

Frequently Asked Questions

For Leaders - Learn more about the Portrait of a Nevada Learner

What is the Portrait of a Nevada Learner?

The Portrait of a Nevada Learner is a collective vision of the mindsets and skills that bring academic knowledge to life and help students thrive now and in future school, workplace, community, and personal settings. It emphasizes competencies such as self-awareness, collaboration, communication, and resilience—skills that go beyond academics and prepare students for a rapidly changing world. For leaders, the Portrait serves as a north star for decision-making, culture-building, and instructional design. It is not an initiative to layer on top of existing work; it is a framework to align priorities and make learning more meaningful and future-ready.

How does the Portrait align with Nevada’s vision for student-centered and future-ready learning?

The Portrait is central to Nevada’s commitment to creating student-centered, future-ready learning environments. This vision emphasizes engaging students as active participants in their learning, increasing opportunities for voice and choice, and preparing them with the skills and mindsets needed for success in all areas of life. Leaders help make this vision real by fostering flexible structures, authentic assessments, and professional learning that support meaningful experiences. The Portrait provides the guiding vision for these changes, ensuring every initiative helps students grow, connect, contribute, and thrive.

How does data culture connect to the Portrait of a Learner?

Assessment practices aligned with the Portrait of a Nevada Learner go beyond traditional tests. They include portfolios, presentations, peer and self-assessments, and other authentic tasks that allow students to demonstrate mastery in meaningful ways. These approaches help educators evaluate not just what students know, but also how they apply their learning and grow as individuals through Portrait competencies central to future success.

What does instructional alignment to the Portrait of a Learner look like?

Instructional alignment means designing learning experiences that intentionally build both academic knowledge and Portrait competencies. It encourages project-based and performance-based learning that grows student agency, connects learning to authentic contexts, and develops communication, collaboration, and purpose.

Principal example: Use PLCs to analyze student work through a Portrait-aligned lens (e.g., evidence of collaboration or communication).

District example: Integrate Portrait competencies into PD cycles and learning walks so schools have shared look-fors.

Is the Portrait of a Nevada Learner required for all districts?

No. The Portrait of a Nevada Learner is not a mandate. Districts may adopt or adapt it based on local priorities. Local Portraits do not need to be replaced; instead, the Portrait of a Nevada Learner can serve as a unifying reference point for regional alignment, resource sharing, and statewide professional learning.