

2016 Best Practices Conference on
Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment in N.H.

Tuesday, September 20, 2016

Addendum

Panel Discussion- Competency-Based Learning & College Admissions

Panel Moderator: Sarah Ryan

Sarah Ryan, PhD, is a Senior Research Associate at Education Development Center (EDC) with expertise in college and career readiness and success, including student-centered and personalized approaches to secondary education. In all of her work, Ryan seeks to better understand how practice and policy may sometimes contribute to, but might also ameliorate, inequities in educational processes and outcomes among youth. Ryan is currently leading a multi-year study investigating how student exposure to key principles of student-centered, competency-based learning is related to student outcomes, and whether this relationship varies for different student subgroups. Ryan began her career in education in 2000 as a teacher and administrator in K–12 public schools, working primarily with English learners and their families. Prior to joining EDC, Ryan was an Institute of Education Sciences research fellow at Carnegie Mellon University. Ryan holds a BA in education and Spanish from Edgewood College (1999), an MS in English language acquisition and bilingual education from the University of Wisconsin-Madison (2001), and a PhD in education policy from the University of California-Riverside (2012).

Contact information: (e) sryan@edc.org; (p) 617-618-2350

As an independent, non-partisan 501(c)(3) research and development organization, **Education Development Center (EDC)** conducts research and evaluates initiatives that address some of the nation's most urgent challenges, including preparing youth for college and the workforce. As part of its body of work related to competency-based learning, EDC is home to the Northeast College and Career Readiness Alliance (NCCRA), a research alliance of the Regional Educational Laboratory Northeast & Islands (REL-NEI). The NCCRA research team has completed several studies related to competency-based learning, including the recently released Competency-based Learning Survey for Students (Ryan & Cox, 2016), along with a recent review of definitions, policies, and implementation in the New England states (Scheopner-Torres, Brett, & Cox, 2015). EDC also facilitates the Proficiency/Competency-based Learning Researcher group, which brings together researchers and practitioners from across the U.S. to share research and identify new collaborations. In addition, for the last six years, EDC has served as the evaluator for the Nellie Mae Education Foundation's (NMEF) District Level Systems Change initiative, with its focus on student-centered learning strategies and competency-based learning. Currently, EDC is leading a multi-year study investigating the relationship between the implementation of proficiency-based learning and student outcomes in 10 Maine school districts.