

Frequently Asked Questions

On Credentialing Learning in Nevada

What does “credentialing learning” mean?

Credentialing learning means documenting and recognizing what students know and can do, even when learning happens outside of school.

This might include:

- work
- volunteering
- internships
- service projects
- independent learning

Why does learning outside of school count?

Learning that happens outside of school provides the most authentic learning environment. While the classroom helps students understand concepts, activities such as jobs, sports, or volunteering allow them to demonstrate growth in real-world settings and situations and refine the skills outlined in the Portrait that are essential for long-term success.

What kinds of experiences can be documented, and how do I know if they are rigorous enough?

Meaningful experiences usually involve planning, practice, problem-solving, and reflection over time, not just a short task. An experience is considered rigorous when it requires learners to demonstrate mastery of relevant standards or competencies through meaningful application, reasoning, or transfer. Teachers can review a proposed learning experience in advance and suggest ways to strengthen it so the resulting evidence clearly demonstrates mastery of the intended standards or competencies.

How does this connect to the Portrait of a Learner?

Documenting learning may include artifacts, reflections, and other evidence that show what students did, what they learned, and how their learning connects to the competencies outlined in the Portrait of a Nevada Learner. This documentation makes student growth visible across each guiding question:

EMPOWERING — “How am I growing in my learning?”

CONNECTING — “How am I building and sustaining relationships and community?”

IMPACTING — “How am I contributing to make an impact?”

THRIVING — “How am I navigating challenges, changes, and well-being?”

What happens when learning outside of school is documented?

Students have clear evidence of developed skills. This documentation shows how their experiences helped them grow in the skills outlined in the Portrait of a Nevada Learner.

Documented learning outside of school can:

- Help students stand out in college or career conversations
- Show employers evidence of real-world skills
- Build confidence by seeing progress

This kind of documentation helps others understand the learning and helps students see their own progress over time.