



# PRESS RELEASE

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## **Agua Fria Union High School District Introduces the “Portrait of a Graduate”**

With the 2023/24 school year in full swing, the Agua Fria High School District is thrilled to unveil “Portrait of a Graduate,” an initiative designed to redefine the education experience and equip students with the skills and mindset needed for the rapidly evolving workforce. This initiative sets a new standard within the Agua Fria High School District’s education experience, emphasizing the professional skills of Collaboration, Communication, Critical Thinking, Integrity, and Responsibility.

At an earlier governing board meeting, Curriculum Specialist Micaella Butterfield and the Agua Fria Union High School District team proposed the Portrait of a Graduate model, designed by Daniel Tambunan, a then Canyon View High School senior. As this idea was in the making, Micaella Butterfield explained how the process would go by saying, “Kids have been involved at every stage along the way. So we began planning in earnest last school year, and that’s when we started to survey staff, parents, and students to determine what professional skills they find most valuable.”

The professional skills developed collaboratively by community stakeholders, staff, parents, and students, represent a collective commitment to preparing students for a dynamic future. The portrait also contains “I Can” statements outlining concrete examples of these skills in school and the workforce.

In addition to proposing the initiative to the governing board, a team of students was put in place to lead a student lead campaign stemming from the district's Strategic Plan. “Our job is to create real-life opportunities for students, so by incorporating a student lead campaign, we open the door for students to get involved at the next level,” exclaimed Megan Griego, Senior Officer of Communications and Strategic Alliances.

The Portrait of a Graduate will be introduced to students through hands-on lessons and activities. The community is invited to join the transformative journey via social media channels. To learn more about “Portrait of a Graduate,” visit [aguafria.org/pog](http://aguafria.org/pog) or contact Micaella Butterfield at [mbutterfeild@aguafria.org](mailto:mbutterfeild@aguafria.org).

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*Agua Fria Union High School District was established in 1955. Today, the district serves the communities of Avondale, Buckeye, Goodyear, Litchfield Park, Waddell and part of Glendale with its six high schools: Agua Fria, Canyon View, Desert Edge, Millennium, Verrado and Agua Fria Online. Plus the District offers two alternative programs: Coldwater Academy and New Directions. More information can be found at [aguafria.org](http://aguafria.org)*