

## **Nashua School District Competency Assessment**

The New Hampshire Minimum Standards for Public School Approval mandate that public high schools in the state implement competency assessment for high school courses by the 2008-2009 school year. In many cases the competency statements describe enduring understandings and broad skills required both for later academic success and also for success outside school. When taken together the course competencies define the core knowledge and skill sets (including thinking skills) related to a given course. Because the competency statements are written broadly they afford students multiple opportunities to learn, practice and improve in these key areas.

Over the last year teachers have been creating competency statements for each high school course and creating and identifying course assessments (assignments, quizzes, tests, etc.) that match those competencies. A student's performance on competency assessments will be counted both toward the demonstration of student proficiency of the competency and also toward the student's overall grade for the course. Students will receive both a final letter grade and also a grade of Pass or Fail on each competency.

Sample competency statements along with their related courses are provided below:

### **English 1**

- Students will read classical and contemporary world texts accurately and fluently with understanding and appreciation.
- Students will demonstrate effective skills for locating, evaluating, organizing, interpreting, and presenting information in a variety of formats.

### **Algebra 1**

- Students will rewrite expressions in equivalent and related forms.
- Students will solve equations and inequalities using various techniques.

### **Blueprint for America**

- Students will demonstrate an understanding of the organization and operation of governments at all levels including the legislative, executive and judicial branches.
- Students will demonstrate their understanding of their role in a free market, how the decisions they make affect the economy, and how changes in the economy can affect them.

### **Concert Band**

- Students will perform music of varying styles alone and with others, either vocally or instrumentally, using appropriate technique and expression.
- Students will read and notate music appropriate for their instrument or voice part.

## **REPORTING OF COMPETENCY ASSESSMENTS**

Progress reports will report whether or not a student is on track to demonstrate proficiency in each competency by the end of the course. This feedback will allow students to pay particular attention to

these important aspects of the course and ultimately improve their performance. The teacher will assess the student's performance on each competency and report it in one of the following three categories:

**Consistently Proficient**

The student has consistently demonstrated proficiency in this competency during this reporting period.

**Inconsistently Proficient**

The student has demonstrated proficiency in some of the assessments of the competency during this reporting period, but has not done so consistently.

**Not Proficient**

The student has rarely or never demonstrated proficiency in this competency during this reporting period.

**For the 2008-2009 school year students who achieve a passing grade will receive a credit even if they have not demonstrated proficiency in all competencies.**

**Beginning with the 2009-2010 school year, in order to receive credit for a course, a student will have to achieve both a passing grade and also a pass on each of the competencies assessed in the course.**

Students who achieve a passing grade in a course but who do not pass all competencies will receive a grade of "Incomplete". Student with "Incompletes" will have two semesters to demonstrate proficiency in failed competencies. If a student demonstrates proficiency on the failed competencies during that time, either through summer school or other means, then the proficiency grade will be changed to "Pass", the course grade earned will be reported, and the credit will be awarded. Failure to make up failed competencies within two semesters will result in the "Incomplete" being changed to a grade of "F".