

California Department of Education

Executive Office

SBE-003 (REV. 11/2017)

sbe-jan25item03

# California State Board of Education January 2025 Agenda Item #13

## Subject

Follow-up to the July 2024 State Board of Education Study Session on The California Way: Proposed Development Process on The State Board of Education’s Portrait of a Graduate/Learner.

## Type of Action

Action, Information

## Summary of the Issue(s)

Following up on the related July 2024 study session, September 2024 information item and November 2024 information item, State Board of Education (SBE) members will discuss next steps in the development process of a state-level portrait of a graduate/learner.

Consistent with direction provided to staff by the Board in November 2024, the next steps will include a process to solicit feedback from across the state on the elements and/or components that should be included in an SBE portrait of a graduate/learner. SBE will have the opportunity to hear from Jenny Scala, Co-Director and Alicia Espinoza, Co-Director from the American Institute for Research (AIR) on a proposed process. AIR was selected by the Unites States Department of Education to serve as the Region 10 (Arizona, California, Nevada and Utah) - West Comprehensive Center for the period of October 2024-September 2029.

In general, a portrait of a graduate, also known as a profile of a graduate, is an agreed-upon comprehensive set of school- or district-level aspirations for what every learner will know and be able to do when they leave school.  Similarly, a portrait of a learner is an agreed-upon comprehensive set of school- or district-level aspirations for what every learner will know and be able to do when they transition to the next step in their educational journey (i.e., at the end of primary, intermediate, middle school, high school or at any other checkpoint along the way). As the Board heard in November, 18 states have built such portraits with similar themes. Notably, fifteen or more of these states have focused on five key themes:

* Communication (18/18)
* Critical Thinking (17/18)
* Collaboration (17/18)
* Active Citizen (15/18)
* Interpersonal Skills (15/18)
* Self-Management (15/18)

The Board’s stated goal is to explore development of a Portrait that would present a shared vision that can help its members align every aspect of their work to their goals for California’s students, supports for educational professionals, and the design for California’s TK-12 educational system. Since the establishment of the Local Control Funding Formula and the related accountability measures with the statewide system of support and continuous improvement, California has been focused on holistically supporting children and preparing them to succeed and thrive.

With California’s children facing a rapidly changing world, the Board is exploring an SBE Portrait of a Graduate/Learner to synthesize its ongoing priorities and sharpen the policy focus moving forward with structured considerations of where students are going, what they will need, and how the Board can build a system that will help them get there, particularly when setting policies in the Board’s core focus areas of curriculum, assessment and accountability.

Any Portrait of a Graduate/Learner adopted by the Board would not result in any new requirements for local educational agencies. It would solely inform and guide the SBE’s decision-making and communications.

## Board members will discuss the proposed development process for a SBE Portrait of a Graduate/Learner, including options for soliciting feedback from across the state on the elements and components that might be included in the portrait and Board member roles leading up to presentation of the draft in July 2025.

## Recommendation

No specific action is recommended at this time.

## Brief History of Key Issues

The July 2024 SBE Meeting included a Study Session on the California Way: Policies Designed for School and Student Success; Accomplishments, Future Work, and Perspectives from California’s local educational agencies and other states. Following an overview of the current landscape of major investments and presentations from education leaders in Kentucky and New York, the Board Members discussed ideas for future growth. Among the topics that emerged from the small group conversations were considerations around assessment, teacher credentialing, innovation, profile of a graduate, and use of local indicators, as summarized below. Item #04 from the September 2024 SBE Meeting agenda includes a summary of key points from that conversation.

The September 2024 SBE Meeting included an informational item as a follow-up to the July 2024 SBE Study Session item on the California Way: Strategies for Supporting Local Educational Agency and School Innovations. Paolo DeMaria, President and CEO of the National Association of State Boards of Education (NASBE) presented to the Board about the ways in which state boards of education across the country are evolving their state’s public education systems and supporting innovation to meet contemporary needs for whole child education and new kinds of learning in our rapidly changing society.

At the November 2024 State Board meeting, SBE Board members heard statewide and national perspectives on local efforts to develop and adopt district-level portraits of a graduate. Anne Porterfield, Senior Program Associate at WestEd, discussed the findings from her 2023 brief that analyzed over fifty graduate profiles developed by local educational agencies and their communities across California. Item #14 from the November 2024 SBE Meeting agenda includes that brief.

## Summary of Previous State Board of Education Discussion and Action

In November 2024, the SBE heard an informational item as a follow-up to the September 2024 informational item as further follow-up to the July 2024 State Board of Education Study Session on The California Way: State Board of Education’s Portrait of a Graduate.

(<https://www.cde.ca.gov/be/ag/ag/yr24/documents/nov24item14.docx>)

In September 2024, the SBE heard an informational item as a follow-up to the July 2024 SBE study session on The California Way: Strategies for Supporting Local Educational Agency and School Innovations.

(<https://www.cde.ca.gov/be/ag/ag/yr24/documents/sep24item04.docx>)

In July 2024, the SBE held a study session on The California Way: Policies Designed for School and Student Success; Accomplishments, Future Work, and Perspectives from California’s local educational agencies and other states.

(<https://www.cde.ca.gov/be/ag/ag/yr24/documents/jul24item17.docx>)

In March 2023, the SBE held a study session on Assessment Innovations That Can Better Support Teaching and Learning.

(<https://www.cde.ca.gov/be/ag/ag/yr23/documents/mar23item01.docx>)

In May 2019, the SBE held a study session on the College/Career Indicator including the Development History, Implementation, and the Purpose of Indicator in the Accountability System.

(<https://www.cde.ca.gov/be/ag/ag/yr19/documents/may19item01studysession.docx>)

## Fiscal Analysis (as appropriate)

Not applicable.

## Attachment(s)

* Attachment 1: State Board of Education’s Portrait of a Graduate/Learner Proposed Timeline (1 page)