

PORTRAIT OF A GRADUATE

Springfield Public Schools

MARCH 2020

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CONTINUING PROGRESS TOWARDS PORTRAIT OF A GRADUATE DURING COVID-19 CLOSURES

As you would expect, SPS is not hosting any additional meetings or conversations about Portrait of a Graduate while we are all attempting to practice social distancing and keep each other safe. That said, even remotely, the work continues to develop Springfield's vision for young people ready for college, career, and life success.

Since October, we have had the chance to hear from hundreds of people. The hopes and dreams shared are inspirational and the skills and attributes described are comprehensive and ambitious. We will be using this period of remote work to analyze the notes and

data already compiled and begin the work of organizing the feedback into categories and groupings. This is the first step toward developing Springfield's portraits.

Because no one yet knows when we will be able to return to gathering for group conversations, we will use the first round of analysis to develop rough drafts of the content for a portrait of a graduate. When we can gather again, we will use these rough drafts as conversation starters for the next round of community engagement and feedback. We hope you will be able to join us for these future conversations!

UPDATE ON MAY COMMUNITY CONVENINGS

While we have not yet made a decision on whether to continue with the May community convenings, should ongoing social distancing measures necessitate canceling we will shift the convenings to the early Fall and focus on sharing and prioritizing information already gathered.

PORTRAIT OF A GRADUATE BY-THE-NUMBERS

With the Portrait of a Graduate project launching last September, and really getting going starting in November, following are a few of the numbers reflecting the breadth of community input received thus far.

- More than 200 people have participated in one of 17 community conversations with various stakeholder groups in our community
- Of community members completing an exit survey after participating in a conversation, 96% felt their perspective had been heard
- More than 525 teachers have participated in 84 conversations held in schools
- Of the 533 teachers completing an exit survey from a conversation thus far, 98% felt they had the opportunity to share their perspective and be heard
- Nearly 100 paraprofessionals have participated in a conversation
- Student leaders have been trained in 10 schools to lead conversations with their peers
- All guidance and adjustment counselors have participated in a conversation
- All Principals have participated in a conversation





PORTRAIT OF A GRADUATE MARCH 2020, CONTINUE

STUDENT CONVERSATIONS UNDERWAY

Starting in February, student leaders at our middle and high schools started being trained to lead portrait of a graduate conversations with their peers. While they will not be able to lead conversations with their peers until school re-opens, hearing from our students is one of the most important – and most fun – parts of this process. Following are a few of the themes we have heard repeatedly in talking to student leaders over the last month.

Hopes and dreams

- ◇ Find about family history, ancestors, roots
- Financial independence (and not have huge debt from college)
- ◇ To be the first member of my family to graduate high school
- ◇ Go to college and be successful

- ◇ Live in the upper class
- ◇ Retire happy
- ◇ Own a business

Skills and attributes needed for success

- ◇ Financial literacy, budgeting, managing money
- ◇ Organization and time management, not procrastinate
- ◇ Self-confidence and willingness to advocate for oneself and put yourself out there
- ◇ Communication skills
- ◇ Dedication, purpose, able to keep focused on goals
- ◇ Driver’s license
- ◇ Patience
- ◇ Know how to control emotions
- ◇ How to search for a job

SPS EDUCATORS ON THE PROCESS

A few quotes from SPS Educators after they participated in a portrait of a graduate conversation.

- * “I think this is a great idea, can’t wait to see what it turns into!”
- * “It felt good to have a conversation about our hopes for our students.”
- * “So important”
- “Nice to converse and hear teachers believe in all grade levels that our students have opportunities to be someone great.”
- * “These conversations should definitely happen more often.”
- * “Not all students are on track to go to college. We need to do a better job supporting students not on the college track.”
- * “I loved it.”
- * “I love and support this project, and can’t wait to see the end results.”

