



Profile of a Graduate

A Community Informed Vision
from *Voices for the Future*



May 2025

Introduction

This document presents the results of a thematic analysis of community feedback on one of four questions posed during the Voices for the Future community outreach initiative in November and December 2024. Specifically, it focuses on responses to the question: *What defines a successful graduate? If you could choose only one quality that best describes a successful OKCPS graduate, what would it be?*

Feedback was gathered from community members, families, students, and staff through listening sessions and an online survey. More than 400 individuals attended listening sessions, and over 3,400 responded to the survey.

This input provides an opportunity to revisit our Profile of a Graduate and ensure that it aligns with what our families, students, educators, and community members believe students should know and be able to do by the time they graduate.

Community-Informed Profile

Academically Prepared and Motivated

Graduates build strong academic foundations across subjects and develop the habits that drive success. They come to school ready to learn, attend consistently, and apply themselves with focus and curiosity. They think critically, solve problems, and persist through academic challenges in reading, writing, math, science, and beyond.

Resilient and Self-Aware

Graduates know how to navigate challenges with determination and a growth mindset. They believe in their abilities, manage their time and emotions effectively, and take responsibility for their actions. They are independent, confident learners who bounce back from setbacks and work hard toward their goals.

Future-Focused and Goal-Oriented

Graduates make purposeful choices about their futures and understand the pathways available to them. Whether they pursue college, career, military service, or the trades, they plan ahead, set meaningful goals, and take steps to achieve them. They build financial and digital skills that prepare them for life beyond graduation.

Ethical and Compassionate

Graduates act with integrity, show empathy, and treat others with respect. They are responsible, trustworthy individuals who understand right from wrong and consistently do the right thing—even when it's hard. They contribute to a caring, respectful environment and hold themselves accountable for their actions.

Collaborative Leader and Effective Communicator

Graduates work well with others and express their ideas clearly and respectfully. They listen actively, share their thinking, and engage in teamwork to solve problems and make progress. As leaders and contributors, they help groups succeed through strong communication, collaboration, and interpersonal skills.

Civic-Minded and Culturally Aware

Graduates value their role in their community and the world. They understand civic responsibilities and the importance of participation in a diverse society. They respect multiple perspectives and are prepared to contribute in ways that reflect empathy, awareness, and a commitment to the common good.

Socially and Emotionally Competent

Graduates build healthy relationships and understand themselves and others. They recognize and manage their emotions, seek out support when needed, and contribute to a positive and inclusive school environment. They leave school with a sense of pride and the emotional tools to thrive in a complex world.

Current Profile and Community-Informed Version

Side-by-Side Comparison

Current Profile of a Graduate	Community-Informed Version	Similarities / Differences
Critical Thinking & Problem Solving An OKCPS graduate is academically prepared and makes connections among the disciplines. They have the ability to analyze problems, ask questions, and apply what they know to create new solutions.	Academically Prepared and Motivated Graduates build strong academic foundations across subjects and develop the habits that drive success. They come to school ready to learn, attend consistently, and apply themselves with focus and curiosity. They think critically, solve problems, and persist through academic challenges in reading, writing, math, science, and beyond.	Both emphasize academic preparedness, problem-solving, and applying knowledge across disciplines. The new version places stronger emphasis on perseverance and habits like attendance; less explicit about interdisciplinary thinking.
Cultural Competence An OKCPS graduate understands and interacts effectively with others across lines of difference. They are aware of their own worldview and are curious and humble toward others. They are socially conscious.	Civic-Minded and Culturally Aware Graduates value their role in their community and the world. They understand civic responsibilities and the importance of participation in a diverse society. They respect multiple perspectives and are prepared to contribute in ways that reflect empathy, awareness, and a commitment to the common good.	Both include respect for others, curiosity, and awareness of diverse perspectives. The current version emphasizes humility and social consciousness more strongly; the community feedback included civic duty but less about worldview.
Communication An OKCPS graduate is able to take in, process, and share information and ideas orally, in writing, and through technology. They use their voices to advocate for what they believe in.	Collaborative Leader and Effective Communicator Graduates work well with others and express their ideas clearly and respectfully. They listen actively, share their thinking, and engage in teamwork to solve problems and make progress. As leaders and contributors, they help groups	Very similar — both stress clear expression, listening, and advocacy. Community version emphasizes collaboration/teamwork slightly more than advocacy.

	succeed through strong communication, collaboration, and interpersonal skills.	
Social & Emotional Wellness An OKCPS graduate is resilient. They understand and manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, and establish and maintain positive relationships.	Socially and Emotionally Competent Graduates build healthy relationships and understand themselves and others. They recognize and manage their emotions, seek out support when needed, and contribute to a positive and inclusive school environment. They leave school with a sense of pride and the emotional tools to thrive in a complex world.	Strong alignment — both cover self-awareness, empathy, emotional regulation, and relationships. Community version includes a tone of pride and belonging; original version explicitly ties goals to wellness.
Adaptability An OKCPS graduate knows that change is the only constant in life. They have the ability to learn and unlearn to adjust to new conditions with integrity to their values.	Resilient and Self-Aware Graduates know how to navigate challenges with determination and a growth mindset. They believe in their abilities, manage their time and emotions effectively, and take responsibility for their actions. They are independent, confident learners who bounce back from setbacks and work hard toward their goals.	Both highlight resilience, adjusting to change, and staying grounded in values. The current version frames adaptability as ongoing learning/unlearning; community version emphasizes grit and self-management.
Responsible Decision Making An OKCPS graduate does the right thing. They act with ethics, initiative, and accountability. They use their power to care for themselves and others civically, financially, and through their use of technology.	Ethical and Compassionate Graduates act with integrity, show empathy, and treat others with respect. They are responsible, trustworthy individuals who understand right from wrong and consistently do the right thing—even when it's hard. They contribute to a caring, respectful environment and hold themselves accountable for their actions.	Both emphasize doing the right thing, acting with integrity, and taking responsibility for one's actions. The importance of ethics and caring for others is central in both versions. The community version places less emphasis on specific domains like finance, technology, or civic responsibility. Instead, it focuses more broadly on character, empathy, and day-to-day decision-making.

<i>(No direct counterpart)</i>	Future-Focused and Goal-Oriented Graduates make purposeful choices about their futures and understand the pathways available to them. Whether they pursue college, career, military service, or the trades, they plan ahead, set meaningful goals, and take steps to achieve them. They build financial and digital skills that prepare them for life beyond graduation.	Both profiles acknowledge the importance of life beyond graduation, though the current version references this only indirectly through ethical responsibility. This is a new area of emphasis in the community input, highlighting planning for postsecondary goals, readiness for work or college, and practical skills like financial and digital literacy — not explicitly present in the current profile.
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Conclusion

The community confirmed many of the values OKCPS already holds – like strong academics, communication, resilience, and ethics – but they also emphasized real-world readiness, practical skills, and personal responsibility. Their feedback included more lived experience, prioritizing traits like perseverance, attendance, teamwork, and planning for life after high school.

While our current Profile of a Graduate uses aspirational and polished language, the community-informed version brings in more concrete and relatable language. It is built around who our graduates become, not just what they know. Incorporating this feedback could result in a more current, relevant, and community-rooted Profile of a Graduate.

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