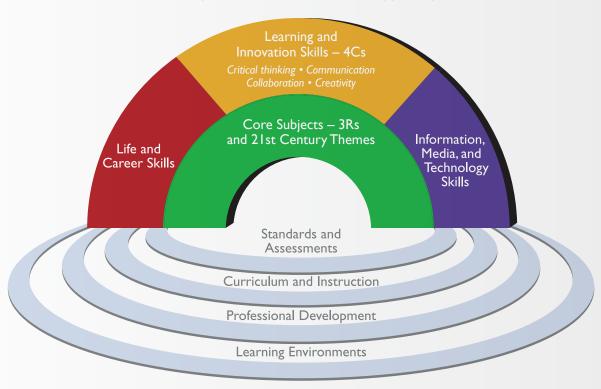# Framework for 21st Century Learning

The Partnership for 21st Century Skills has developed a vision for student success in the new global economy.

21st Century Student Outcomes and Support Systems

21ST CENTURY STUDENT OUTCOMES

To help practitioners integrate skills into the teaching of core academic subjects, the Partnership has developed a unified, collective vision for learning known as the Framework for 21st Century Learning. This Framework describes the skills, knowledge and expertise students must master to succeed in work and life; it is a blend of content knowledge, specific skills, expertise and literacies.

Every 21st century skills implementation requires the development of core academic subject knowledge and understanding among all students. Those who can think critically and communicate effectively must build on a base of core academic subject knowledge.

Within the context of core knowledge instruction, **students must also learn the essential skills for success in today's world, such as critical thinking, problem solving, communication and collaboration.**

When a school or district builds on this foundation, combining the entire Framework with the necessary support systems—standards, assessments, curriculum and instruction, professional development and learning environments—students are more engaged in the learning process and graduate better prepared to thrive in today's global economy.

Core Subjects and 21st Century Themes

Mastery of **core subjects and 21st century themes** is essential to student success. Core subjects include English, reading or language arts, world languages, arts, mathematics, economics, science, geography, history, government and civics.

In addition, schools must promote an understanding of academic content at much higher levels by weaving **21st century interdisciplinary themes** into core subjects:

- **Global Awareness**
- **Financial, Economic, Business and Entrepreneurial Literacy**
- **Civic Literacy**
- **Health Literacy**
- **Environmental Literacy**

Learning and Innovation Skills

Learning and innovation skills are what separate students who are prepared for increasingly complex life and work environments in today's world and those who are not. They include:

- **Creativity and Innovation**
- **Critical Thinking and Problem Solving**
- **Communication and Collaboration**

Information, Media and Technology Skills

Today, we live in a technology and media-driven environment, marked by access to an abundance of information, rapid changes in technology tools and the ability to collaborate and make individual contributions on an unprecedented scale. Effective citizens and workers must be able to exhibit a range of functional and critical thinking skills, such as:

- **Information Literacy**
- **Media Literacy**
- **ICT (Information, Communications and Technology) Literacy**

Life and Career Skills

Today's life and work environments require far more than thinking skills and content knowledge. The ability to navigate the complex life and work environments in the globally competitive information age requires students to pay rigorous attention to developing adequate life and career skills, such as:

- **Flexibility and Adaptability**
- **Initiative and Self-Direction**
- **Social and Cross-Cultural Skills**
- **Productivity and Accountability**
- **Leadership and Responsibility**

21ST CENTURY SUPPORT SYSTEMS

Developing a comprehensive framework for 21st century learning requires more than identifying specific skills, content knowledge, expertise and literacies. An innovative support system must be created to help students master the multi-dimensional abilities that will be required of them. The Partnership has identified five critical support systems to ensure student mastery of 21st century skills:

- **21st Century Standards**
- **Assessments of 21st Century Skills**
- **21st Century Curriculum and Instruction**
- **21st Century Professional Development**
- **21st Century Learning Environments**

For more information, visit the Partnership's website at www.P21.org.

PARTNERSHIP FOR
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REVIEW OF 21ST CENTURY SKILLS FRAMEWORKS

BIE Interactive Table of 21st Century Skills
(scroll over text to view sub-links)

Skill Domain	Skill Sub-Components	General 21st Century Digital Age Literacy			Workforce Readiness	Ed Tech	College Readiness	Adult Literacy	Cognitive Science
		Framework for 21st Century Learning (P21)	EnGauge 21st Century Skills (NCREL / Metiri Group)	The Seven C's (WestED / Trilling & Hood)	SCANS Framework (U.S. Department of Labor)	National Educational Technology Standards (ISTE)	Comprehensive Definition of College Readiness (EPIC)	EFF Content Standards for Adult Literacy (Equipped for the Future)	16 Habits of Mind (Costa & Kallick)
ICT Literacy	Information Media Literacy	2	2		4	1	3	3	
	Technological Literacy	1	2	1	3	1		1	
Cognitive Skills	Critical Thinking Problem-Solving Skills	1	2	1	3	1	3	2	2
	Creative Thinking Skills	1	1	1	1	1			2
Inter-Personal Skills	Communication Skills	1	1	1	3	1	1	3	1
	Collaboration Skills	1	1	1	3	1		1	1
	Cross-Cultural Skills	2	2	1	1		1		
	Leadership Skills	1			1			2	
	Social Skills		1		1			1	
Self- & Task Management Skills	Self-Monitoring Self-Direction Skills	1	1	1	1		2	2	3
	Project Management Skills		2		4			1	
Personal Characteristics	Ethics Civic Responsibility	1	2		1	1			
	Accountability (for High Standards)	1			1		1		1
Other	Sub-Components Not Represented Above*	3	5		7		2		5

Exploring Learning Goals for the 21st Century

The following learning goals listings represent the attempts of a variety of thoughtful and successful schools, school networks, educational organizations, and educational policy makers to identify the learning goals and skills that they think are most important for preparing students for success in life, work and post-secondary study. As you look through them, think about which you find most compelling, what may be missing, and which you find most meaningful for your school and why.

Bloom's Taxonomy

- Knowledge
- Comprehension
- Application
- Analysis
- Synthesis Skills
- Evaluation

Deeper Learning Network/ EL Schools

- Mastery of Core Academic Content
- Critical Thinking and Problem Solving
- Collaboration
- Effective Communication
- Self-Directed Learning
- An "Academic Mindset"

Pink: Skills for Whole Brain Thinking

- Design
- Story
- Symphony
- Empathy
- Play

Partnership for 21st Century Skills

- Critical Thinking
- Communication
- Collaboration
- Creativity

Wagner: Seven 21st Century Skills

- Critical Thinking and Problem Solving
- Collaboration and Leadership
- Agility and Adaptability
- Intiative and Entrepreneurship
- Effective Written and Oral Communication
- Assessing and Analyzing Information
- Curiosity and Imagination

The MET Technical School

- Communication
- Empirical Reasoning
- Quantitative Reasoning
- Personal Qualities
- Social Reasoning

NCREL - North Central Regional Education Laboratory

Digital Age Literacy
- Basic, scientific, economic and technological literacy
- Visual literacy and information literacy
- Multicultural literacy and global awareness

Inventive Thinking
- Adaptability and managing complexity
- Self-direction
- Curiosity, creativity, and risk taking
- Higher-order thinking and sound reasoning

Effective Communication
- Teaming, collaboration and interpersonal skills
- Self-direction
- Personal, social, and civic responsibility
- Interactive communication

High Productivity
- Prioritizing, planning and managing for results
- Effective use of real world tools
- Ability to produce relevant, high-quality products

National Association for Independent Schools

- Analytical and Creative Thinking and Problem Solving
- Complex Communication - Oral and Written
- Leadership and Teamwork
- Digital and Quantitative Literacy
- Global Perspective
- Adaptability, Initiative and Risk-Taking
- Integrity and Ethical Decision Making

New Tech Network

- Technology Literacy
- Citizenship and Ethics
- Critical Thinking
- Career Preparation
- Collaboration
- Written Communication
- Oral Communication
- Curricular Literacy

Coalition of Essential Schools - Habits of Mind

- Perspective
- Analysis
- Imagination
- Empathy
- Communication
- Commitment
- Humility
- Joy