



**Board Meeting Date: January 9th, 2023**

**TITLE:** Portrait of a Well-Rounded Edina Graduate

**TYPE:** Action

**PRESENTER(S):** Jody De St. Hubert, Director of Teaching & Learning

**BACKGROUND:** Administration is proposing an update to the Portrait of an Edina Graduate. The portrait was previously approved by the School Board to articulate the traits we want our learners to have when they leave Edina Public Schools. It serves as a northstar for families regarding how Edina scholars are preparing to be future ready. During the 2021-2022 school year a variety of stakeholders reviewed the Portrait of an Edina Graduate and edits were made. After discussion and feedback at the November 14th, 2022 Board Meeting, administration has updated the Portrait of a Well-Rounded Edina Graduate based on feedback from students and alumni. The Edina administration has also articulated how the Portrait of a Well-Rounded Edina Graduate will be effectively used throughout the system. Finally the Portrait of a Well-Rounded Edina Graduate has been discussed at Teaching and Learning Board Committee meetings on 11.2.22 and 12.6.22.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Approve the proposed Portrait of a Well-Rounded Edina Graduate.

**DESIRED OUTCOMES FROM THE BOARD:** The desired outcome from the board is to review the proposed Portrait of a Well-Rounded Edina Graduate and provide final approval.

**BACKGROUND MATERIALS:**

[5.11.22 2022 Portrait of a Graduate](#)

[11.14.2022 Portrait of an Edina Graduate](#)

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Board Report (below)

## **Portrait of a Graduate Overview:**

In 2017 EdLeader21, now named [Battelle for Kids](#), engaged in the important educational initiative of designing the “Portrait of a Graduate.” The purpose of the educational initiative was to define the qualities that ensure students move successfully into the world and are able to positively contribute in careers of the future.

In the [Why, What, and How of a High School Portrait of a Graduate](#), Jenny Curtain, Senior Program Officer of Education for the Barr Foundation describes the purpose of the Portrait of a Graduate to serve as a “north star to drive transformation of traditional school models”

As a “north star” the portrait of a graduate should align the district vision to a tangible set of attributes and skills or competencies that students have the opportunity to develop in Early Learning through High School. The portrait of a graduate is intended to help communities create opportunities for all students to develop each component of the portrait in highly engaging and integrated pathways. It is not intended to look like traditional standardization. (Getting Smart Podcast, January 28th 2022, [Ken Kay and Yong Zhao on Beyond the Portrait of a Graduate](#)).

The Edina Public Schools Portrait of a Graduate defines who Edina is in alignment with our mission, vision, and core values and beliefs and who we want our kids to be. On page 4 of the [Edina Strategic Plan Booklet](#), the Edina School Board states, “An Edina education provides them (students) with the foundation to move ahead in life, and also the skills to adapt to changes around them and in themselves, and to choose paths that lead to success and happiness.” This is the “north star” that the Portrait of a Well-Rounded Edina Graduate will ensure we are guided by.

Throughout the 2021-22 school year the Portrait of a Well-Rounded Edina Graduate was shared with a variety of stakeholders and updates were made to the portrait with an intentional focus on aligning to the 2020-2027 Strategic Plan:

### **2021-2022 Timeline:**

- Edina Business Roundtable meeting hosted by the Chamber of Commerce and Edina Public Schools (40 local business leaders, 25 EPS Administrators and Teachers, Oct. 15, 2021)
- Review by EPS Principals
- Review by the EPS Cabinet
- Review by the EPS Teaching and Learning Department with a lens towards deepening alignment to the Edina 2000 - 2025 Strategic Plan, as well as creating processes to ensure implementation meets the intended goals.

### **2022-2023 Next Steps:**

In the fall of 2022, further revision of the Portrait of a Well-Rounded Edina Graduate has begun with the following objectives at the forefront:

- Ensure continued alignment with the current Portrait of a Well-Rounded Edina Graduate with the Edina 2022-2027 Strategic Plan.
- Ensure the Portrait of a Well-Rounded Edina Graduate clearly defines the qualities that move Edina students successfully into the world and positively engage in careers of the future. (clear statement of vision for each and every Edina student)
- Ensure continued stakeholder feedback, specifically from students.
- Articulate how the Portrait of a Well-Rounded Edina Graduate will be intentionally used with and by the following stakeholder groups: Families (including students), Edina Educators, Community Partners.
- Ensure the Portrait of a Well-Rounded Edina Graduate is purposefully integrated throughout the entire Edina experience for each and every student to discover their possibilities and thrive.

## **Portrait of a Well-Rounded Edina Graduate: New Look**

In the fall of 2022, the draft of the Portrait of a Well-Rounded Edina Graduate was shared with students and alumni as an additional set of stakeholders. Based on the feedback from students, alumni, and the school board at the November 14th, 2022 meeting the final Portrait of a Well-Rounded Edina Graduate was completed.

### **Alumni Feedback:**

78 Edina Alumni in their first and second post high school years, responded to a feedback form with the following questions:

1. Check the top four skills that you use in your current daily school or work interactions?
2. List what other skills you use in your daily school or work interactions.
3. What did Edina do well to prepare you for your post Edina experience?
4. What could Edina do differently to prepare future Edina graduates for their post Edina experience?

Of the Core Competencies Academically Prepared (39%), Responsible and Engaged Citizen (62.3%), Effective Communicator and Collaborator (55.8%) were amongst the top skills that alumni report using daily. In addition, problem solving (55.8%), critical analysis (48%), and persistence (39%) were sub-competencies that alumni indicated using on a daily basis.

When asked about what other skills used in daily school or work interactions are missing from the list, time management was the only one that was different from what is currently listed on the Portrait of a Well-Rounded Edina Graduate.

When asked what Edina could do differently to ensure graduates are ready for their post Edina experience there were three common themes. These themes are:

1. Provide more information on options that are different from college and normalize these options as successful pathways post high school.
2. Provide more real world experiences through internships and extracurricular activities.
3. Support learning as a process by creating more opportunities for students to learn from their mistakes in a safe and supportive environment.

### **Secondary Student Feedback:**

Using the Portrait of a Well-Rounded Edina Graduate draft shared at the 11.14.22 Board Workshop, 20 Edina High School students participated in focus groups to answer the following questions:

1. Are the current skills listed skills that you believe are meaningful for you to learn as you think about moving into the world post high school?
2. What skills are missing, if any?
3. Have you learned or are you currently learning the listed skills in your Edina education? Where and/or how?
4. What could we do better to ensure that all Edina students are Future Ready when they are done with their Edina education?

100% of the students communicated that yes, the current skills are important to learn as they think about moving into the world post high school? Most students did not believe any skills were missing. However, the two that did surface were money management and understanding the harm of racism and dynamics of privilege.

100% of the secondary students were also able to articulate that they have learned or are currently learning the listed skills in their Edina education. They articulated that this is happening through the instructional strategies that teachers are using in the classroom on a day-to-day basis, as well as the breadth and rigor of the classes that are offered. Some students noted that extracurricular activities were also providing an opportunity to directly practice the Portrait of a Well-Rounded Edina Graduate skills they are learning in class.

When asked what Edina could do better to ensure graduates are ready for their post Edina experience there were two common themes. These themes are:

1. Provide more real world experiences through internships, extracurricular activities, volunteering, and/or mentoring programs with Edina graduates.
2. Ensure students know the resources and opportunities that are available to them. As one student stated, "Identify students and make sure their needs are accounted for."

### **Elementary Student Feedback:**

Using the Portrait of a Well-Rounded Edina Graduate draft shared at the 11.14.22 Board Workshop, the Changemaker Board Members at Highlands Elementary participated in focus groups to answer the following questions:

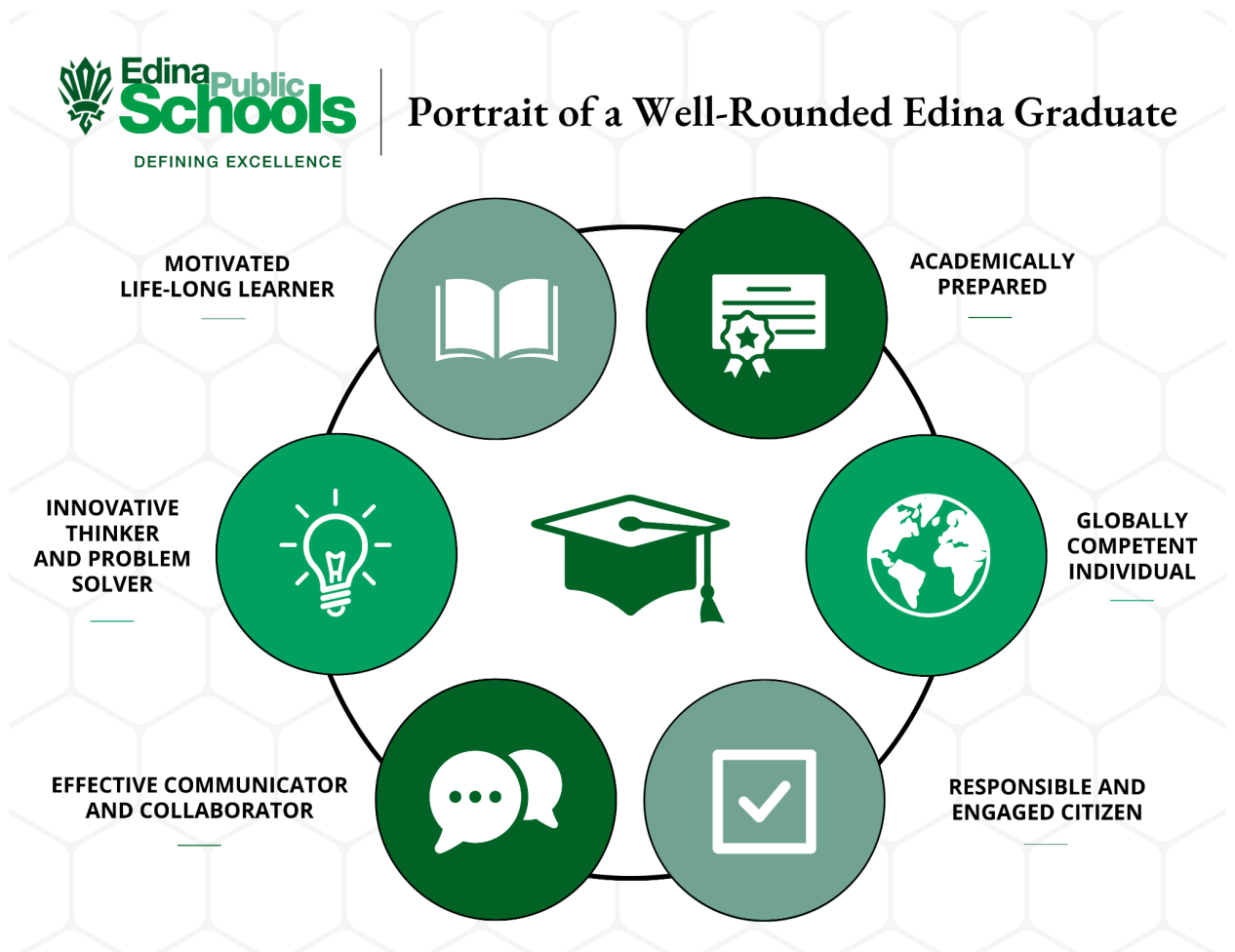
1. Are the current skills listed skills that you believe are meaningful for you to learn as you think about moving into the world post high school?
2. What skills are missing, if any?
3. Have you learned or are you currently learning the listed skills in your Edina education? Where and/or how?
4. What could we do better to ensure that all Edina students are Future Ready when they are done with their Edina education?

100% of the students communicated that yes, the current skills are important to learn as they think about moving into the world post high school. Several commented that they believe the Responsible, Healthy and Engaged Citizen is the one that they like the most. Although students

did not believe any skills were missing, they did suggest incorporating kindness and a positive growth mindset into the learning process when developing the skills under “Effective Communicator and Collaborator” and “Motivated Life Long-Learner.” One student also suggested that all schools can help unify students so that everyone has positive relationships.

Based on feedback at and since the December 12th Board Workshop the following Portrait of a Well-Rounded Edina Graduate has been completed. Specific changes include:

- taking “Healthy” out of the title competency “Responsible and Engaged Citizen”
- editing “Applies the social-emotional skills of self-awareness and self-management to ensure individual wellness.” under “Responsible and Engaged Citizen” to read “Applies the social-emotional skills of self-awareness and self-management to lead a healthy and well-balanced life.”
- Edit “Communicates effectively in at least two world languages, one of which is English.” under “Globally Competent Individual” to read “Engages in multiple opportunities to broaden language knowledge and application.”





## Portrait of a Well-Rounded Edina Graduate



### ACADEMICALLY PREPARED

- Demonstrates foundational academic knowledge in Reading, English Language Arts, Mathematics, Social Studies, Science, Technology, Engineering, and the Arts.
- Masters and applies standards aligned to challenging and rich curricula.
- Identifies, understands, and solves complex issues.

### GLOBALLY COMPETENT INDIVIDUAL

- Possesses a diverse and informed world perspective, including understandings of world geography, history, economics, social issues, cultures, political structures and environmental conditions.
- Engages in multiple opportunities to broaden language knowledge and application.
- Embraces the individual and cultural dignity of all people and actively seeks multicultural interactions.

### RESPONSIBLE AND ENGAGED CITIZEN

- Demonstrates a high level of integrity and ethical action.
- Applies knowledge and education for the good of the community.
- Demonstrates empathy, compassion and open-mindedness.
- Accepts responsibility for personal choices and actions, including impact on others and learns from mistakes.
- Applies the social-emotional skills of self-awareness and self-management to lead a healthy and well-balanced life.

### EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATOR AND COLLABORATOR

- Communicates effectively as a listener, speaker, writer, and responder through appropriate and timely communication platforms (digital, print, video, and social media).
- Possesses strong social and interpersonal skills, including verbal, nonverbal, and conflict resolution.
- Works effectively with others in academic and social settings, both as a leader and a contributor.

### INNOVATIVE THINKER AND PROBLEM SOLVER

- Thinks and produces creatively, both collaboratively and independently.
- Demonstrates intellectual curiosity.
- Critically analyzes and evaluates information sources.
- Adapts to changing demands.

### MOTIVATED LIFE-LONG LEARNER

- Understands personal interests and passions, while valuing continuous learning and seeking opportunities for growth.
- Understands own needs as a learner and advocates appropriately.
- Persists when faced with challenge or adversity.
- Actively researches opportunities, sets personal learning goals, makes choices that support long-term aspirations and successful transitions.

In addition to providing feedback that informed the final draft of the Portrait of a Well-Rounded Edina Graduate, the feedback from alumni and students also informed how the Portrait can be used. It was clear that Edina students, both past and present, believe that their experience in Edina did or will prepare them for their future beyond high school. They articulated that the breadth and rigor of their academic classes, the instructional strategies used by their teachers, and the variety of extracurricular activities are what are currently providing opportunities to learn and practice the skills in the Portrait of a Well-Rounded Edina Graduate. Each group also communicated that more opportunities in real world experiences through internships, extracurricular activities, volunteering, and/or mentoring programs with Edina graduates would be additionally beneficial in application of the skills.

Edina educators, in partnership with community stakeholders, are currently in the process of developing Marquee Pathways and STEAM programming that will address adding real world, authentic experiences to the Edina education for each and every student. It is critical that the Portrait of a Well-Rounded Edina Graduate is complete and ready to be the “north star” in these efforts. As project planning is being outlined, the Edina identified future ready skills must be road mapped with each pathway articulation.

Edina Educators will also put the Portrait of a Well-Rounded Edina Graduate to action in the curriculum review or design team process as well as day-to-day school operations.

Finally, the Portrait of a Well-Rounded Edina Graduate will act as a communication tool for a variety of community stakeholders from realtors who will help families understand what skills Edina students learn and apply throughout their education, to business stakeholders who become key partners in ensuring there are authentic pathways to practice and apply the skills outlined in the Portrait of a Well-Rounded Edina Graduate.