range of pedagogical approaches that offer opportunities for learner agency.

*This playlist presents a variety of curated resources aligned to the learning progression and designed to build your knowledge and skills.
Please Note:
The resources in the Leading level will help start you on the path toward Innovating, but the ability to innovate only comes with significant experience and practice.

INVESTING

How Next Gen Learning can Support Student Agency - Part 1
This blog post gives a description of what Student Agency is with lots of links to follow up articles on specific components.
Source: Kristen Vogt, Competency Works

Student Roundtable: New Orleans
This short video shows an example of giving students a seat at the table to share their impressions about what school should be.
Source: XQ America

A Teacher’s Tale of Technology, Trust and the Struggle for Freedom
This powerful blog post narrates one teacher’s experience with shifting instructional practices to increase learner agency in the classroom.
Source: Daniel Guerrero, EdSurge

DEVELOPING

How Next Gen Learning can Support Student Agency - Part 2
This blog introduces ways that the next gen learning strategies of blended learning, competency-based learning, and project-based learning can support student agency.
Source: Kristen Vogt, Competency Works

Foundations for Young Adult Success: A Developmental Framework
This report synthesizes decades of research evidence, practice wisdom, and theory to capture a holistic view of children’s developmental needs from early childhood to young adulthood.
Source: The University of Chicago Consortium on Chicago School Research (UChicagoCCSR)

What Schools Should Be: The Strength of Student Voice
This blog gives an example of engaging students in the visioning process for what school should be.
Source: Caroline Vander Ark, Getting Smart

Agency by Design
This powerful video explains how a makerspace can allow students to understand that things in the world around them are designed and that students can be agents of change in those designs.
Source: Agency by Design

LEADING

Project XQ: Student Agency & Engagement
This documentation from the Request for Proposals from Project XQ prompts the user to think about the role of the student in education and provides numerous resources about student agency both examples from within education and outside of it. You will have to click into the links to get more in-depth information.
Source: XQ America

Classroom Talk: Learning, Thinking and Classroom Communities
This article provides many ways to engage students in conversation which encourage and respect their thinking and contributions.
Source: Peter Johnston, The University at Albany-SUNY

INNOVATING

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**INVESTING**

- **Mindsets and Student Agency**
  
  This article explores four learning mindsets that students must develop to become self-directed learners. By cultivating these mindsets as an educator, you will improve your own practice and model the skills you want to see your students develop.  
  **Source:** Eduardo Briceño, Competency Works

- **23 Questions that Cultivate Deeper Learning Mindsets**
  
  This blog provides questions that the practitioner can ask themselves as they attempt to grow in their ability to foster student agency.  
  **Source:** Bonnie Lathram, Getting Smart

- **Reimagining Classrooms: Teachers as Learners and Students as Leaders**
  
  In this video, Kayla explains how to release the power in the classroom by giving students ownership of their learning and making it relevant to them.  
  **Source:** Kayla Delzer, TEDxFargo

**DEVELOPING**

- **Developing a Growth Mindset in Teachers and Staff**
  
  This article explores how cultivating growth mindsets among teachers and staff requires careful planning by school management and modeling.  
  **Source:** Keith Heggart, Edutopia

- **Student Voice Rubric**
  
  This a checklist of ways a school or an individual educator can incorporate voice and choice into their practice and check their progress towards developing learner agency.  
  **Source:** Anne O'Brien, Edutopia

- **10 Self-Reflective Questions Teachers Can Debrief With Every Day**
  
  This article makes the case that a profession as challenging as teaching is, asking the right self-reflective questions can help you determine how to best improve. By making this a daily practice, you model a powerful growth mindset.  
  **Source:** Lee Watanabe-Crockett, Global Digital Citizen Foundation

**LEADING**

- **Five Ways to Increase Teacher Agency in Professional Development**
  
  This article makes the case that teacher agency in professional learning is the key to unlocking the potential of these development opportunities and fostering learner agency in practice.  
  **Source:** Anne O'Brien, Edutopia

- **Motivation Matters: How New Research Can Help Teachers Boost Student Engagement**
  
  This report’s authors define key terms, discuss new research findings, and examine promising classroom strategies for improving students’ engagement in learning.  
  **Source:** Susan Headden & Sarah McKay, Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching

**INNOVATING**

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INVESTING

Identity Safe Classrooms: An Interview with Dr. Dorothy Steele

In this video Dr. Dorothy Steele talks about classrooms where students feel safe and have a sense of belonging, they develop stronger attachments to school and achieve at higher levels, even in the face of significant social and economic disparities.

Source: Dr. Dorothy Steele, Not in Our School

6 Ways To Let Students Know You Care

This article provides ideas for how to show students that you care.

Source: Karen Hume, Teach Magazine

20 Tips for Creating a Safe Learning Environment

This article provides ideas for creating a safe classroom environment.

Source: Rebecca Alber, Edutopia

DEVELOPING

Culturally Responsive Teaching: Getting to Know Students Deeply

The author believes that educators can improve outcomes and build equity in the classroom by listening closely to the learners and includes six practices to choose from to begin intentionally including a culturally responsive practice.

Source: Shane Safir, Edutopia

Personalized Learning: Enabling Voice and Choice Through Projects

This video visits Nashville Big Picture High School, where students personalize their own learning through pathways that allow them to explore their own interests and passions, from presenting projects on real-world issues to pitching their own business plans.

Source: Edutopia

7 ways to Hack your Classroom for Student Choice

This article provides ideas for how to enable more student choice throughout the day.

Source: Amanda Ronan, Edudemic

LEADING


Caroline Hill’s keynote starts at 4:55 and addresses false narratives and gaps in our own knowledge and understanding that disinherit some students and can hinder the design of equitable and personalized learning models.

Source: iNACOL

How Da Vinci Schools Built an Instructional Model Around ‘Failure’

This article highlights the Da Vinci school model, which encourages Student Agency through PBL.

Source: Mary Jo Madda, EdSurge

INNOVATING

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INVESTING

Eight Things Skilled Teachers Think, Say, and Do
This article talks about the relationship between teacher and learner and gives ideas for specific actions to take to facilitate positive relationships within a learning experience.
Source: Larry Ferlazzo, Educational Leadership

Establishing Supportive Relationships Between Teachers, Staff, and Students
This webinar covers how to promote a more supportive school community; build strong, more caring relationships between and among everyone in the school and intentionally build the developmental strengths of students.
Source: National Center on Safe and Supportive Learning Environments

The Importance of Teaching Through Relationships
This teacher-author explores how taking time to get to know her students helped her communicate, facilitate connections, and alert students that she saw them as fellow human beings.
Source: Stacey Goodman, Edutopia

DEVELOPING

Talking Politics: Valuing Different Perspectives
This video features key practices to support learners as they share and listen to opposing beliefs with empathy from the Highlander Charter School in Rhode Island.
Source: Edutopia

Test Yourself for Hidden Bias
The resources included in this website, the Hidden Bias Tests, measure unconscious, or automatic, biases. Teachers can examine their possible biases as an important step in understanding the roots of stereotypes and prejudice.
Source: Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC)

LEADING

Using the Learning Plan Builder
Explore the video included on this site, including the SPLC’s Social Justice Standards and free resources available, to build a learning plan to confront and address bias.
Source: Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC)

Community Walks Create Bonds of Understanding
Author Shane Safir explains how to conduct a community walk, an opportunity for students to lead teachers through their communities that can have a transformational effect on school culture.
Source: Shane Safir, Edutopia

Productive Persistence: Changing Students’ Mindsets
This video provides an empathetic and insightful approach to persistence.
Source: Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching

INNOVATING

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INVESTING

10 Tips for Developing Student Agency
This post explores the research behind both the role of the teacher and the system in which one is teaching in promoting agency.
Source: Tom Vander Ark, Education Week

Choice is More than a Menu of Options
This visual gives examples of how to provide choice across a continuum.
Source: Barbara Bray & Kathleen McClaskey, Personalize Learning

Carol Dweck: The Effect of Praise on Mindsets
This video explains the growth mindset and shows examples of how praise of intelligence versus effort impacts student response in practice.
Source: Carol Dweck, from the Vook "Mind in the Making: The Essential Life Skills Every Child Needs Volume

Growth Mindset Infographic
This infographic highlights the differences between a fixed and growth mindset.
Source: Carol Dweck, Stanford.edu

DEVELOPING

The Eye of the Storm Learning Expedition: Illuminating Standards Video
This video shows an example of an extended, interdisciplinary, arts-infused, community connected project where students have ownership over the learning product and co-create their learning experience.
Source: EL Education

Designing Learning Experiences: Start with the Student and Co-Create
This article provides a multi-step process that can be used in a history classroom to allow students to be co-creators of the learning experience.
Source: Matt Levinson, Edutopia

Creating a Growth Mindset in Your Students
This blog describes what a growth mindset is and gives advice on how to encourage it in a classroom.
Source: Thoughtful Learning

LEADING

Diana Laufenberg: How to Learn? From Mistakes
This TED talk explains how failure allows for students to learn.
Source: Diana Laufenberg, TEDxMidAtlantic

Speak Out, Listen Up! Tools for Using Student Perspectives and Local Data for School Improvement
This toolkit offers tools that educators can use to gather and analyze local data to listen to students on school-related topics or problems.
Source: Regional Educational Laboratory (REL) West

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