



Memorandum

To: Mrs. Rebecca Smith, Chair, Board of Trustees
Dr. Shon Hocker, Superintendent
From: Dr. Mike Nelson, Director of Assessments and System Performance
Cc: Mrs. Libbi Barrett and Patty Morrison, Assistant Superintendents
Date: January 6, 2022
Re: Response to Presentation - Common Assessments

During the January 3, 2022 presentation to the Board on "Portrait of a Graduate" progress, trustees asked a few questions about our future pursuits around common assessments and digital badging as included in the Board-approved [Comprehensive Assessment Framework](#). Below is a summary questions and current responses:

Q: What other districts are using performance assessments?

A: There are multiple states and school districts that have supplemented their assessment programs with performance assessments. In fact, including [performance assessments has been a recommendation](#) from the Council of Chief States Officers since the reauthorization of the Every Student Succeeds (formerly No Child Left Behind) Act.

Currently, the states of [Colorado](#), [Oregon](#), and [New Hampshire](#), in part, have included these options within their assessment practices. And, while not as popular in Idaho, numerous larger districts have implemented these assessments as an option or as a component.

One of the future benefits of "P.E.A.K. Projects" (working name) would be the development of a digital portfolio which would be viewable by teachers, support staff, students, and parents. This is again modeled [after Colorado's work](#). Their site has some examples that could be developed within our district with currently used software and made available after graduation.

Q: Tell me more about digital badging.



A: A digital badge is a representation of a skill, learning achievement, or experience. Each digital badge that we design would have its own distinctive image and recognition criteria. This criterion provides information about what the badge represents and the evidence used to support awarding. For example, once a student meets the criteria set in our "creativity" domain of the Portrait of a Graduate, a digital badge could be added to nearly any report.

Our students currently complete a lot of tasks over-and-above graduation requirements such as completing industry-recognized certifications and meeting "college and career ready" benchmarks on College Board assessments. Digital badging would allow us to better reflect their skills in a visible format.

As an example, [Houston Independent School District](#) provides digital badging to **students and staff** as a way to reward their continued growth and development in their district. Additionally, [Onslow County \(NC\)](#) has a detailed site which explains their offerings.

Please let me know if you have any additional considerations or questions.