

DC-wide Graduate Profile

Frequently Asked Questions

Overview

The DC Office of the State Superintendent of Education's Postsecondary and Career Education Division has prepared the following Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about OSSE's DC-wide Graduate Profile development. This work is a part of the larger Reimagining High School Graduation Requirements initiative, inclusive of developing new Graduation Requirements.

Background

The inaugural development of a DC-wide Graduate Profile will have an in-depth focus on establishing comprehensive academic, personal, and interpersonal characteristics/competencies that high school students should master in advance of graduation.

This work is also accompanied by the development and implementation of new high school graduation requirements that incorporate outcome measures and support innovative approaches to preparing young people for life after graduation.

Question 1: Why was this initiative started?

OSSE recognizes the need for high school graduates to be prepared for a rapidly changing world. To prepare students for tomorrow, we need to think more broadly about what an ideal citizen of the 21 century should know and be able to do. Collectively as a city, to define the characteristics of a DC public school high school graduate provides teachers, students, families, schools, local education agencies (LEAs) and other stakeholders with a concrete goal.

Question 2: What are the main focal areas of this work?

The development of the DC-wide Graduate Profile will have an in-depth focus on articulating a vision for what students should know and master in advance of graduation. This is inclusive of academic, personal, and interpersonal characteristics/competencies. The work requires community engagement to articulate and agree on the characteristics; the development of a shared understanding of what the characteristics look like and how we identify them when we see them; and the development of tools (scales, rubrics, question sets) and systems for the demonstration of the characteristics.

Question 3: How will the DC-wide Graduate Profile be developed?

OSSE will partner with stakeholders across the District to identify and implement a new DC-wide Graduate Profile preparing young people for life after graduation. This is inclusive of engaging community stakeholders via listening sessions during the Summer and Fall of 2023. Feedback from these listening sessions will be used to influence the development of the DC-wide Graduate Profile.

An External Steering Committee consisting of individuals from the following sectors will be invited to advise on the development of the DC-wide Graduate Profile: K-12, adult education, postsecondary, workforce development, and philanthropic communities.

OSSE will use the feedback from listening sessions, interviews, and surveys to develop a draft of the DC-wide Graduate Profile.

Question 4: What is the timeline for developing the DC-wide Graduate Profile?

The Reimagining High School Graduation Requirements initiative, inclusive of the development of the DC-wide Graduate Profile, is a three-year initiative. The focal areas for the first year will be the solicitation of community input on the graduation requirements and the DC-wide Graduate Profile. Community and LEA engagement will continue during year 2. The goals for Year 2 are to develop drafts of the DC-wide Graduate Profile and the revised graduation requirements, as well as finalize the DC-wide Graduate Profile. Year 3 will be centered on approval and adoption of the revised graduation requirements, as well as a phased implementation of the DC-wide Graduate Profile, and introducing the new Graduation Requirements to stakeholders.

Question 5: Whom do I contact if I have questions or feedback on the DC-wide Graduate Profile or the Reimagining High Schools Graduation Requirements initiative?

For additional information on the DC-wide Graduate Profile or the Reimagining High School Graduation Requirements Initiative, please contact Antoinette Mitchell, Assistant Superintendent of the Division of Postsecondary and Career Education at Antoinette.Mitchell@dc.gov or (202) 741-0471.