

What is NY State's Portrait of a Graduate and Why Should Public Libraries Care?



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Welcome and Session Overview

Purpose:

- Understand NYS Portrait of a Graduate
- Connect Portrait of a Graduate to public libraries

Agenda:

1. Welcome and Session Overview
2. The Big Shift in NY State
3. What is the Portrait of a Graduate?
4. The 6 Attributes
5. Why This Matters to Public Libraries
6. Outreach and Equity
7. Using the Portrait of a Graduate for Advocacy
8. Final Takeaway



The Big Shift in NY State

- Moving beyond seat time and Regents exams
- Expanding definition of readiness
- Emphasizing skills, dispositions, and application

**“What tests did you
pass?”**



**“Are you prepared
for life beyond high
school?”**

Four Transformations



Adopt a NYS
Portrait of a
Graduate



Redefine Credits and
Learning
Experiences



Sunset
Diploma Assessment
Requirements



Move to One NYS
High School
Diploma

Theory of Change

If

We take a holistic approach to education that:

- adopts a NYS Portrait of a Graduate;
- redefines credits and expands learning opportunities;
- sunsets separate diploma assessment requirements; and
- moves to one NYS high school diploma.

Then

Our students will be equipped with the knowledge, skills and dispositions needed to thrive in an increasingly complex and interconnected world.

As Shown By

Our students':

- proficiency in the New York State Learning Standards and the Portrait of a Graduate components;
- engagement in interdisciplinary, project-based, real-world learning, including career and technical education;
- multiple means of providing evidence of mastery; and
- preparedness for future pathways.



Phased Approach



Planning Year
(Fall 2024 – Summer 2025)



Phase 1: Installation
(Fall 2025 – Summer 2027)



Phase 2: Initial Implementation
(Fall 2027 – Summer 2029)



Phase 3: Full Implementation and Scaling Up
(Fall 2029+)

Planning for Success

Planning Year: Fall 2024 - Summer 2025



Exemptions for Major Life Events

- Exemptions from diploma assessment requirements for major life events



Portrait of a Graduate

- Release definitions for each Portrait of a Graduate Component
- Adopt a NYS Portrait of a Graduate



Support Networks

- NYSED will establish workgroups and advisory committees
- Build communication channels to disseminate and support changes to future diploma requirements

1

Installation

Fall 2025 - Summer 2027



Portrait of a Graduate

- Release Portrait of a Graduate rubrics with guidance



Learning Expectations

- Release prioritized, reformatted learning standards with guidance
- Require instruction in financial literacy and climate education (effective SY 26-27)
- Release details on new credit requirement (cohort phase-in)



Support Networks

- NYSED will continue workgroups and advisory panels
- Continue communication channels to disseminate and support changes to future diploma requirements

2

Initial Implementation

Fall 2027-Summer 2029



One Diploma

- Move to one diploma for all students



Diploma Assessments

- Sunset diploma assessment requirements for all students
- Redefine seals and endorsements, including to allow district-developed assessments



Learning Expectations

- Redefine credit to expand ways students earn credit
- Students entering grade 9 in 2027, and beyond, are required to earn one CTE credit, which could include financial literacy



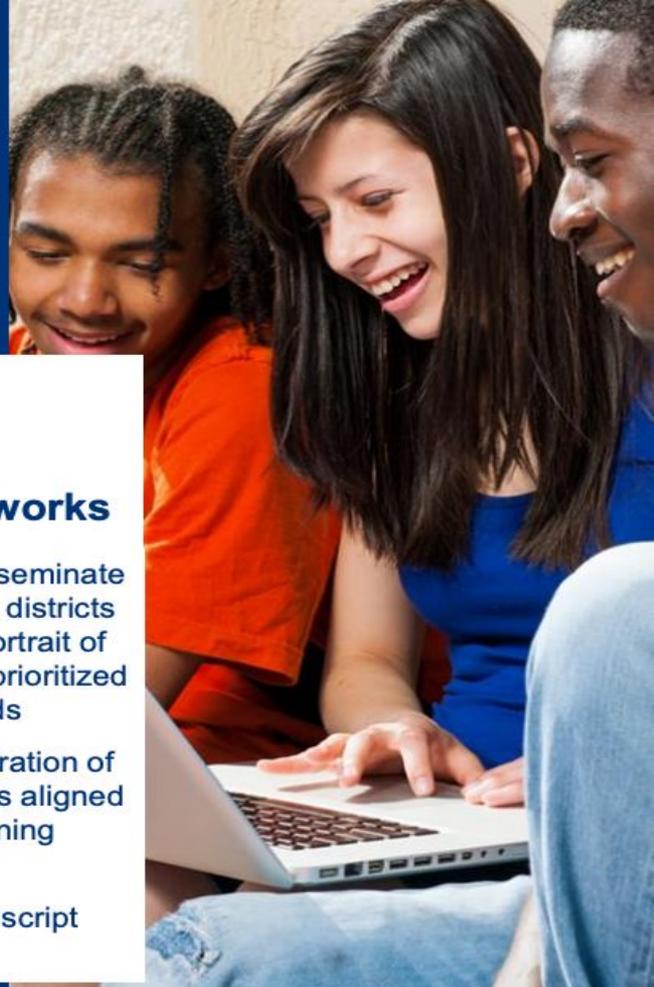
Support Networks

- Guidance to support innovation as districts move to implement POG and prioritized learning standards
- Professional learning opportunities
- Regional learning networks

3

Full Implementation and Scaling Up

Fall 2029+



Cohort Phase-In

- New system will be phased in beginning with students who enter grade 9 in 2029-2030 (Cohort 2029)



New Statewide Transcript

- New statewide transcript requirements
- Transcript will document proficiency in both Portrait of a Graduate and prioritized learning standards



Support Networks

- Highlight and disseminate best practices as districts implement the Portrait of a Graduate and prioritized learning standards
- Support administration of new assessments aligned to prioritized learning standards
- Support new transcript requirements

Diploma Requirements by Cohort

Cohort 2023
and prior

- Current diploma requirements* leading to one of three diplomas (Local, Regents, or Regents with Advanced Designation)
- * *Eligible students may request an exemption due to major life events*

Cohorts
2024 - 2026

- One diploma, advanced designation as a seal of distinction
- Current credit requirements
- Diploma assessment requirements decoupled by Fall 2027

Cohorts
2027 - 2028

- One diploma, redefined seals and endorsements including advanced designation
- New credit requirement
- Sunset diploma assessment requirements

Cohort 2029+

- One diploma, redefined seals and endorsements including advanced designation
- Statewide transcript required
- Proficiency in both learning standards and the Portrait of a Graduate required

Overall Timeline

P

SY 2024-2025

- Finalize Portrait of a Graduate
- Exemptions from Diploma Assessment Requirements for Major Life Events (effective June 2025)

1

SY 2025-2026

- Release details of new credit requirement (phase in with 2027 cohort)

1

SY 2026-2027

- Prioritized, reformatted learning standards
- Release Portrait of a Graduate rubrics and guidance
- Financial literacy and climate education required

2

SY 2027-2028

- One diploma
- Sunset diploma assessment requirements
- Redefined seals, endorsements
- Finalize rubrics and guidance for prioritized, reformatted learning standards

2

SY 2028-2029

- Highlight and disseminate best practices to encourage innovation and implementation

3

Fall 2029+

- New transcripts with proficiency required in standards and the Portrait of a Graduate (phase in with 2029 cohort)
- New assessments aligned to prioritized learning standards

What We Know...

- Districts will retain broad local control over program offerings and exit assessments.
- Districts will need to link courses to Portrait of a Graduate attributes
- Schools may need to adjust programs and instructional delivery methods to support Portrait of a Graduate implementation, which may impact traditional course offerings.
- There are new instructional requirements which include personal financial literacy and climate education. Districts will need to determine how this subject matter will be integrated into current educational programs.
- Students entering Grade 9 in the 2027–2028 school year and beyond will be required to earn at least one credit in Career and Technical Education (CTE) to graduate.

Finalizing the Portrait



New York State
PORTRAIT OF A GRADUATE

A NEW YORK STATE GRADUATE WILL BE READY TO

LEARN, GROW, CREATE, WORK, AND CONTRIBUTE

Culturally Responsive
Sustaining Education

Academically Prepared | Creative Innovator | Global Citizen | Effective Communicator | Reflective and Future Focused

A New York State high school graduate who is **culturally responsive** builds strong, respectful relationships, valuing diverse perspectives and essential to a rigorous, inclusive learning community. New York State students who embody cultural responsiveness and academic readiness—demonstrating creativity, critical thinking, communication, reflection, and global awareness—will be prepared to learn, grow, innovate, and contribute meaningfully to society. These graduates will be equipped with the most essential and transversal skills needed to thrive in an interconnected, ever-evolving world.

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>Academically Prepared</p> <p>Demonstrates a strong foundation in the NY State Learning Standards and is equipped with the knowledge and skills necessary to achieve success in college, careers, civic engagement, service, and life.</p> | <p>Effective Communicator</p> <p>Articulates ideas clearly and confidently through speaking, writing, and the use of different types of media for various purposes, while engaging with diverse audiences and actively listening to different perspectives.</p> |
| <p>Creative Innovator</p> <p>Shows imagination, curiosity, and flexible thinking to solve problems creatively, and develops new ideas and products, while adapting to evolving circumstances and challenges.</p> | <p>Global Citizen</p> <p>Acts responsibly and ethically within local, global, and digital communities, engaging civic knowledge, skills, and initiatives to promote global interconnectedness and contribute positively to a mutually diverse, transnational society.</p> |
| <p>Critical Thinker</p> <p>Analyzes information thoughtfully, evaluates evidence critically, and identifies patterns and connections between different pieces of information. Develops multiple, evidence-based, defensible complex issues and navigates the world with insight.</p> | <p>Reflective and Future Focused</p> <p>Engages in self-reflection to identify strengths and areas for growth, sets meaningful goals, uses social awareness to maintain supportive relationships, and demonstrates responsible decision-making that prioritizes social, emotional, and mental well-being.</p> |

CR-S at the Center



- A New York State high school graduate who is **culturally responsive** builds strong, respectful relationships, valuing diverse perspectives as essential to a rigorous, inclusive learning community.
- New York State students who embody cultural responsiveness and academic readiness – demonstrating creativity, critical thinking, communication, reflection, and global awareness – will be prepared to learn, grow, innovate, and contribute meaningfully to society.
- These graduates will be equipped with the interpersonal and intellectual skills needed to thrive in an interconnected, ever-changing world.

The 4 Principles of Culturally Responsive-Sustaining Education



**Welcoming
and affirming
environment**



**High
expectations
and rigorous
instruction**



**Inclusive
curriculum and
assessment**



**Ongoing
professional
learning**

What is Portrait of a Graduate?

A statewide vision describing what every graduate should be:

- Academically Prepared
- Creative Innovator
- Critical Thinker
- Effective Communicator
- Global Citizen
- Reflective & Future-Focused



Academically Prepared

A New York State high school graduate demonstrates a strong foundation in the New York State learning standards and is equipped with the knowledge and skills necessary to achieve success in college, careers, civic engagement, service, and life.



Creative Innovator



A New York State high school graduate utilizes imagination, curiosity, and flexible thinking to solve problems creatively, and develop new ideas and products, while adapting to evolving circumstances and challenges.

Critical Thinker

A New York State high school graduate analyzes information thoughtfully, evaluates evidence critically, and identifies patterns and connections between different pieces of information (across multiple content areas) to address complex issues and navigate the world with insight.



Effective Communicator



A New York State high school graduate articulates ideas clearly and confidently through speaking, writing, and the use of different types of media for various purposes, while engaging with diverse audiences and actively listening to different perspectives.

Global Citizen

A New York State high school graduate acts responsibly and ethically within local, global, and digital communities, employing civic knowledge, skills, and mindsets to promote global sustainability and contribute positively to a culturally diverse, democratic society.



Reflective and Future Focused



A New York State high school graduate engages in self-reflection to identify strengths and areas for growth, sets meaningful goals, uses social awareness to maintain supportive relationships, and demonstrates responsible decision-making that prioritizes social, emotional, and mental well-being.

Preparing the Whole Graduate



- Development of real-world skills
- Enhanced critical thinking and problem-solving skills
- Flexibility and creativity
- Improved student engagement and motivation
- Increased understanding of how different subjects relate to each other

Need-to-Know Documents

New York State
PORTRAIT OF A GRADUATE



Student

NEED-TO-KNOW

The New York State Portrait of a Graduate outlines the skills and qualities you will build to succeed in life after high school. The Portrait supports your ability to thrive in college, careers, and as an engaged citizen in today's world.



Growing as a Learner

The Portrait supports your growth in every way. You will grow academically, socially, emotionally, and culturally. Growth in all of these areas will better prepare you for college, careers, and life as an engaged citizen. The Portrait supports your success beyond high school graduation.

Centered on You!

You are the core of the Portrait. Educators and leaders will work to make you feel seen, heard, and valued at school. Educational communities will strive to create a learning environment where you can thrive. Your voice matters - the Portrait will help you create the future you desire.

Authentic Application

Portrait skills - such as communication, collaboration, and critical thinking - will be embedded into real-world projects, interdisciplinary units, and work based learning. You will be encouraged to apply these skills in ways that reflect your experiences and aspirations.



New York State
PORTRAIT OF A GRADUATE



Parent

NEED-TO-KNOW

The New York State Portrait of a Graduate outlines what your child will gain from their P-12 education to support their ability to thrive in college, careers, and as an engaged citizen in today's world. The Portrait supports your child's success beyond high school graduation.



Whole-Child Development

The Portrait supports your child's growth in every way. Your child will grow academically, socially, emotionally, and culturally. The emphasis on whole-child development will better prepare your child for college, careers, and life as an engaged citizen.

Equity and Belonging

Culturally Responsive-Sustaining Education (CR-SE) is at the core of the Portrait. Educators and leaders will work to make your child feel seen, heard, and valued at school. Educational communities will strive to create a learning environment where your child can thrive.

Authentic Application

Portrait skills - such as communication, collaboration, and critical thinking - will be embedded into real-world projects, interdisciplinary learning. Your child will be encouraged to apply these skills in ways that reflect their lived experiences and aspirations.



Why this matters to public libraries...

Because:

- *Schools are changing.*
- *Language is changing.*
- *Expectations are changing.*
- *Partnerships will change.*



Outreach and Equity

Public library outreach:

- Reaches disconnected youth
- Supports families without resources
- Provides digital access
- Bridges opportunity gaps



Using the PoG for Advocacy

Public librarians can:

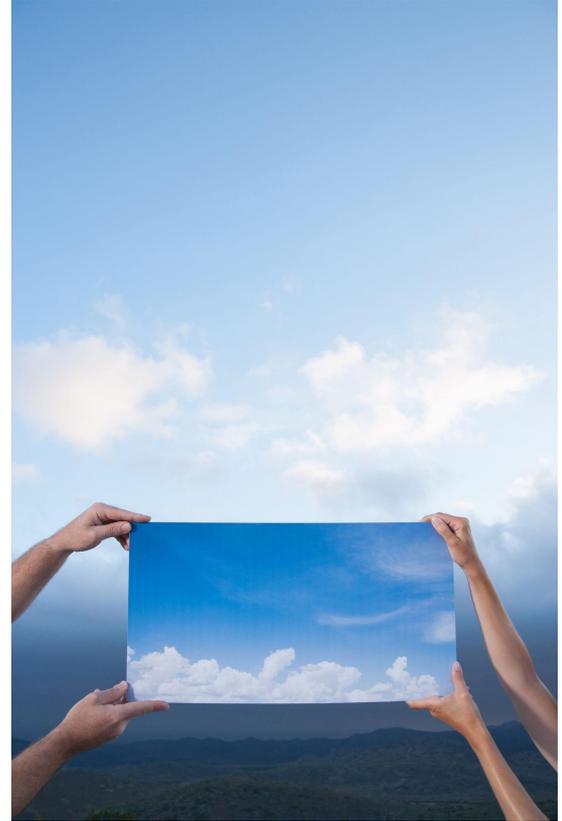
- Align program descriptions with Portrait language
- Reference the framework in reports
- Use it in municipal budget conversations
- Strengthen school-library partnerships



The Bigger Picture

This shift reflects a broader understanding that:

- Learning is not confined to classrooms.
- Readiness is not measured by tests alone.
- Communities—not just schools—develop graduates.



Final Takeaway

Public libraries:

- Support every Portrait attribute
- Serve learners across the lifespan
- Expand access to readiness

