

# Portrait of a Nevada Learner Mapping Protocol

## *Creating System Coherence*

This protocol helps district and school leadership teams create coherence between the Portrait of a Nevada Learner or a local portrait and existing programs, initiatives, and strategic priorities. The goal is to ensure the Portrait is not just aspirational but embedded in the system's design, guiding decisions, and aligning resources.

### Why This Matters

The Portrait represents a shared vision for what success looks like for Nevada learners. Mapping current programs to the Portrait's guiding questions helps leaders identify alignment, gaps, and opportunities. This process fosters coherence across initiatives, ensuring that every effort supports the vision for future-ready graduates.

### Possible Outputs

- Alignment chart or heat map showing how current programs connect to Portrait questions
- List of priority actions for improving coherence

### Preparation

**Participants:** District leadership team, school leaders, and program directors. Additionally, districts may choose to include community partners, parents, students, etc.

- Materials:**
- Portrait of a Nevada Learner or local portrait traits and attributes
  - List of current district or school programs and initiatives, such as strategic plan goals, professional learning systems, and instructional and assessment frameworks
  - Large chart paper or a digital collaboration tool such as Padlet, Miro, or Google Sheets
  - Sticky notes or color coding for alignment levels

### Adaptations

#### For Local Portraits

If your district has a local portrait of a learner with traits or attributes instead of guiding questions:

- Replace the Nevada guiding questions with your local traits, such as Critical Thinker, Effective Communicator, and Engaged Citizen
- Map each program to these traits using the same alignment categories: Strong, Partial, or Opportunity
- Discuss how local traits complement or differ from the state Portrait and identify opportunities for integration

#### School-Level Mapping

Use the same process but focus on school programs such as advisory committees and clubs. Consider engaging teacher leaders in mapping classroom-level practices to the Portrait of a Nevada Learner questions.

# Step-by-Step Protocol

01

## Ground in the Vision

Begin with a brief overview of the Portrait of a Nevada Learner and its guiding questions. Facilitate a short discussion: Why is coherence important? How does the Portrait serve as our north star for student success?

02

## Inventory Current programs and Initiatives

List major district-level programs such as multi-tiered system of supports, social-emotional learning initiatives, and career pathways. Include assessment systems and professional learning structures. For school-level adaptation, add advisory programs, instructional models, and extracurricular offerings.

03

## Map Each Program to Portrait Questions

For each program, ask:

- How does this program help students grow in their learning? (**EMPOWERING**)
- How does it help build and sustain relationships and community? (**CONNECTING**)
- How does it enable students to contribute and make an impact? (**IMPACTING**)
- How does it help students thrive? (**THRIVING**)

Use a simple chart or grid to rate each program's level of alignment with the Portrait. Suggested ratings include Strong, Partial, and Opportunity. Before scoring, ensure the group shares a common understanding of what each rating means and calibrates expectations.

Program	How does this program help students grow in their learning?	How does it help build and sustain relationships and community?	How does it enable students to contribute and make an impact?	How does it help students thrive?
Career Pathways	Strong	Partial	Strong	Strong

EXAMPLE

04

## Identify Patterns, Gaps and Opportunities

Look for clusters of strong alignment and areas where alignment is weak or missing. Discuss:

- Where do we have duplication?
- Where do we have gaps?
- What needs to be strengthened or redesigned?

05

## Prioritize Action for Coherence

Decide on two or three high-leverage moves:

- Strengthen alignment in existing programs
- Sunset or redesign initiatives that do not connect to the Portrait
- Launch new strategies to fill gaps

06

## Document and Share

Create a visual heat map or summary chart for leadership teams and stakeholders. Communicate findings to staff and community to build shared understanding.