

I am an Alliance College-Ready Scholar. I am a ...



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Element	Description	Rationale
Resilient Learner	I believe in my potential, trusting that through reflection, feedback, and practice, I will improve. I have a vision for my future. I set goals for myself and can sustain the focus I need to reach them. I overcome obstacles through persistence and creativity.	The Alliance community strongly concurs with the growing consensus among educators and researchers that <i>growth mindset</i> (Dweck) and <i>social-emotional learning</i> (SEL) are vital aspects of scholar success. This competency blends two components of SEL: self-awareness and self-management (CASEL). Alliance parents felt particularly strongly about the importance of self-management (organization, time management, goal-setting, etc.). Alumni stressed the importance of self-awareness.
Scholarly Thinker	I read, listen, and observe as I seek to build my knowledge. I break problems into parts that can be named, studied, and understood. I consider all ideas, drawing conclusions based on the review of data and the weighing of evidence.	“Critical thinking” was named in 100% of individual school expected student learning outcomes. It also surfaced in the majority of brainstorm sessions. “Scholarly” found favor as a way to stamp Alliance identity, avoid cliché, and encompass the learning of college preparatory academic content in addition to cognitive skills. Much of Common Core is addressed through this element—both the mathematical practices and the overarching ELA principle to support claims with evidence.
Community Advocate	I am a valuable member of many communities—local and global—and I stand up to make them stronger. I know who I am and take pride in my own cultural and personal identity, empowering me to advocate for myself and others. I expand my boundaries, which means taking risks and celebrating differences.	“Social awareness” is one of the key SEL skills identified by CASEL. For the Alliance community, however, awareness is not enough; scholars must have the skills to translate it into action. <i>Advocacy</i> was the second most-cited word on profile prototypes; <i>citizenship</i> , <i>community</i> , and <i>cultural competence</i> were related concepts that showed up often. Alliance alums observe that college tends to be more diverse than the schools and communities they come from; navigating that diversity requires a sense of self-identity and self-worth.
Wellness Seeker	I take care of my emotional, physical, and social well-being. I make healthy choices. I manage stress. I know how to seek help when I need it.	Alliance counselors and alumni were unanimous on this: scholars’ mental and physical health is vital for future success. Parents agree. Once the competency showed up in an early draft of the profile, no one was willing to see it go, no matter the challenges of implementation.
Powerful Communicator	I share my point of view in a way that compels attention and ensures understanding. My writing is well-crafted and persuasive. I speak with skill and confidence. I listen carefully to others and can synthesize ideas. I contribute constructively to the team.	Communication was the single most cited skill in Alliance focus groups, named in 82% of profile prototypes. Common Core’s emphasis on writing, speaking, and listening supports this. So do employers, who <u>seek new hires who can communicate</u> and <u>work in teams</u> . CASEL buckets communication and teamwork into “Relationship Skills.” Similarly, the Alliance community felt that listening and collaborating is part of what it means to be a powerful communicator.