

Ephrata Area School District

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Ephrata Area School District Progresses Life Ready Graduate Project

The world students will experience is changing at a rapid rate. Gone are the days of factory-style education and a one-size-fits-all instructional model. The Ephrata Area School District aims to meet this need with its *Life Ready Graduate* project that will help students develop a variety of knowledge, skills, and dispositions beyond the state standards.

“High stakes tests on a narrow set of criteria are not the best set of predictors for success in life,” stated Dr. Brian Troop, District Superintendent. The *Life Ready Graduate* profile collectively embodies a more comprehensive look at what students will need for the world they will encounter after graduation.

The District began work on the *Life Ready Graduate* concept in the spring of 2016. The School Board soon endorsed the project, and refinement of the concept continued. District leaders sought feedback from alumni on how prepared they were for life after high school and community members on the types of qualities most desired when hiring new employees. District staff are now working to align curriculum – elementary through high school – to the components of the *Life Ready Graduate*.

Ephrata Area School District leaders used three driving pillars to build the *Life Ready Graduate* for the District: Knowledge, Skills, and Dispositions.

- KNOWLEDGE - Content Mastery; Healthy Living, Wellness, and Self-Awareness; Civics, Leadership, and Service; and Digital Literacy and Technological Proficiency
- SKILLS - Communication; Critical Thinking and Problem Solving, Creativity and Innovation; and Collaboration and Teamwork
- DISPOSITIONS - Honesty, Integrity, and Responsibility; Adaptability; Continual Learning and a Growth Mindset; and Resilience and Grit

District leaders collaborated with staff and districts across the United States, incorporated alumni and community feedback, and referenced research from national education organizations to further define, justify, and describe each Knowledge, Skill, and Disposition.

“Aiming for higher targets does not mean the required state standards are ignored, but it represents the important foundational elements of all learners’ education. To truly provide learners with an education that sets them on a path to reach their full potential in life, we must also focus on the skills and dispositions that lead to a successful future,” concluded Dr. Troop.

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For additional information, please contact:

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