

February 15, 2023

Dear Community Members,

We are proud that the 2022 Benton Community Schools graduation rate increased to 92.91% (increased 8% over the past two years). Our students had to meet all of the rigorous Indiana curricular requirements to graduate. We have recently begun to challenge our beliefs that this is not enough. The world is ever-changing and the needs of graduates today vary greatly from those twenty years ago. Our goal has shifted to graduating students who are not only knowledgeable and adept in a variety of subjects, but who also have the ability to thrive in and contribute to the evolving world.

To make sure our students are prepared for whatever lies ahead, we are undertaking the task of developing a BCSC Graduate profile. The profile becomes a promise to our students, parents, and community that when a BCSC senior walks across our stage to receive a diploma, he or she is ready for the world. Developing this is not a task we choose to take on alone. Instead, we wish to co-design the profile with our school stakeholders. Together we will choose five to eight 21st Century competencies we all believe provide our students with the knowledge, skills, and dispositions graduates will need to flourish as they move on from their K-12 experience to enlistment, enrollment and/or employment.

We are reaching out to you today to ask you to be a part of the BCSC Graduate Profile Team. As a contributing team member you will actively participate in the discussion and selection of the competencies we will embed in the education of our K-12 students. The journey to graduation begins in kindergarten. Following the development of the profile, our administrator will lead our staff through the arduous process of selecting grade level exemplars. An exemplar is a model of the knowledge, skills and dispositions a student should become proficient with in a particular grade, thus ensuring they meet the developmentally appropriate expectations of each competency as they advance toward graduation. It is our goal to implement the BCSC Graduate Profile at the start of the 2023-2024 school year.

It is our hope you will accept our invitation to be a part of this co-design process. We currently have a [stakeholder survey](#) that we are asking as many of our stakeholders as possible to complete. We ask that you complete the survey. The BCSC Graduate Profile Team will meet on Tuesday, March 14, 2023, at Benton Central High School from 5:30-8:30 pm. The team will review stakeholder survey results and narrow down the competencies to our top five to eight.

Please consider becoming a part of this team and the exciting growth emerging at Benton Community Schools. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to reach me at [aspitznagle@benton.k12.in.us](mailto:aspitznagle@benton.k12.in.us). We look forward to working with you on this very important initiative!

Sincerely,

Abbie Spitznagle