



TONAWANDA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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SARAH INFANTE
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT FOR CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

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Dear Families,

As part of our ongoing commitment to preparing all students for success beyond school, we're excited to share information about an important statewide initiative: the **New York State Portrait of a Graduate**.

Developed by the New York State Education Department (NYSED), the **Portrait of a Graduate** outlines a set of key skills and attributes that students should develop during their educational journey—from early learning through high school graduation. These competencies are designed to help students thrive not only academically, but also socially, emotionally, and professionally in a rapidly changing world.

The **Portrait of a Graduate** includes the following essential attributes:

- **Critical Thinking**
- **Creativity & Innovation**
- **Collaboration**
- **Communication**
- **Cultural & Social Awareness**
- **Lifelong Learning**
- **Academic Knowledge & Skills**

We are still waiting for the official piece of guidance from the Board of Regents that is projected to be released in Summer 2027 to support our implementation. It is expected to outline the updated requirements for graduation according to the NYS Implementation Plan - NY Inspires. This will directly impact our students in the 2029 cohort, meaning students entering grade 9 in the 2029-2030 school year. All of the guidance from New York State can be found here: <https://www.nysed.gov/grad-measures/nys-blue-ribbon-commission-graduation-measures>

Thank you for your continued partnership and support. We will keep you updated as we receive information from New York State

Respectfully,

Mrs. Sarah Infante