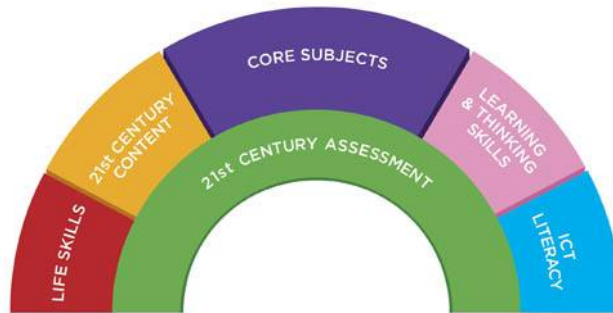


# 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning



Governor Joe Manchin of West Virginia announced the Partnership for 21st Century Skills to provide a powerful statewide vision to ensure every child in West Virginia succeeds as a citizen, worker, and leader in the 21st century.

The Partnership for 21st Century skills is comprised of 26 member organizations:

Adobe Systems Incorporated	Dell Inc.	National Education Association
Agilent Technologies Foundation	ETS	Oracle Corporation
American Association of School Librarians	Ford Motor Company Fund	Pearson Education
American Federation of Teachers	Intel Corporation	SAP
Apple	JA Worldwide	SAS
Bell South Foundation	LeapFrog	Texas Instruments Incorporated
Cable in the Classroom	SchoolHouse	Thomson Gale
Cisco Systems, Inc.	McGraw-Hill Education	Time Warner, Inc.
Corporation for Public Broadcasting	Microsoft Corporation	Verizon

"Our challenge is to provide instruction that is not only relevant, engaging and meaningful, but that also includes the world-class rigor necessary to prepare our students to be competitive in the 21st century workplace. We have focused a great deal on equity in education as part of No Child Left Behind. Along with that, we must focus on ensuring that our children are prepared for tomorrow. We are responsible for producing students that can read and write but these students also must be able to analyze data, solve problems and communicate effectively...West Virginia is committed to helping all students – African Americans, white, economically disadvantaged, non-English speaking, disabled and gifted – learn and succeed in the fiercely competitive global economy. It is time for us to focus on the quality mission and that means embedding 21st century skills into all that we teach."

*West Virginia State Superintendent, Dr. Steven L. Paine*

The Partnership recommends nine steps for integrating 21st century skills:

1. Embrace a powerful vision of public education that includes 21st century skills.
2. Align leadership, management and resources with educational goals.
3. Use this tool to assess where schools are now.
4. Develop priorities for 21st century skills.
5. Develop a professional development plan for 21st century skills.
6. Make sure students have equitable access to 21st century education.
7. Begin developing assessments to measure student progress in 21st century skills.
8. Collaborate with outside partners.
9. Plan collectively and strategically for the future.

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# 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills

[<http://etc.usf.edu/L4L/C-21C.html>]

## Emphasize Core Subjects

The No Child Left Behind Act identifies the following as core subjects: English, reading or language arts, mathematics, science, foreign languages, civics, government, economics, arts, history, and geography. The core subjects provide a foundation for 21st century skills.

## Emphasize Learning Skills

In addition to these core subjects, students need to develop the skills necessary to continue as lifelong learners:

- ☞ information and communication skills
  - ☞ thinking and problem solving skills
  - ☞ interpersonal and self-directional skills
- Digital-Age Literacy**  
Basic, scientific, economic, & technological literacies  
Visual and information literacies  
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  
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

## Use 21st Century Tools to Develop Learning Skills

Students in the 21st century must be proficient the use of 21st century tools including:

- ☞ information and communication technologies
- ☞ computers, networking, and other technologies
- ☞ audio, video, and other media and multimedia tools

## Teach and Learn in a 21st Century Context

Students learn academic content best when teachers create an environment that:

- ☞ makes content relevant to student lives
- ☞ brings the world into the classroom
- ☞ takes students out into the world
- ☞ creates opportunities for students to interact with each other, with teachers, and with other knowledgeable adults in authentic learning experiences

## Teach and Learn 21st Century Content

Educators and business leaders have identified additional content areas essential for student success in the community and in the workplace:

- ☞ global awareness
- ☞ financial, economic, and business literacy
- ☞ civic literacy

## Use 21st Century Assessments That Measure 21st century Skills

- ☞ Standardized tests must measure both core subjects and 21st century skills
- ☞ Standardized tests must be balanced appropriately with classroom assessments to measure the full range of the students' skills
- ☞ Classroom assessments must be integrated with the instructional process to reinforce learning, provide immediate feedback, and help students learn core subjects and 21st century skills.

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