Here is a brief summary of grave concerns regarding competency-based or proficiency-based education (Mastery Learning)

* There is no agreed upon definition of competency-based education and great subjectivity of program elements
* There appears to be an emphasis on low-level workforce skills and behavioral/psychological parameters instead of academic knowledge
* The psychosocial teaching and profiling of students has many concerns related to privacy guaranteed under the 4th amendment, freedom of thought, subjectivity and validity
* Extensive data mining and sharing with third party vendors and the federal government without parental consent including for digital badges that results in much sensitive data being shared with third party vendors also without consent
* Florida's data privacy law is based in the 40 year old, already weak federal FERPA law that has been gutted via regulatory fiat by the current administration
* Horrific data security for data housed by the US Dept. of Ed evidenced after two US House Oversight Committee investigative hearings
* The majority of education in these programs is computer based making teachers nearly irrelevant in the educational equation
* Inability of the parent or teacher to actually see the curriculum or assessments because everything is online
* Narrowing of curriculum to that which can be digitized
* This is supposed to be funded by Gates Foundation grants when there is already a history of terrible results with Gates grants in Florida. Hillsborough County initially had to spend $100 million in taxpayer funds to match the Gates grant and then another $24 million beyond that for a program to train and evaluated teachers that has largely failed and been abandoned
* Outrageous cost and ineffectiveness of technology based education such as $1.3 billion in Los Angeles and $270 million in Baltimore with evidence of bid rigging and crony capitalism, no effectiveness and neglect of many other needs in public schools
* There is no evidence that these programs work and some evidence that they do not given the new data showing that students taking the PARCC test online scored lower than those taking the test on paper