

The Portrait of A Graduate: Advancing Our Vision

Graphic by Alexandra Lekas, SHS Class of 2018



Submitted by Amy Clouter
Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum,
Instruction & Assessment
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Overview

As you know, [the final version of the Portrait of a Graduate](#) was adopted by the School Committee in December 2017. This recognition formalized a year's worth of work by a group of Shrewsbury educators and parents representing various professions and work sectors as well as the contributions of district leaders. Essentially, these stakeholders joined together to recommend the skills, knowledge, and dispositions Shrewsbury students should attain and develop during their years in our schools. Importantly, this vision fueled our strategic priorities as well as district goals. Yet this important work started outside the district, when our educators first connected with a learning network called EdLeader 21.

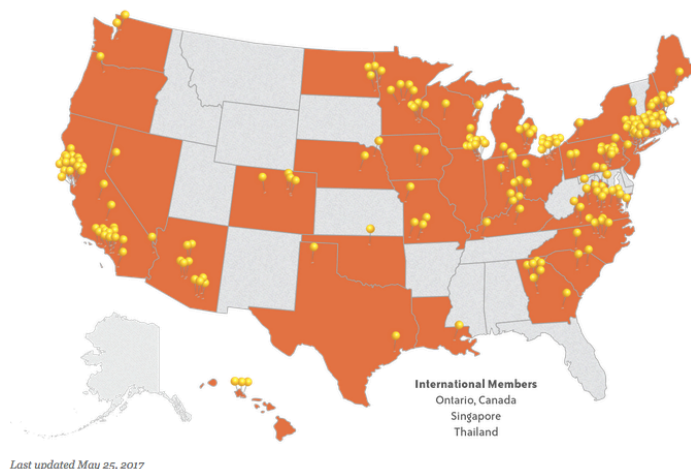
Additional Information

[EdLeader21](#) is a national network, a think tank for school and district leaders organized around integrating critical thinking, communication, collaboration and creativity (the 4Cs) into instruction. As we worked to support 21st century teaching and learning in our schools, we sought resources to support the work. Accordingly, educators from Shrewsbury began attending the EdLeader21 national conference in 2015. In the time since, two different teams of district leaders have presented at the conference. Most recently, the Curriculum Coordinators at the Middle level led a workshop entitled, Tuning Protocols: Moving innovative ideas from good to GREAT using teacher-to-teacher critique. The [tuning protocol](#) was originally developed by Coalition of Essential School's Exhibitions Project by Joseph

McDonald and David Allen. In Shrewsbury, teacher teams use it to improve lessons and even units of study.

EdLeader21 Members

190 MEMBERS IN 32 STATES



Peter Senge, an American systems scientist and senior lecturer at the MIT Sloan School of Management writes often about the importance of vision to action. He said, “You cannot force commitment, what you can do...You nudge a little here, inspire a little there, and provide a role model. Your primary influence is the environment you create.” Shrewsbury’s participation in the EdLeader21

network has certainly inspired district leaders in our classrooms and in our schools. Our relationship with this organization continues to shape teaching and learning in Shrewsbury. For example, EdLeader21 offers free [toolkits](#) to districts looking to revise curriculum to include more opportunities for deeper learning. Just as important, as a result of our investments, Shrewsbury is recognized by the organization as a leader. Our *Portrait of A Graduate* was displayed prominently at the 2018 conference and continues to be featured as an [exemplar](#) on their website.

In our presentation we look forward to detailing the ways in which our experiences with the network influence our future plans.

