# SUMMIT LEARNING INSIDER

**This week we're diving into your student's classroom experience. Learn more about the real-world projects that students work on throughout the year, the goals of project-based learning and the role of the teacher.**

## Student Experience

### What does project-based learning entail?

We all know that for students, one of the best things about school is engaging in **projects** that help you explore your passions and interests, and enable you to apply content you've learned to real-world scenarios. The good news is that this is exactly how Summit Learning students spend the majority of their time. With over 200 rigorous projects, **students develop cognitive skills** necessary to be successful in college and beyond. Skills like critical thinking, problem-solving and decision-making.

During Project Time, teachers are able to use their expertise in their given subject area to help students understand complex, real-world problems and support them in creatively thinking about how to engage. Teachers facilitate discussions in the classroom, coach students in applying their cognitive skills, and give students feedback.

## Getting Involved

Do you want to see project-based learning first hand and explore the projects your student will work on? You and your students will have to access every project, online, via the **Summit Learning Platform**.

The platform provides full access to parents. You can see your student's project, the purpose of it, and how it will be assessed. Perhaps you can ask your student about:

- A project they're working on?
- The score they think they'll get and why?

## The Community

Summit Learning schools across the nation are celebrating successes. For example, Pasadena Independent School District was initially drawn to Summit Learning as a way to motivate its students to achieve at higher levels. It worked! Now, students in the Summit Learning environment are **outperforming** the rest of the district and developing Habits of Success for life in and outside of the classroom.

## FAQs

**Q: What does my child's teacher do in class?**
**A:** Teachers are the driving force behind the Summit Learning experience. Teachers spend most of their time leading projects, supporting students as they make their way through content, or mentoring students with targeted feedback to help achieve their personal goals.
**Q: How do projects help my student?**
**A:** Projects help students learn cognitive skills through daily practice working in groups, making decisions and solving real-world issues.

## In The News

**How a California Public School Embraced Change With Summit Learning**

**Tulsa Schools Reflect On The Summit Learning Program**

# The Science of Summit

## Part Two: The Importance of Cognitive Skills

Each Installment of the *Summit Learning Insider* dives into the science behind Summit Learning and this week focuses on **Cognitive Skills**.

**What the research says about Cognitive Skills:**
Cognitive Skills such as creativity, critical thinking and collaboration are skills essential for success in college and career. Supported by the most prominent national and international educational models that have been published over the past ten years, cognitive skills are required for college and career readiness. Both State Standards and the Next Generation Science Standards emphasize the teaching and learning of Cognitive Skills.

**What it looks like in the classroom:** Students work towards developing the 36 Cognitive Skills that are necessary for college and career readiness. They develop Cognitive Skills in every subject and grade level across multiple contexts, progressing along a continuum appropriate for their level of development and growth. Read more here.

Summit Learning

### Cognitive Skills Rubric

The Summit Learning Cognitive Skills Rubric is an assessment and instruction tool that outlines the continuum of 36 interdisciplinary, higher-order thinking skills that are necessary for college and career readiness.

Through Summit Learning, students practice and develop cognitive skills in every subject and in every grade level. For each cognitive skill, students must score a six on a 0-8 point scale to demonstrate college and career readiness. Students progress along a continuum demonstrating competency in a skill as appropriate for their level of development and growth. We prioritize the development of cognitive skills; a student's score on the Cognitive Skills Rubric contributes more to a student's grade than does any other outcome measure.


SCALE

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