

BACS NEWSLETTER

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UPDATES & UPCOMING EVENTS

* Septic System Bids

We have collected and compared bids for septic design and build. Bailey Environmental Services (BES) will begin the septic design.

* Board Meeting

November 20, 2025

The Board of Trustees will be holding an in-person meeting at 4:30 PM at 33 Lamplighter Park, North Conway, NH 03860.

* Pre-Enrollment

We are officially accepting "Intent to Enroll" applications for the 2026-2027 school year! If you are considering enrolling your child/children at BACS, please fill out our form located on our website (Click on "Admissions", then on the "Enrollment" tab).



Beyond Grades: Empowering Students Through Competency-Based Learning

At Breakthrough Academy (BACS), we believe every student learns in their own way and at their own pace. Teachers are required to teach grade-level material; however, we have set aside time for students to work on skills that need reinforcement and/or to work at a higher level. Competency-Based Education (CBE) is built on that idea. Instead of moving through lessons just because the calendar says it's time, students move forward when they've truly mastered a skill or concept. It's about learning deeply rather than moving quickly.

In traditional schools, time spent on a concept is fixed, and students all move together, even if some need more practice. In CBE, *learning is what's fixed* and time becomes flexible. Students can take the time they need to

understand a topic before advancing, and they can move ahead if they've already mastered it. This approach helps build confidence, reduces frustration, and keeps students engaged. It also ensures students fully understand concepts before progressing to the next one. A national review from the Aurora Institute found that students in CBE programs often show stronger motivation and higher achievement because they understand exactly what's expected of them and how to get there.

So what does this look like in real life? Imagine a student learning about ecosystems in science class. Instead of simply memorizing vocabulary for a test, they might design and maintain their own
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Beyond Grades

garden plot to demonstrate understanding. Another student might apply math skills by calculating how much feed is needed for our livestock. With CBE, students have opportunities to show mastery of what they are learning by completing hands-on and relevant tasks. This system of learning typically increases a student's ability for true understanding.

Competency Based Education doesn't just help students academically - it helps them grow as independent thinkers and problem solvers. They learn to set goals, track their progress, and take pride in their achievements. For families, that means seeing your child gain real-world skills that prepare them for college, careers, and life beyond the classroom.

Studies have shown that students in personalized learning environments like CBE often experience higher levels of engagement and long-term retention of knowledge.

At BACS, our agriculture-based learning environment fits perfectly with this model. Whether students are growing crops, caring for animals, or working together on agriculture related projects, they're constantly practicing new skills and applying what they learn. It's about making sure every student understands the "why" behind what they do instead of just completing a requirement. That's the beauty of Competency-Based Education: it gives every learner the chance to shine in their own time, in their own way.

References & Further Reading

- ["What Is Competency-Based Education? An Updated Definition" \(Aurora Institute\)](#)
- ["Quality Principles for Competency-Based Education" \(Aurora Institute\)](#)

Thank You

A big shout-out and "Thank you!" to Eldridge Logging and Tree Removal in Ossipee, NH. They have cleared a large portion of our lot significantly faster than anticipated. We will now be able to start some major projects ahead of schedule! Thank you again for your help and support!



Get Involved

We are always looking for local experts to volunteer their services in any way. If you have a skill or service that you are willing to share, please contact us! We will also have general volunteer opportunities as we move through our preparation to open.