

NY INSPIRES:

TRANSFORMING EDUCATION, EMPOWERING FUTURES

June 2026
Presentation to the Board of Regents

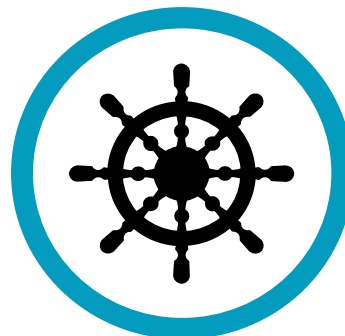


Agenda

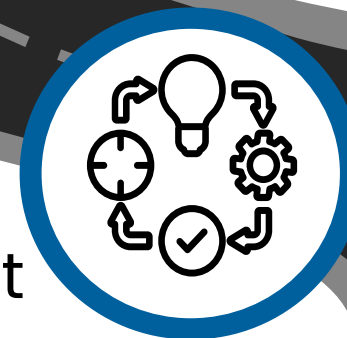
Connecting
Past Work



Setting the
Course



Current
Thinking



Moving Forward
Together



Built for the Future,
Not the Past

Multiple Modes of
Instruction, Learning,
and Assessment to
Support Personalized
Learning

Focused on the Things
New Yorkers Care
About, and Research
Supports

A Transcript
Reflecting Who
Students Are and
What They Can Do

New York Inspires: Transforming Education

In May, we learned...



Schools Are Already
Transitioning



Coherence is Emerging



Implementation Will
Determine Success



The System Must Change

- It is noted that there are individual schools, districts, and BOCES in New York that have already implemented innovative systems aligned more closely to competency-based systems than the current system.
- It is also noted that the current regulations provide some flexibilities that a small number of districts use to provide innovative experiences for a few students.
- The goal is to change the entire State **system** so that these innovations become the rule, rather than the exception.
- NY Inspires requires change from everyone, at all levels, in all capacities. It requires education meet the demands of the future.



Transforming P-12 into a Competency-Based System



Learning, Not Time



Competencies, Not Credits



Connected, Not Siloed

COMPETENCY-BASED JOURNEY

1

COMPETENCIES

Clear expectations aligned to the Portrait of a Graduate and rooted in NYS standards.



2

LEARNING EXPERIENCES

Students engage in meaningful learning in schools, communities, and real-world settings.



3

EVIDENCE DEMONSTRATIONS

Students show what they know, can do, and care about through a variety of ways.



4

LEARNER PROFILE

Recognition of evidence that student achieved graduate level competencies.



ONE NEW YORK STATE DIPLOMA

Earned through demonstrated **readiness** across required Portrait-aligned competencies.

READINESS INDICATORS

- I believe I can successfully show I am ready.
- My demonstration of knowledge, skills, and habits shows I am ready.
- I embody cultural responsiveness.
- My academic accomplishments show I am ready.
- I have multiple sources of evidence from local measures that show I am ready.

NY INSPIRES

Competency-Based Education



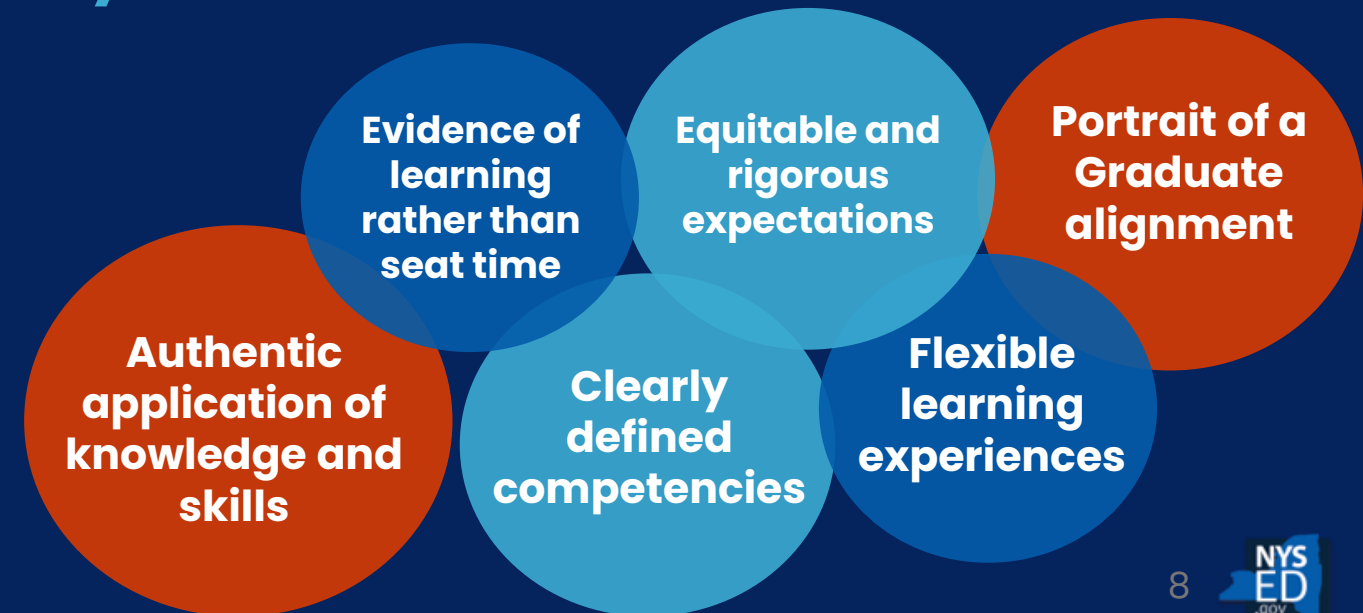
COMPETENCY (WORKING DEFINITION)

A measurable and transferable expectation, grounded in the NYS learning standards and aligned to Portrait of a Graduate attributes, that defines what students must demonstrate to show readiness for graduation. Competencies require the application of knowledge and skills in authentic contexts and are validated through evidence of learning rather than instructional time.

WHAT IS COMPETENCY-BASED EDUCATION?

A system in which students advance toward graduation upon demonstrating evidence of learning of clearly defined competencies, rather than solely through completion of required instructional time. It supports personalized learning with flexible opportunities while ensuring consistent, rigorous, and equitable expectations for all learners.

Key Features:



STANDARDS VS COMPETENCIES

Standards

- The knowledge and skill students should know or be able to do within a particular content area at a given grade level/band or in a given course
- Organized by content area, grade level/band, and sometimes course
- Content-area specific
- PK-12 expectations
- **Necessary for students to demonstrate competencies**

Competencies

- A measurable and transferable expectation, grounded in the NYS learning standards and aligned to Portrait of a Graduate attributes, that defines what students must demonstrate to show readiness for graduation
- Can be demonstrated in multiple ways and settings
- Interdisciplinary
- Not fixed to a grade level, course, or moment in time
- **Grounded in NYS Learning Standards**

Current Thinking: NYS COMPETENCIES

Grounded in prioritized learning standards, competencies are clearly defined expectations aligned to the Portrait of a Graduate. They establish the outcomes that matter most for 21st Century success.



BASED ON PRIORITIZED
STANDARDS AND
ALIGNED TO PORTRAIT
OF A GRADUATE



INTERDISCIPLINARY,
MEASURABLE, AND
TRANSFERRABLE



NOT TIME-
BOUND, NOT
CREDITS, AND
NOT COURSES



DEMONSTRABLE
IN MULTIPLE
WAYS



EVALUATED
THROUGH EVIDENCE
AND
DEMONSTRATIONS
OF LEARNING

Current Thinking: Learning Experiences

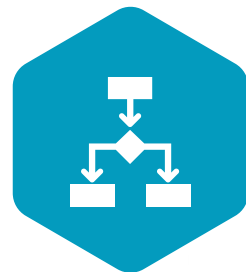
Students will engage in learning experiences that are meaningful, connected, and allow them to learn and to demonstrate the knowledge, skill, and dispositions that will help them be successful in life.



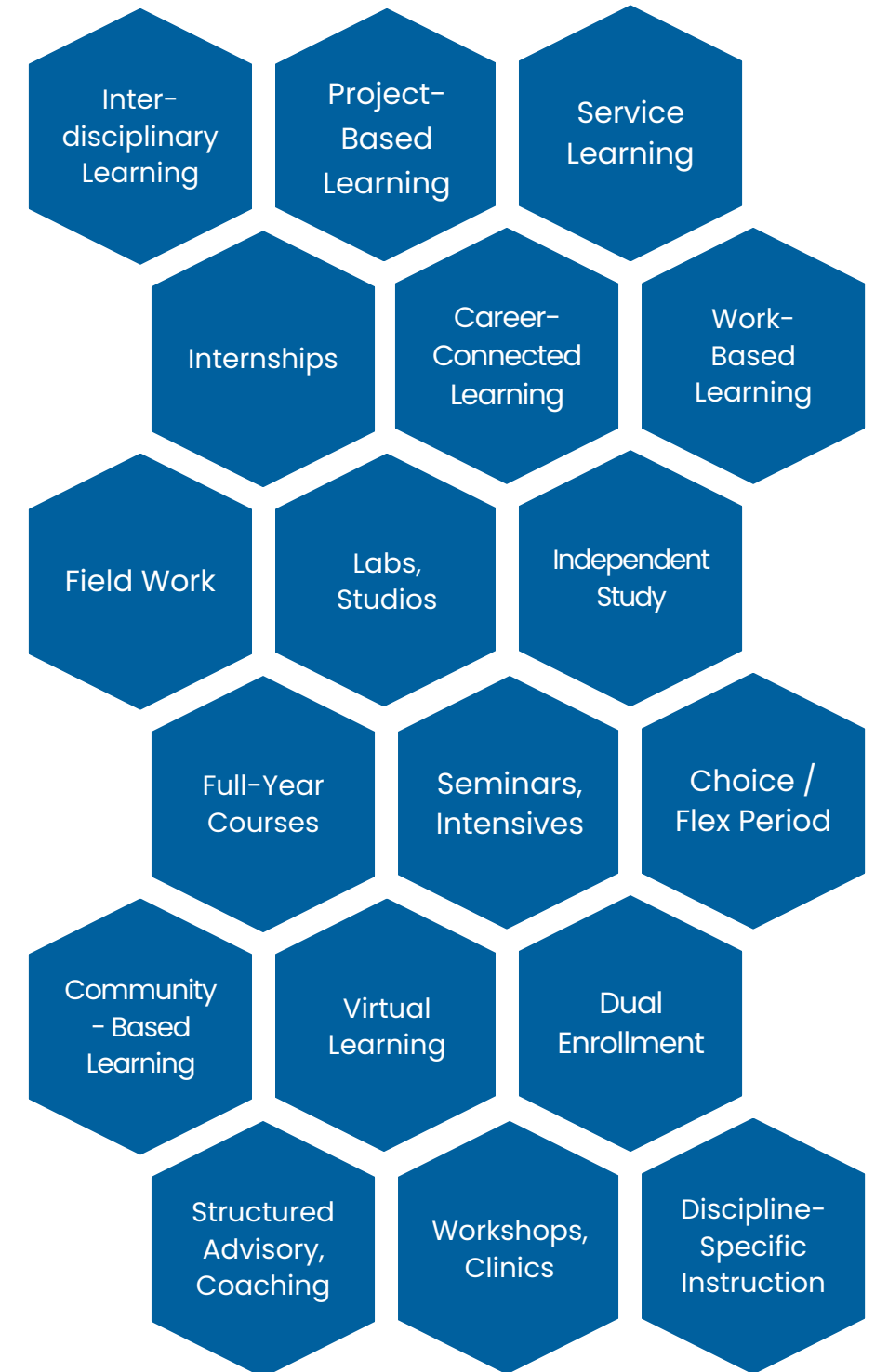
Designed by educators to facilitate growth in, and demonstration of, the NYS Competencies



Schools provide instruction; Students produce evidence of learning



Not required to be identified by a single subject area or measured by time.



Current Thinking: Evidence Demonstrations

Students will demonstrate competencies in multiple ways and will produce evidence of learning.



Evidence includes performances, portfolios, assessments, presentations, or other exhibits of evidence through which a student establishes their readiness in the competencies.



Demonstrations are evaluated against clearly-defined common criteria.



Evidence can be accumulated over time. Assessment of evidence is ongoing, not limited to one learning experience.

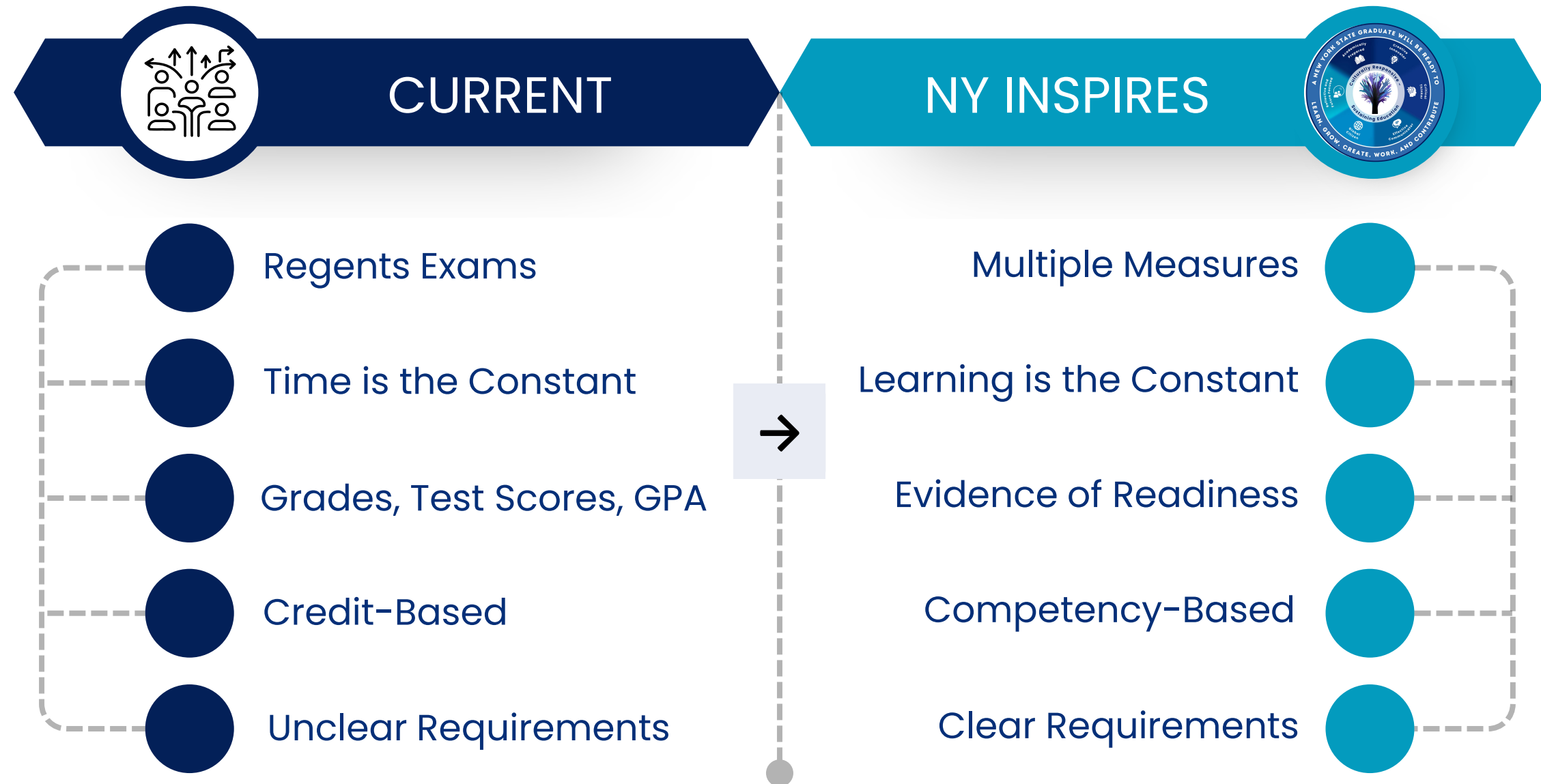
The Vital Role of Teachers

“This transformation asks a great deal of our educators, and we do not take that lightly. New York’s teachers are the heart of this work, and the Department is committed to supporting you every step of the way with the guidance, tools, professional learning, and partnership needed to make this vision real for students. At its core, this initiative is about reconnecting education to the very reasons so many of you became teachers: to inspire curiosity, recognize each student’s strengths, create meaningful learning experiences, and help young people see what they are capable of achieving. By moving toward a system that values demonstrated learning, real-world application, and the full range of student talent, we have an extraordinary opportunity to make school more relevant, more rigorous, and more powerful for every child in New York State.”

Commissioner Betty A. Rosa



SYSTEM COMPARISON



NY INSPIRES: A New System for New York



Competency-Based

Rather than perpetuating antiquated systems based on credits and GPAs, New York will move to a competency-based system that allows students to demonstrate readiness in multiple ways, at their own pace.



Personalized and Focused on the Whole Child

Learning will be more personalized to the needs, strengths, and interests of students, and support students' mental, social, emotional, and physical well-being.



Rigorous and Culturally Responsive

All students will have access to rigorous, high-quality learning experiences and environments grounded in New York's CR-SE Framework.



Meaningful and Connected

The educational program will focus on depth of learning and interdisciplinary, real-world connections, rather than on siloed content or checking boxes.



Multiple Ways to Learn and Demonstrate Learning

Students will graduate high school with a body of evidence demonstrating they have achieved readiness in the competencies necessary for post-secondary success, reflected on a clear, multi-dimensional statewide transcript.

NY Inspires Transformation Collaborative

*From shared purpose to collective action.
A clear direction. A common approach. A stronger New York.*



THE WHY

Our shared purpose
and why this moment
matters.



THE WHAT

NYSED timeline
and direction:
Our roadmap for
transformation.



THE HOW

Our collective actions
today to drive
meaningful change
across New York.



Click image for
Video



Together, we move from **vision to practice.**



NY Inspires Transformation Collaborative

Turning Vision into Practice Across New York



Regional Implementation Hubs

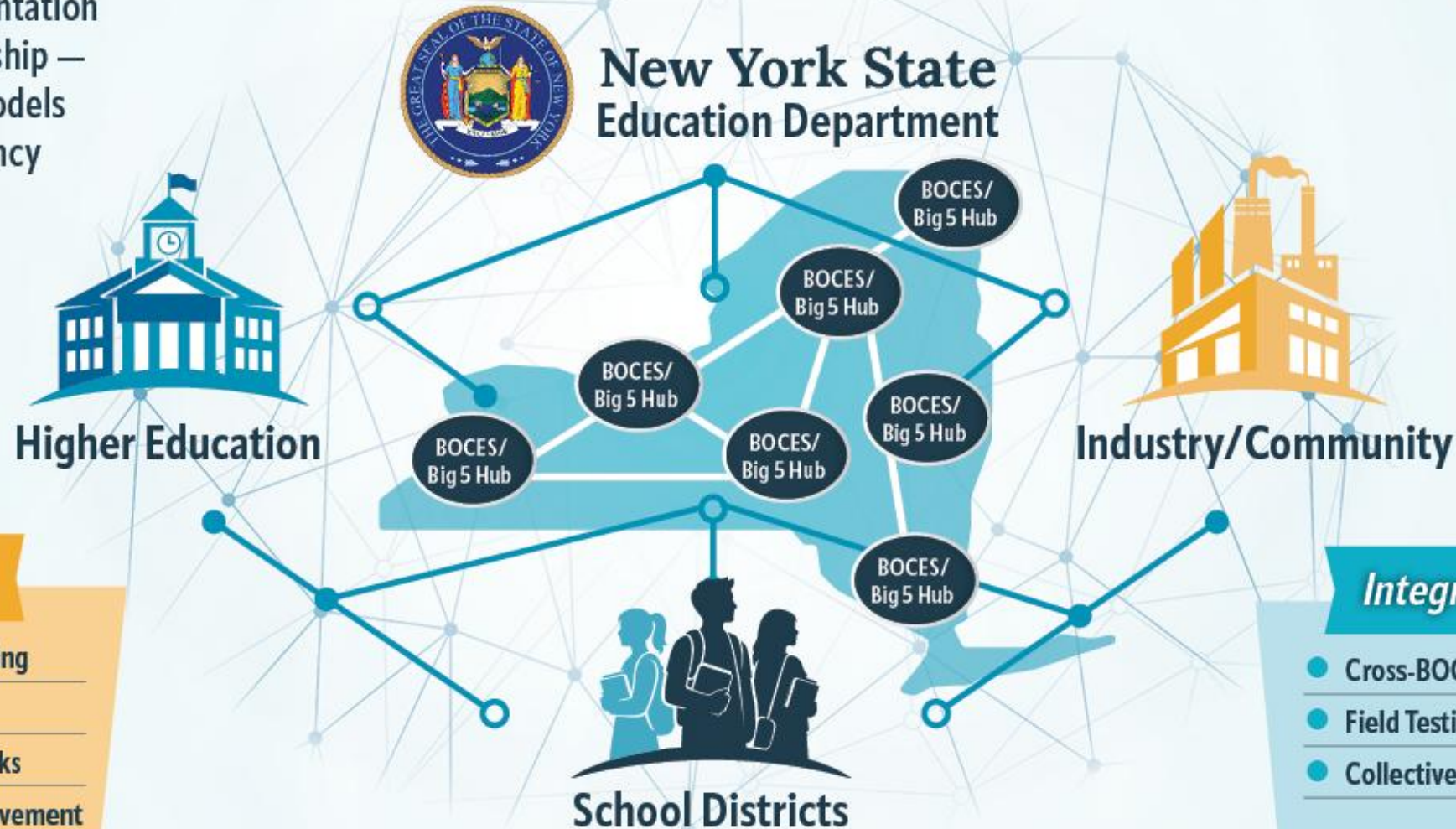
NY Inspires
Transformation
Collaborative

*Turning Vision into Practice
Across New York*



Reshaping Education in New York State with NY Inspires

Move from individual implementation to coordinated regional leadership — creating scalable, replicable models that strengthen both local agency and statewide coherence.



Core Features

- Regional Co-Design & Peer Learning
- Shared Tools & Protocols
- Leveraging Existing State Networks
- Data Sharing & Continuous Improvement

Integrated Collaboration

- Cross-BOCES/Big 5 Collaboration
- Field Testing & Innovation
- Collective Learning

NYSED Sets the Destination. Regional Hubs Build the Road.



BOCES HUBS:

Statewide Backbone for Implementation



The BOCES HUB model establishes a coordinated, statewide infrastructure to move NY Inspires from vision to practice—together, not in isolation.

WHAT THIS INCLUDES



Participation from
all 37 BOCES +
Big 5 + 3



Up to 6 members
per BOCES/
system



Engagement of
statewide networks
including:



SCDN



CTE



Special
Education



This creates the conditions for shared design, alignment, and collective implementation across New York State, including the co design of instructional vision and planning, alignment of assessment strategies to learning outcomes, implementation of deeper learning and project based learning models, redesign of student experiences, and the development of coherent systems that support the NY Inspires transformations over time.



Co-Design of
Instructional
Vision &
Planning



Alignment of
Assessment
Strategies to
Learning
Outcomes



Implementation
of Deeper
Learning &
Project Based
Learning Models



Redesign of
Student
Experiences



Development of
Coherent
Systems



Support for
NY Inspires
Transformations
Over Time

NY Inspires. Together, we move from **vision to practice.**





NY Inspires Implementation

From Vision to Practice. Together.



CORE EXPERIENCES



NY Inspires Learning Network

- ✓ 4 virtual statewide sessions
- ✓ Shared learning, alignment, and access to tools and resources



NY Inspires Implementation Partnership

- ✓ 3 in-person regional days
- ✓ Facilitated locally by each BOCES/Big 5 Design Team for their component districts/systems
- ✓ Built on statewide-developed materials and collateral

DESIGN APPROACH



- ✓ Anchored in Playbook 2 and co-designed by BOCES teams across the state
- ✓ Informed by the shared DS/SCDN planning framework and collaborative deliverables to establish clear implementation outcomes, measures, and evidence of progress
- ✓ Not prescriptive—provides a coherent statewide backbone for implementation while allowing adaptation to local context, community priorities, and district readiness

NETWORK INTEGRATION OPPORTUNITY



This structure allows networks to design within a coherent system:



CTE

Career-connected learning pathways



Special Education

Designing Portrait of a Graduate Attribute aligned learning curricula for students



SCDN

Instructional coherence and curriculum alignment



COORDINATED SYSTEM EFFICIENCY

This structure creates the conditions for statewide coherence through strengthened connections, shared responsibility, and local success.



KEY FRAMING



This is a collection of connected strengths working together.

It is a coherent, statewide system designed to:

- ✓ Align efforts across BOCES, The Big 5, districts, and networks
- ✓ Reduce fragmentation
- ✓ Leverage collective expertise
- ✓ Support scalable, locally adapted implementation



The Playbook is the enabler.

It is the structure that allows answers to be built—together, in context, and at scale.



[Playbook](#)

NY Inspires. Together, we move from vision to practice.



Imagine if...

the changes we aspire to see for students were **designed with students**, educators, families, and communities — **for students**.

“

Sustainable educational transformation is rarely achieved through policy alone. Lasting improvement occurs when educators, communities, and organizations build ownership together.

— Michael Fullan

”

This is the work before us.
Together, we move from vision to practice.

NY Inspires Portrait of a Graduate Experience Mapping

Conference Day Reflection & Design Summary

[Watch Here](#)



 Over 500 educators engaged in a human centered design experience to reimagine K–12 learning aligned to the New York State Portrait of a Graduate.

 Educators used collaborative inquiry, interdisciplinary design, and reflection to identify authentic, equitable, deeper learning experiences across a K–12 continuum.

 Inspired by civic formation and real world engagement, teams explored how schools build voice, purpose, critical thinking, empathy, collaboration, and community impact.

 Educator thinking and artifacts were synthesized with AI to develop draft K–12 Experience Continuums and Grade Band Experience Maps.

 These draft materials surface possibilities, inform patterns, and guide continued co-design with educators, students, families, and community partners.

Each domain includes:



Grade Band
Experience Maps



K–12
Experience
Continuums



CRSE Framework
Crosswalks



Visual
Image
Maps

with abstract
iconography
representing
developmental
progression and
deeper learning
experiences

 The work reflects the power of visible, messy, collaborative systems change and demonstrates what becomes possible when educators are given space to imagine learning differently.

Together, we are designing the future.



VOICE
& IDENTITY



CRITICAL
THINKING



EMPATHY &
BELONGING



COLLABORATION &
RELATIONSHIPS



CIVIC & GLOBAL
ENGAGEMENT



PURPOSE &
FUTURE READINESS



NY Inspires Portrait of a Graduate Experience Mapping

From Educator Ideas to Tools That Guide the Journey

1. RAW IDEAS FROM EDUCATORS

Educators generated ideas, artifacts, and experiences through collaborative design.



What experiences help students...

- Find their voice?
- Solve real problems?
- Connect with community?
- See themselves in the future?



Big Ideas



Student Voice



Questions & Possibilities



Artifacts & Prototypes



Co-Design Sessions

2. DRAFT SYNTHESIS & MAPPING

Educator thinking was synthesized with AI as a design partner to identify patterns and map progressions.



Kindergarten | Discovering Self & Community

CRSE Connection: Welcoming & Affirming Environment

- The Kindness Crew**
Students work together to create a caring classroom community through cooperative games, classroom jobs, and helping routines.
- Around the World Hello**
Students learn greetings, songs, stories, and traditions from multiple cultures and languages represented in their school and community.
- Nature Explorers**
Students explore local outdoor spaces, observe the natural world, and create collaborative art and storytelling inspired by nature.

Grade 11 | Leadership Beyond the Classroom

CRSE Connection: Student Agency & Community Partnership

- The Civic Innovation Fellowship**
Students complete internships or mentorships with organizations focused on civic engagement, policy, sustainability, or community impact.
- Global Issues Research Studio**
Students conduct deep interdisciplinary investigations into contemporary global issues and present findings publicly.
- The Community Design Challenge**
Students collaborate with community stakeholders to co-design solutions to authentic local problems.

3. FINAL TOOLS TO GUIDE THE JOURNEY

Draft maps and continuums become living tools to inspire learning and drive alignment.



Aligned to CRSE Framework



Connected K-12 Progressions



Visible Learning Experiences



Student Voice at the Center



Designed for Equity & Impact

Every experience. Every year. Every learner.
All leading to the NYS Portrait of a Graduate.



We can leverage the NY Inspires Transformation Consortium to have **ALL** of NYS co-author this work with student voice at the center.



Educators Across NYS



Student Voice



Families & Communities



BOCES & Districts



Higher Ed Partners



NYSED & State Partners

Together,
we are designing
the future.

EXPERIENCE CONTINUUMS

FOR GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP & CREATIVE INNOVATOR

GLOBAL CITIZEN EXPERIENCE CONTINUUM

3 SIGNATURE EXPERIENCES PER GRADE LEVEL • LEARNING EXPERIENCES DRIVING THE PORTRAIT OF A GRADUATE
WITH NYSED CRSE FRAMEWORK CONNECTIONS EMBEDDED ACROSS THE CONTINUUM

GRADE LEVEL	3 SIGNATURE EXPERIENCES			CRSE CONNECTION
K Discovering Self & Community	 The Kindness Crew Build a caring classroom community through cooperation and helping routines.	 Around the World Hello Explore greetings, songs, stories, and traditions from cultures in our school and community.	 Nature Explorers Observe nature, explore outdoors, and create art inspired by the natural world.	 CRSE Connection: Welcoming & Affirming Environment
1 Building Awareness & Relationships	 Our Community Circle Investigate community helpers and create thank you campaigns and interviews.	 The Sharing Project Collaborate to solve challenges, practice empathy, and create community agreements.	 Neighborhood Adventures Explore local neighborhoods and document places and stories that matter.	 CRSE Connection: Monthly Voice & Belonging
2 Understanding Connection & Responsibility	 The Culture Keepers Explore traditions, food, music, and stories while creating a shared cultural experience.	 Earth Helpers Lab Investigate stewardship through gardening, recycling, and local ecosystem studies.	 The Big Question Studio Use inquiry cycles to investigate problems and design solutions together.	 CRSE Connection: Inclusive Curriculum & Multiple Perspectives
3 Exploring Identity & Place	 Pen Pals Across the Map Connect with peers through letters, videos, and collaborative storytelling.	 Future Me Time Capsule Reflect on identity, hopes, and community while creating multimedia time capsules.	 Community Story Hunters Collect oral histories to preserve local stories and perspectives.	 CRSE Connection: Student Voice & Sociocultural Awareness
4 Understanding Systems & Perspectives	 The Diversity Experience Design and host a cultural celebration featuring traditions, food, language, and performances.	 History Lives Here Investigate local history, immigration stories, and regional change through fieldwork.	 Designing Better Spaces Analyze spaces and propose improvements for accessibility, belonging, or sustainability.	 CRSE Connection: Critical Thinking & Representation
5 Leadership & Contribution	 The Student Action Team Identify challenges and organize campaigns or projects to address them.	 The Sustainability Challenge Lead environmental action projects to improve water, food systems, waste, and energy use.	 Voices That Matter Research civic issues, debate perspectives, and share ideas publicly.	 CRSE Connection: Civic Responsibility & Agency
6 Expanding Perspectives	 Global Connections Lab Collaborate virtually with classes or organizations around the world to explore perspectives.	 The Community Impact Project Partner with local organizations to design service-learning experiences.	 Culture, Food & Identity Explore how culture shapes identity through food, stories, language, and migration.	 CRSE Connection: Global Awareness & Empathy
7 Civic Participation & Inquiry	 If I Were President... Investigate government systems and create proposals to address important issues.	 The Human Rights Project Study human rights issues and create awareness campaigns through media or art.	 World Thinking Day Host cultural experiences highlighting traditions, perspectives, and global connections.	 CRSE Connection: Inquiry, Debate & Civic Engagement
8 Leadership Through Action	 The River Keepers Investigate environmental challenges and lead restoration or awareness initiatives.	 Youth Voices Summit Facilitate discussions on issues impacting youth, identity, belonging, and the future.	 The Global Problem Challenge Choose a global issue and design local action plans using research and systems thinking.	 CRSE Connection: Social Change & Systems Thinking
9 Identity, Systems & Society	 Model UN: Beyond Borders Explore global issues, diplomacy, sustainability, and international cooperation.	 Community Catalyst Partner with local organizations to address real community challenges.	 Digital Citizens Investigate media literacy, misinformation, online ethics, and digital responsibility.	 CRSE Connection: Critical Examination of Systems & Bias
10 Solving Real Problems	 Future City Lab Redesign community systems to improve transportation, housing, sustainability, and more.	 The Systems Change Project Investigate interconnected systems and propose meaningful improvements.	 Stories Across Borders Create documentaries or podcasts about global stories and change.	 CRSE Connection: Collaboration, Innovation & Public Contribution
12 Leading	 Civic Innovation Fellowship Intern or mentor with a local organization to address a community challenge.	 Global Issues Research Studio Conduct class research to investigate global issues and propose solutions.	 Community Design Challenge Work with community members to design and implement a local improvement project.	 CRSE Connection: Civic Leadership & Community Contribution

CREATIVE INNOVATOR

K-12 GRADE LEVEL EXPERIENCE CONTINUUM WITH CRSE CONNECTIONS
THREE SIGNATURE EXPERIENCES PER GRADE LEVEL

GRADE LEVEL	3 SIGNATURE EXPERIENCES			CRSE CONNECTION FOCUS
K Kindergarten	 Wonder & Play Studio Imaginative play, storytelling, sensory exploration, music, and movement.	 Tiny Makers Lab Build, design, stack, create, and experiment with open ended materials.	 Nature Explorers Investigate outdoor spaces, patterns, textures, animals, and seasonal changes.	 Identity & Belonging & Expression
1 Grade 1	 Story Builders Create illustrated stories, dramatic performances, and collaborative storytelling.	 The Creativity Playground Rotate through art, STEM, music, and design stations focused on imagination.	 Community Creators Collaborate to beautify classroom or school spaces through art and design.	 Student voice & cultural storytelling
2 Grade 2	 Invent It Forward Design simple inventions or solutions connected to school or community needs.	 Curiosity Quest Explore real world questions through outdoor inquiry, collaborative, and reflection.	 Musical Minds Use rhythm, movement, and sound to create collaborative performances and compositions.	 Inclusive & culturally responsive expression
3 Grade 3	 Hidden Stories Studio Create multimedia stories connected to family, culture, history, or community.	 Future Builders Challenge Design structures, inventions, or solutions using engineering and collaborative design thinking.	 The Innovation Arcade Invent original games and interactive learning experiences connected to content.	 Representation & Identity exploration
4 Grade 4	 Culture in Motion Design experiences celebrating traditions, arts, music, and cultural storytelling.	 Design the Difference Investigate community challenges and prototype creative solutions.	 Maker Media Lab Produce podcasts, videos, digital stories, and creative media projects.	 Voice & communication
5 Grade 5	 The Curiosity Expedition Engage in interdisciplinary inquiry connected to science, innovation, and community exploration.	 Young Entrepreneurs Studio Develop products, services, or creative ventures addressing authentic needs.	 Creative Problem Solvers Work collaboratively to solve design challenges connected to real world scenarios.	 Student empowerment & inclusive collaboration
6 Grade 6	 Innovation Nation Collaborative design labs focused on coding, robotics, engineering, and invention.	 Voices Through Media Create digital storytelling projects exploring identity, community, and social issues.	 Passion Project Pathways Pursue inquiry projects connected to personal interests and strengths.	 Student centered learning & opportunity
7 Grade 7	 Future City Lab Redesign systems, spaces, or community experiences through innovation and collaboration.	 The Creative Collective Develop collaborative artistic, multimedia, or entrepreneurial projects.	 Design for Change Identify local issues and create campaigns, prototypes, or advocacy solutions.	 Civic engagement & systems thinking
8 Grade 8	 Innovation Sprint Engage in rapid design challenges connected to authentic community issues.	 Beyond the Algorithm Analyze media, technology, and design impacts on society and culture.	 Makers & Mentors Collaborate with peers and community experts on creative design experiences.	 Critical consciousness & community connected learning
9 Grade 9	 Humanity by Design Investigate social issues and develop innovative interdisciplinary solutions.	 Startup Studio Launch entrepreneurial ideas connected to authentic needs and passions.	 Creative Voices Project Create multimedia campaigns exploring identity, perspective, and advocacy.	 Equity, voice & civic participation
10 Grade 10	 Designing Tomorrow Collaborate with community partners to develop innovative projects and solutions.	 The Impact Lab Create interdisciplinary solutions connected to environmental, social, or economic issues.	 Creative Futures Internship Engage in mentorships and field experiences connected to passions and pathways.	 Community engagement & societal opportunities
11 Grade 11	 Visionary Ventures Develop business plans, community initiatives, or creative enterprises.	 Innovation Fellowship Collaborate with professionals and organizations on authentic projects.	 Voices That Matter Use storytelling, design, and advocacy to elevate community perspectives.	 Leadership, agency & representation
12 Grade 12	 Capstone for Change Curate portfolios demonstrating capstone projects connected to authentic community issues.	 The Future Ready Portfolio Curate portfolios demonstrating innovation, creativity, reflection, and future.	 Legacy Makers Mentor younger learners while designing experiences, programs, or solutions that leave.	 Community leadership & belonging



K-12 PORTRAIT OF A LEARNER CONTINUUM

Every experience. Every year. Every learner. *All leading to the NYS Portrait of a Graduate.*

A DEVELOPMENTAL JOURNEY FROM KINDERGARTEN TO GRADUATION

	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	9	10	11	12
	Discovering Self & Community 	Exploring Relationships 	Building Confidence & Voice 	Connecting Learning to the World 	Expanding Perspective 	Growing Agency & Leadership 	Navigating Identity & Systems 	Becoming a Critical Consciousness 	Building Purpose & Pathways 	Applying Learning Authentically 	Leading, Innovating & Authributing 	Transitioning with Purpose
I (ME)	I explore who I am through play, wonder, and curiosity.	I notice my feelings, build friendships, and learn to care for others.	I share my ideas, ask questions, and believe in my abilities.	I connect what I learn to my life and the world around me.	I explore multiple perspectives and think deeply about ideas.	I take action, set goals, and believe I can make a positive impact.	I explore my identity and understand how systems work.	I think critically, challenge assumptions, and seek meaningful dialogue.	I use my voice and values to make a difference.	I apply what I learn to solve real problems and create value.	I lead projects, inspire others, and contribute to a more equitable world.	I graduate prepared to continue learning, leading, and growing with purpose.
WE (COMMUNITY)	We learn together by sharing, listening, and caring for one another.	We work together, take turns, and celebrate our differences.	We listen to others, encourage each other, and solve problems together.	We collaborate, learn from others, and share ideas to deepen our understanding.	We ask questions, listen to different voices, and value everyone's perspective.	We lead together, encourage each other, and work toward shared goals.	We collaborate across differences and build empathy and understanding.	We engage in respectful dialogue, examine evidence, and learn together.	We collaborate to solve problems, support others, and take action.	We support each other, share resources, and learn from mentors.	We collaborate across disciplines to innovate and solve problems.	We build futures through collaboration, empathy, and shared responsibility.

EVERY GRADE BUILDS KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, MINDSETS & HABITS
through culturally responsive, deeper learning experiences.

ROOTED IN WHAT MATTERS MOST

Student Voice & Agency Students are heard, valued, and empowered to lead.	Equity & Belonging Every learner belongs and has access to what they need to grow.	Relationships & Community Strong relationships are the foundation of learning and well-being.	Deeper Learning & Inquiry Authentic, relevant experiences build deep understanding and transfer.	Civic & Community Engagement Learners contribute to their communities and work toward positive change.	Reflection, Growth & Adaptability Learners reflect, adapt, and keep growing throughout their journey.	Future Ready Mindsets Curiosity, resilience, creativity, and confidence for a changing world.
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THE DESTINATION: NYS PORTRAIT OF A GRADUATE



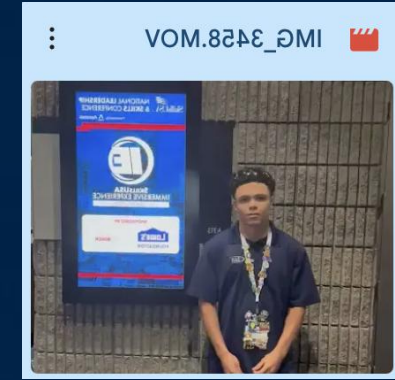
A New York State high school graduate who is culturally responsive builds strong, respectful relationships, valuing diverse perspectives as essential to a rigorous, inclusive learning community. New York State students who embody cultural responsiveness and academic readiness—demonstrating creativity, critical thinking, communication, reflection, and global awareness—will be prepared to learn, grow, innovate, and contribute meaningfully to society. These graduates will be equipped with the interpersonal and intellectual skills needed to thrive in an interconnected, ever-evolving world.



Every experience. Every learner. Every step forward. **ALL LEAD TO THE NYS PORTRAIT OF A GRADUATE.**

Inspired by NY Inspires • NYS Portrait of a Graduate • CRSE Framework • Deeper Learning • Human-Centered Design • Project Based Learning





If we create these moments for students...

“ **Defining moments** shape our lives,
but we don’t have to wait for them to happen.
We can be the **authors of them.** ”

– Chip Heath & Dan Heath
The Power of Moments



Together, we move from **vision to practice.**

Stronger students. Stronger schools. Stronger communities. Stronger New York.



Let us hold the spirit of where we started —
the Blue Ribbon Commission
— and walk this forward *together.*

What Could Districts Be Working On This Summer?



- **Design Innovative Ideas to Pilot in 2026–27**
 - Authentic, student-centered learning experiences
 - Diverse assessment strategies beyond traditional exams
 - Demonstrations and celebrations of learning
 - Evidence-based and PBLA-aligned instructional changes
- **Increase Opportunities for Career-Connected Learning**
 - Recruit and train Work-Based Learning Coordinators
 - Identify local opportunities and connections
 - Begin to identify possible school-based career-connected learning experiences for students
- **Focus on Creating Conditions to Support Change**
 - Strong MTSS-I structures
 - Alignment to the CR-SE Framework
 - SEL Benchmarks and health supports
 - Tiered, job-embedded, and supported professional development for educators
 - Learning communities and regional collaboratives

NYSED's Next Steps

- Draft NYS Competencies
- Draft Rubrics for the Competencies
- Draft Prioritized Learning Standards
- Draft Universal Transcript
- Update on data ecosystem to support this work





Empowering Futures

All New York State students will be equipped with the knowledge, skills, and dispositions necessary to thrive in an increasingly complex and interconnected world.