

How Are You Answering These 6 Questions About Your Students' Portrait of a Graduate Skills?

Your state, district, or school's Portrait of a Graduate or Profile of a Learner identifies the attributes, skills, and qualities your community believes every student should possess to be prepared for their next step after graduation and for life.

In order to make informed decisions about programs, instruction, and interventions to support the development of these higher-order skills, educators need reliable data to answer these 6 questions:

1. How proficient are our students with critical thinking, problem-solving, and written communication skills?
2. How do our students' higher-order skills compare with students in the same school, the district, the state, and across the U.S.?
3. How are we contributing to and supporting the development of students' higher-order skills?
4. What is the impact of current programs and interventions on critical thinking, problem solving, and written communication?
5. How does the higher-order skill proficiency of marginalized and at-risk student populations compare to other student groups?
6. What is the relationship between proficiency with critical thinking, problem solving, and written communication and academic and career outcomes?

Make Your Portrait of a Graduate Vision a Reality

For a Portrait of a Graduate to move beyond a vision, the desired skills must be explicitly taught and measured. CAE partners with states and districts to provide the comprehensive tools and data needed to support students in developing key Portrait of Graduate skills including:

- The **College and Career Readiness Assessment** (CCRA+), a performance-based assessment of critical thinking, problem solving, and written communication.
- **Critical thinking** curriculum resources to help students develop and practice higher-order skills.
- **Professional development** to support educators in integrating critical thinking instruction across content areas.

Take a virtual tour of CCRA+ to see how it can be used to track student progress and measure success in building Portrait of a Graduate Skills.