

## Responding to Common Misconceptions

Misconception	Quotes	Key Points
<p><b>Teachers are no longer teaching.</b></p>	<p>“Teachers don’t interact with students.”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In class, teachers teach projects that give their students hands-on experience with the real-world scenarios they will encounter after graduation - like collaborating with a team, interpreting data, and presenting a persuasive argument. All projects end with a final product that students complete and teachers grade. Examples include oral presentations, writing pieces or structured discussions/debates.</li> <li>• Teachers are experts not only in their subject-areas, but also in the cognitive skills students apply in their projects. They then ensure that students have the right support and scaffolds to meet or exceed our grade-level expectations.</li> <li>• Teachers also teach students how to use the Self-directed Learning Cycle in their daily lives. They help students through the different steps of the cycle - for example, setting a goal and making a plan - and how to use the cycle in different parts of their school work.</li> <li>• In their role as mentors, teachers are the point-people for students and their families. They build a connection with their students’ families, keeping them updated on their child’s progress and school experience.</li> </ul>
	<p>“Students are teaching themselves.”</p>	
	<p>“Students are being taught by a computer.”</p>	
<p><b>Students are on the computer at all times.</b></p>	<p>“This much screen time is bad for students.”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In class, students are working on projects with their classmates and teachers. Projects give students hands-on experience with the real-world scenarios they will encounter after graduation - like collaborating with a team, interpreting data, and presenting a persuasive argument.</li> <li>• What teachers and students do in class is supported by an online tool called the Summit Learning Platform. It supports students through the different steps of their projects, and it is where students submit their school work. It is also where students take tests and are</li> </ul>
	<p>“This is just online learning.”</p>	
	<p>“Students won’t get any opportunities for collaboration and social interaction.”</p>	

		<p>able to access a variety of materials to help them learn the content of their courses. Students also use the Summit Learning Platform to set goals with their mentor and other teachers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Good practice is to have students only have their laptops, and therefore the Platform, open when they are using them for a specific purpose. When laptops are not necessary, they are closed.</li> </ul>
<p><b>The Summit Learning Program isn't rigorous enough.</b></p>	<p>"Students don't learn to put forth their best effort since they can re-take assessments."</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Content assessments are just one way to measure student progress. Students are assessed on their mastery of content knowledge through the content assessments, as well as their development of cognitive skills through projects. In fact, demonstrating competency in these skills—like analysis, presentation, and writing—comprises a greater share (70%) of a student's grade than content knowledge.</li> <li>• Content assessments are designed to assess the content knowledge necessary for cognitive skill development.</li> <li>• Also, cognitive skills extend all the way to college- and career-readiness, providing opportunities for students to set goals beyond their own grade level, if they are ready to do so.</li> <li>• Students are permitted to retake content assessments so that they can learn from their mistakes and teachers can provide support. The goal is for students to learn the material and apply it to projects—even if it takes more time to do so. This encourages students to persist in challenging learning, regardless of their starting point. This is what academic rigor is all about.</li> </ul>
	<p>"Content assessments are just multiple choice quizzes that don't challenge students."</p>	
	<p>"They don't even assign any homework! How is my child supposed to learn to work hard?"</p>	
	<p>"My son/daughter already knows this material."</p>	
<p><b>The Summit Learning Base Curriculum doesn't align to our local needs.</b></p>	<p>"This doesn't align to my state's standards."</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Summit Learning provides a Base Curriculum that is a collection of projects, concept units, and learning resources for grades 4 through 12.</li> <li>• The Base Curriculum was built by educators and is aligned to Common Core State Standards and Next Generation Science Standards.</li> <li>• The Base Curriculum is purposely designed to be fully customizable; schools/districts/CMOs have the power to align the curriculum to their local standards, and they are encouraged to do so. They are also encourage to add curricula for additional courses that are specific to the local context.</li> </ul>

	<p>“The curriculum in certain courses is pushing a particular political agenda.”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Base Curriculum is intentionally designed to focus on the development of students’ cognitive skills, such as how to interpret data, present a persuasive argument and collaborate on a team. For example, several projects provide opportunities for students to use reasoning and critical thinking to develop informed ideas. Any opinions that manifest in students’ work arise from the students’ analysis, not from the curriculum itself.</li> <li>• Projects also give students the opportunity to experience the real-world scenarios they’ll encounter after graduation, igniting new passions and interests in students.</li> </ul>
<p><b>The Summit Learning Platform doesn’t protect my student’s privacy.</b></p>	<p>“I don’t want my child’s personal or academic information available online.”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our school and the Summit Learning Program have strict protocols in place to protect student data contained in the Summit Learning Platform, just like any other student records.</li> <li>• Students’ personal information is used only for educational purposes -- to support schools in their mission to help students succeed.</li> <li>• Summit will never sell any student information or that of any user, and does not profit from schools, teachers and students.</li> <li>• Schools, teachers, and/or students own and control the personal information that lives in the Platform. Your school can request to have it corrected or deleted at any time.</li> <li>• Summit goes above and beyond legal compliance. For example, Summit voluntarily complies with safeguards established in the Children’s Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA).</li> <li>• Summit is committed to continuously improving its policies and practices and does so in partnership with schools, families and industry experts.</li> </ul>
	<p>“How can I be sure that my child’s information won’t be misused, sold, or shared for non-educational purposes?”</p>	
<p><b>The Summit Learning Program is too challenging for my child.</b></p>	<p>“There’s just too much work! My child can’t get it done.”</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Summit Learning is intentionally designed to be challenging. But, students develop mastery of cognitive skills and content at their own pace, with the supports they need (i.e from the their teachers, mentors and/or classmates).</li> <li>• Summit Learning allows flexibility, and students aren’t confined to set timelines. Students are permitted to retake content assessments so that they can learn from their mistakes and teachers can provide support. The goal is for students to learn the material and apply it to</li> </ul>

	<p>“My child needs help from a teacher to learn.”</p>	<p>projects—even if it takes more time to do so. This encourages students to persist in challenging learning, regardless of their starting point. This is what academic rigor is all about.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Summit Learning provides opportunities for personalized supports (like small group workshops and individual interventions) that make rigorous learning accessible for all students.</li> <li>• Summit Learning schools are obligated to fully implement IEPs and meet all federal and local requirements for English Learners, just like any other public school.</li> </ul>
	<p>“Summit Learning doesn’t account for my student’s IEP or EL status.”</p>	