

WHY STANDARDS-BASED EDUCATION WORKS

The concept is simple: *Learning is best measured by students demonstrating that they have reached a certain level of knowledge and skills as articulated by their grade level or course standards and learning targets.*

LIFELONG LEARNING SKILLS

Students gain the academic and lifelong learning **skills they need to be successful**, such as problem solving, communication, collaboration, teamwork, and persistence. Even if it takes them multiple attempts and extended time to demonstrate their learning to reach proficiency, students receive the instructional support they need to succeed.

CLARITY ABOUT WHAT STUDENTS NEED TO LEARN

In every class, students know precisely what teachers expect – **there is no guesswork**. The learning expectations (*Power Standards and Learning Targets*) for the course are clearly described and communicated each day, and students know precisely where they stand throughout the course. Parents also know what the student has learned and what she/he might be struggling to learn.

STUDENT EMPOWERMENT

Engagement and motivation increases when students know what is expected of them and what proficiency looks like. Students work toward becoming proficient in their grade level standards and other college and career-ready state standards. As a result, **students own their learning** and seek ways to learn and demonstrate what they have learned in a manner that is relevant to them.

ASSESSMENT FOR LEARNING

Students have **multiple ways and multiple opportunities** to demonstrate skills to reach proficiency. Teachers use consistent methods of assessing, and grades communicate how students are progressing. Comprehensive assessments and meaningful feedback validate that students have either mastered the standards' content and skills or reached proficient levels to progress to the next course.

A CULTURE OF LEARNING AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

In a Proficiency-Based model, educators are constantly innovating to ensure students are engaged in school, successfully mastering the curriculum, and **keeping pace on their way to graduation**.



STANDARDS-BASED TEACHING AND LEARNING

Standards-based education is also known throughout the country as **proficiency**, competency, mastery, or performance-based education, but it all speaks to one goal – ***to lift academic expectations while ensuring that every student reaches them.***



Purpose Statement: *To support the success of all students, Bethel is committed to implementing a Standards-Based model of teaching and learning so that students meet all skills and knowledge requirements of their grade level or course standards and learning targets.*

District Mission Statement: *Develop and operate an aligned K-12 system designed to ensure that all students graduate from high school prepared to continue their education or enter the work force.*