

# Some Background on the Portfolio-Defense System

Portfolio-defense is based on a tested model developed by Envision Education, in collaboration with education researchers at Stanford University.

Schools that have designed and implemented some version of a portfolio-defense system benefit from transformative changes to school culture, student identity, and organizational awareness. Among the benefits, a portfolio-defense system can . . .

- ensure that a school focuses on what it most values
- provide clear targets for a school in developing the vital life success skills that transcend particular academic disciplines
- allow students to make sense and tell the story of their education, seeing it not as a collection of credits but as a multi-year project toward a unified end
- culminate the hard work of learning with a commensurately powerful rite of passage, much deeper and more substantive than what graduation ceremonies provide
- increase parental and community involvement in a school
- promote teacher collaboration
- help a school community to self-assess and to reflect on its progress toward its goals
- embody a school's mission in actual student performances