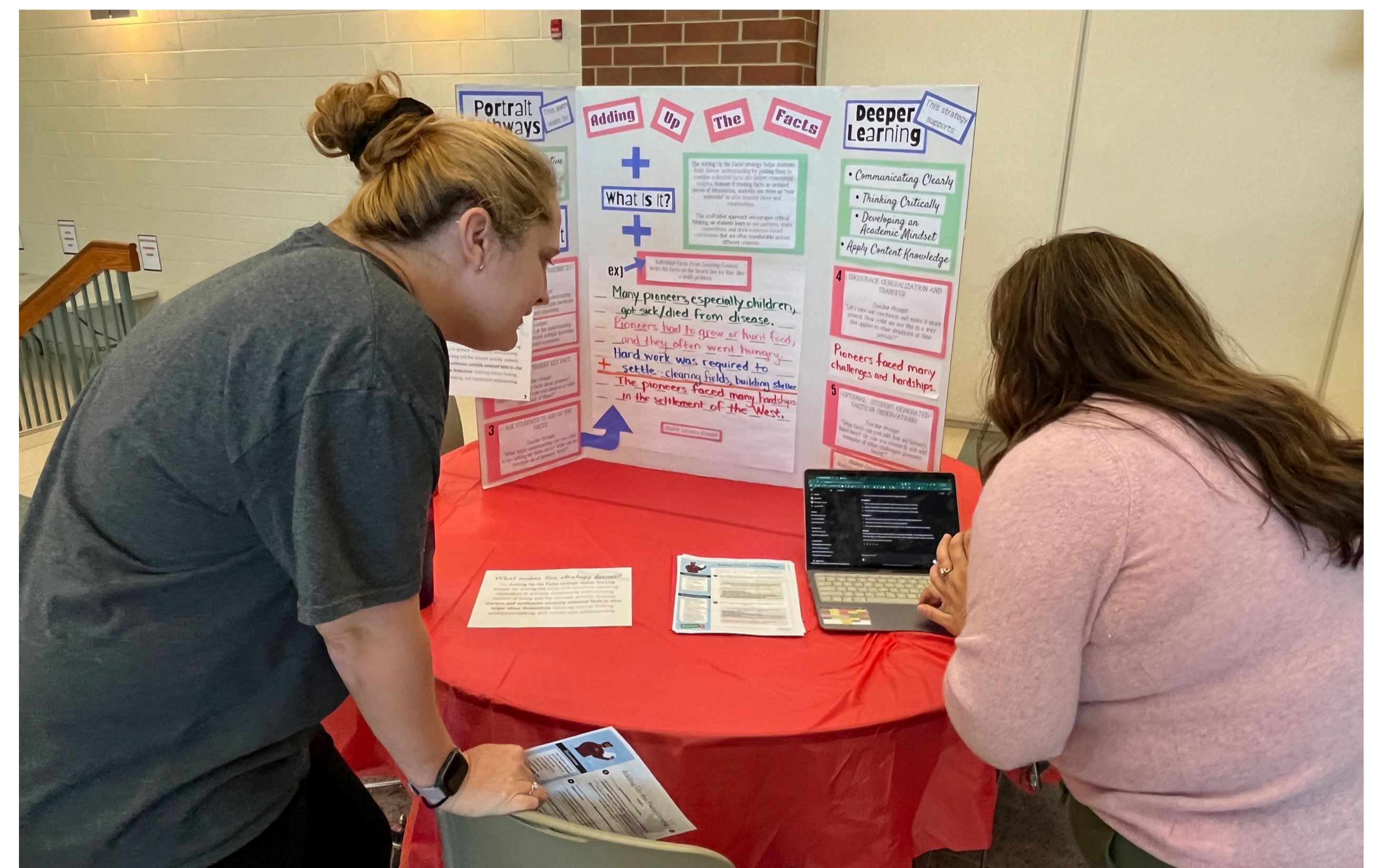


Portrait of a Graduate

- Developed through broad community engagement.
- Defines essential competencies supported by clear actions and observable “look-fors”.
- Provides consistency across grades and subjects through shared instructional examples.
- Refined and accelerated through participation in the Portrait of a Graduate Academy.



Portrait to Practice

- “Mega SIP” brings all school improvement teams together to align goals around Portrait competencies.
- Each school’s plan directly aligns to the Portrait with shared ownership of graduate outcomes, fostering accountability and purpose.
- Portrait Pathway Fairs highlight teacher-led strategies for embedding competencies in classrooms.
- Teacher Rounds build a culture of collaboration, observation, and continuous improvement.

Most Important Word + Novel Ideas Only (Last Person Standing)

Combined SIOP Strategies

The Most Important Word activity helps students analyze a text, identify key ideas, and justify their thinking skills. Novel Ideas Only requires students to listen, even reinforcing metacognition. Co-promote critical thinking, collaborative analysis to group discussion.

1 Read & Think with Partners

1. Read the assigned passage.
2. Identify two important words.
3. Do not use a word from 1.
4. Discuss the words with your partner.
5. Use the sentence stem: “I chose this word because _____.”
6. Write the two words on a sticky note.
7. Done? Stand up.

2 Whole-Class Sharing

1. Each pair shares their words.
2. The teacher notes words on a board.
3. If your pair’s words are still on the board, you remain in the group.
4. Let’s go around and down each unique word together to discuss.

Station 17

Agreement Circles

Agreement Circles are a teaching and discussion tool used to explore different viewpoints on a topic, encourage active listening, and facilitate deeper understanding in group settings.

View the following brief video of a high school class demonstrating Agreement Circles:

1 Choose a Provocative Statement: Select a statement that is relevant and thought-provoking and invites a range of opinions.

“Today, we’re going to discuss a statement that may have different meanings for each of us. Think about your own perspective as we prepare to discuss.”

2 Set Up the Space: Arrange the room so students can form a circle, or, for a paper version, draw a large circle on chart paper and provide sticky notes. Allow 10 seconds to think.

“Here’s the statement we’ll consider: **Homework is essential for learning.** Take a few seconds to think about whether you agree or disagree.”

3 Indicate Agreement/Disagreement in the Circle: Ask students who agree with the statement to move to the center of the circle, while those who disagree stay on the outer edge.

“If you agree with the statement, please step into the center of the circle. If you disagree, stay on the outside edge. This will help us see the range of opinions in the class.”

Station 14

Portrait to Impact

- Creating a districtwide framework for deeper learning with expert guidance.
- Teacher Rounds expanded from 5 to 24 teachers across all schools, improving practice and outcomes.
- Portrait Pathway Fairs led to visible shifts in teacher practice; expansion planned districtwide.
- Universal Design for Learning (UDL) training strengthens whole-child instruction and achievement.

Why Do Rounds?

- Strengthens collaboration and shared learning among colleagues
- Creates a structured way to observe and discuss effective teaching practices
- Helps develop a clear, shared vision of great teaching in action
- Supports professional growth and student success through reflective practice

