

Portfolios

Presentation Audio Transcript

Slide 1: Portfolios have long been used with students in Vermont. We've come to understand that student learning portfolios have a tremendous potential for all students to demonstrate and reflect upon their learning in a way that is genuine and authentic. Portfolios can be used at a number of levels. They can be for a course, a content area, a grade span, or a whole career. The best portfolios are not only reflections and demonstrations of learning but also celebrations.

Slide 2: In a way, portfolios are the mirror image of Personalized Learning Plans, and indeed the two are best used together.

Slide 3: The cycle of portfolio work occurs within each year, as well as over the course of years. To be meaningful, portfolio work must be a regular part of students' routine. A great portfolio depends on gathering and reflection over time. To wait until the end of a learning period and then try to gather materials is a poor way to carry out a portfolio.

Slide 4: The most important aspect of a good portfolio is that it keep its "eyes on the prize." Meaning, the evidence and reflections need to be directly aligned with the goals laid out in the beginning. Portfolios are essentially tales of a journey, with the goals being the destination. The portfolio can address how you reached the goal, or if you did not, why not? Reflecting honestly and thoughtfully on learning is more important than showing brilliant pieces of work.

Slide 5: A portfolio is a great tool in a personalized, proficiency-based system because it is the perfect balance of guidance and freedom. Nearly every decision around the portfolio is up to the student, but the goals (also set by the student, in conversation with advisors) are clear and actionable, and hold the student accountable. The portfolio also has an intuitive strength. It *makes sense* that a student should gather their best work and reflect on it at key points in their learning. For stakeholders, parents, or community members, portfolios make sense.

Slide 6: Thank you for watching. The resources and activities on this page will help you explore further aspects of portfolios. If you have any questions or want to share



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additional resources you think might help others, please contact the Center for Collaborative Education at vtclg@ccebos.org.



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