



# PORTRAIT OF A NEVADA LEARNER

A Nevada Department of Education initiative  
in partnership with ed.Xtraordinary



*Paint the Portrait with us...*

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[www.portrait.NVfutureoflearning.org](http://www.portrait.NVfutureoflearning.org)



## Why have a portrait?

There is a rapid change taking place in the world, but not in our education system. As we confront complex challenges in a globally connected world, it is important for young people to become aware of their needs, ideas, and strengths for making their communities better.

A Portrait of a Learner defines the role school can play in preparing young people with the mindsets, skills, and academic knowledge essential to living good lives within a thriving community.

## What skills and mindsets are most important? What Nevadans have shared so far:

Across diverse perspectives, common ideas emerged for certain skills, habits, and mindsets learners should master, which could be summarized into four key themes:

- 1 Know themselves
- 2 Connect with others
- 3 Contribute their skills to the community
- 4 Thrive through life's inevitable challenges

## What's next? We are iterating upon an initial draft portrait with individuals and organizations across Nevada.

### VIEW THE DRAFT PORTRAIT

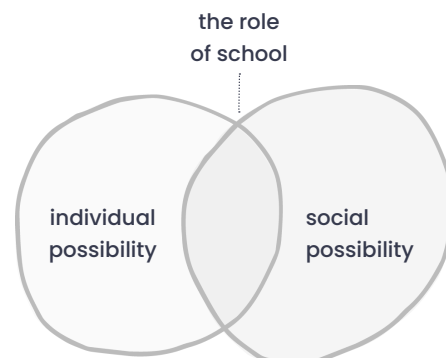
This draft was created in January 2023. Developing a final Portrait of a Nevada Learner is an iterative process in partnership with the Nevada community.

## What we've accomplished so far:

- **Convened 200+ Nevadans**  
More than 200 community members gathered in Las Vegas in Fall 2022 to explore what it means to transform learning together. Participants included district leaders, educators, family advocates, and young people across the state; as well as multiple departments within the Nevada Department of Education, state agencies, and local non-profits.
- **Held a pivotal conversation**  
This was a virtual conversation with a panel featuring the president of the State Board of Education, a rural parent, an urban educator, and a student to consider universal questions through the lens of unique individual experiences.
- **Collected 1,400+ data points**  
including surveys, convening sticky notes, and virtual and in-person conversations that informed the initial draft portrait.

## What's the role of school?

Nevadans frequently talk about school as a safe environment for holistic growth and learning (**individual possibility**). Nevadans also viewed school as a place for communities to come together and for young people to develop as engaged citizens (**social possibility**).



## TIPS FOR FACILITATING A PORTRAIT CONVERSATION

**As a Portrait Partner, you can help evolve the draft portrait by collecting more feedback and ideas from your network.**

### GETTING THE IDEAS FLOWING

- 1 Get in touch with people in your network in advance of your event and share the Draft Portrait to get their ideas flowing. Provide a copy to reference during the event, as well.
- 2 Start the conversation by grounding participants into a sense of purpose. A great way to accomplish this is to have them reflect on a young person they know.
  - Who is that young person?
  - In what ways have schools served that young person's unique needs?
  - In what ways are schools preparing that young person for the future?

### DEEP REFLECTION

- 3 Give participants a chance to read the Draft Portrait independently. Have them mark-up their copies and reflect upon questions like:
  - What parts of the portrait resonate?
  - What do the top priorities for students appear to be?
  - What might be missing that should be included?
  - What questions arise?
- What are the four themes of the Portrait? How are the themes currently being addressed with young people?
- Will addressing the themes achieve the goals of education? In what ways does the portrait address the mindsets and skills needed to build good lives and a thriving community?

### GROUP BRAINSTORMING + IDEATION

- 4 Split the room into smaller groups (2-4) to discuss reactions and questions about the draft. To prompt their thinking, you could ask them to reflect on questions like:
  - How do the portrait themes align with what you believe Nevada learners need?
  - How might the portrait contribute to developing a thriving community?
  - What changes might be needed in schools as educators use the portrait as their guide for designing instruction?

### SHARING + SYNTHESIS

- 5 Invite groups back to the whole group to report back some highlights from their group discussions.. Ask questions like:
  - What excites you the most about the portrait?
  - What things are unsettling, or leave you with questions?
  - Invite individuals to take the portrait feedback [survey](#) to summarize and capture their reflections.
- 6 Have each participant summarize their thoughts and learnings by sharing 3 major takeaways. Encourage participants to think about how they might incorporate the portrait into their work, using questions like:
  - How do you see the portrait supporting our goals for learners?
  - How does the portrait connect students to their community?
  - What skills and mindsets are missing from this draft of the portrait?



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**SHARE YOUR GROUP'S PHOTOS  
+ REFLECTIONS WITH US.**

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TIPS, AND MORE.**

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