

COMPETENCIES FAQs

FOR PARENTS

1. WHAT ARE COMPETENCIES?

Competencies are combinations of knowledge, skills and attitudes that students develop and apply for successful learning, living and working. They help students build upon how and what they know, understand, think and can do. Students develop and apply competencies when they face new challenges and develop solutions to solve the problems of today, while imagining and creating a new tomorrow.

Alberta's curriculum promotes the development of the following competencies:

- Critical Thinking
- Problem Solving
- Managing Information
- Creativity and Innovation
- Communication
- Collaboration
- Cultural and Global Citizenship
- Personal Growth and Well-being

2. WHY ARE COMPETENCIES IMPORTANT FOR ALBERTA STUDENTS?

Through competencies, students develop and connect key aspects of knowing, thinking and doing across a variety of learning contexts, both within and outside school. When students develop competencies, they acquire knowledge, skills and attitudes that contribute to their success as lifelong learners and active citizens.

3. HOW IS STUDENT COMPETENCY DEVELOPMENT SHARED WITH PARENTS?

Teachers use a wide variety of classroom assessment tools and feedback strategies. Student performance on subject-area assessments may provide evidence of how students apply or develop competencies. Teachers may communicate development of competencies to students and parents in a variety of ways. Local school jurisdictions decide how educators will report on student progress.

4. HOW CAN PARENTS HELP THEIR CHILDREN DEVELOP COMPETENCIES?

Competencies are not just for school, they are for life. They are a useful way for parents to be involved with their child's learning. Some suggestions for how to support your child to develop competencies include:

- Ask your child's teachers how they teach competencies and what you can do at home.
- Talk with your child about the skills and knowledge that he/she is developing and how they are useful in life.
- Do things together that use one or more competencies. This connects what your child learns at school to the things that they do in everyday life. For example: plan a meal together, learn new games, be part of a team, or discuss local or global issues.