

Incorporating 21st Century Skills

21st Century Skills are key to improving our nation's competitiveness in a knowledge-driven, global economy. As more of our economic competitors move to foster 21st Century Skills development within their educational systems, the United States faces a critical challenge to keep pace in preparing our students to meet the demands of the global community and educate tomorrow's workforce. Throughout this experience, please be cognizant of the importance of these skills in each young person's development.

Basic Knowledge / Skills

English Language (spoken)
Reading Comprehension
Writing in English (grammar, spelling, etc)
Mathematics & Science

Government / Economics
Humanities / Arts
Foreign Languages
History / Geography

Applied Skills

Critical Thinking / Problem Solving—Exercise sound reasoning and analytical thinking; use knowledge, facts, and data to solve workplace problems; apply math and science concepts to problem solving.

Oral Communications—Articulate thoughts and ideas clearly and effectively; have public speaking skills.

Written Communications—Write memos, letters and complex technical reports clearly and effectively.

Teamwork / Collaboration—Build collaborative relationships with colleagues and customers; be able to work with diverse teams; negotiate and manage conflicts.

Diversity—Learn from and work collaboratively with individuals representing diverse cultures, races, ages, genders, religions, lifestyles, and viewpoints.

Information Technology Application—Select and use appropriate technology to accomplish a given task; apply computing skills to problem solving.

Leadership—Leverage the strengths of others to achieve common goals; use interpersonal skills to coach and develop others.

Creativity / Innovation—Demonstrate originality and inventiveness in work; communicate new ideas to others; integrate knowledge across different disciplines.

Lifelong Learning / Self-Direction—Be able to continuously acquire new knowledge and skills; monitor one's own learning needs; be able to learn from one's mistakes.

Professionalism / Work Ethic—Demonstrate personal accountability, effective work habits, (e.g., punctuality, working productively with others, and time and workload management).

Ethics / Social Responsibility—Demonstrate integrity and ethical behavior; act responsibly with the interests of the larger community in mind.