

Learning and Innovation Skills

Learning and innovation skills increasingly are being recognized as the skills that separate students who are prepared for increasingly complex life and work environments in the 21st century, and those who are not. A focus on creativity, critical thinking, communication and collaboration is essential to prepare students for the future.

Creativity & Innovation

- * Demonstrating originality and inventiveness in work
- * Developing, implementing and communicating new ideas to others
- * Being open and responsive to new and diverse perspectives
- * Acting on creative ideas to make a tangible and useful contribution to the domain in which the innovation occurs

Critical Thinking & Problem Solving

- * Exercising sound reasoning in understanding
- * Making complex choices and decisions
- * Understanding the interconnections among systems
- * Identifying and asking significant questions that clarify various points of view and lead to better solutions
- * Framing, analyzing and synthesizing information in order to solve problems and answer questions

Communication & Collaboration

- * Articulating thoughts and ideas clearly and effectively through speaking and writing
- * Demonstrating ability to work effectively with diverse teams
- * Exercising flexibility and willingness to be helpful in making necessary compromises to accomplish a common goal
- * Assuming shared responsibility for collaborative work

Source: The Partnership for 21st Century Skills