

## Skills Communication in Focus

# Insights from Higher Ed Leaders

While nearly all institutions still rely on transcripts, many are now exploring new ways to help students stand out and better communicate their skills in an evolving workforce.

We recently surveyed 171 administrators across 164 institutions to uncover how priorities are shifting, where gaps remain, and why Comprehensive Learner Records (CLRs) are emerging as a future-ready solution for skills communication.

### Transcripts Still Dominate, but for How Long?



**98%**

98% of institutions rely on academic transcripts to communicate student achievement.



**+50%**

But, over 50% are actively exploring new tools that better showcase skills — including CLRs.

### CLRs Are Still Growing, But Gaining Ground

While 4% of institutions currently use CLRs, 11% are planning to adopt them. That's a signal: schools are ready for a smarter, skills-based alternative.



Don't wait for the tipping point — start small and scale with a phased CLR strategy.



### Certificates and Employer Partnerships Lead the Way



**25%**

25% of schools are expanding certificate programs



**23%**

23% are boosting employer partnerships — fueling momentum toward more targeted, workforce-aligned learning.

### Traditional Tools Only Go So Far

**70%**

Roughly 70% of administrators say current tools are effective, yet most still want to do more. The gap signals a need for modern, flexible solutions like CLRs.



### Skills Communication Is a Growing Priority

57% of registrars and 63% of non-registrars call skills communication a “high” or “very high” priority. As a result, institutions are rethinking how they prepare students for real-world success.



### School Goals Are Expanding Beyond Retention

Retention still ranks #1 (~60%), but priorities like post-graduation employment and skills visibility are rising fast. This is driven by learner and employer expectations.



### Partnerships Help Bridge the Skills Gap

69% of non-registrars and 55% of registrars say their institutions partner with employers to align programs with job-ready skills. CLRs make those partnerships visible on the student record.



### Modern Credential Strategies Tend to Go Hand-in-Hand

Schools investing in certificates often explore badges and CLRs as well. This suggests a shift toward integrated, stackable credentials that tell the full student story.



## Bridge the Classroom to Career Gap With CLRs

Today's students need more than a transcript to stand out. Employers want to see what learners can do — not just what they studied. While many institutions are still exploring how to meet this demand, CLRs offer a smart, scalable way to lead the charge. They connect coursework to competencies, certificates to skills, and learning to life after graduation.

Explore how Parchment CLR Services can help your learners better communicate their skills to employers.

[Learn more](#)