

The Importance of Developing 21st Century Skills

Today's students love technology. But to prepare for tomorrow's success, they need to be able to use technology to develop critical thinking, problem solving, and other 21st century skills. At the same time, new education standards are changing not only the way students learn in the classroom, but also how students' knowledge and skills will be evaluated by Next-Generation Assessments such as PARCC, Smarter Balanced, and ACT Aspire.



Defining 21st Century Skills

We live in a complex society with quick access to information, rapidly changing digital tools, and the ability to collaborate on a global scale. To learn effectively and live productively in the 21st century, it is essential for today's students to develop the following sets of skills:



Creativity and Innovation

brainstorm; develop new ideas; demonstrate creative thinking



Critical Thinking and Problem Solving

plan and conduct research; solve problems; make informed decisions



Communication and Collaboration

listen effectively; articulate thoughts and ideas; work with others



Digital Citizenship

practice safe and ethical online behavior; understand cultural and societal issues related to technology



Research and Information Fluency

gather, evaluate, and use information; select the right information for the task



Technology Operations and Concepts

understand how to use technology systems safely, effectively, and productively

Integrating 21st Century Skills into the Classroom

There are a number of strategies educators can use to incorporate 21st century skills into everyday instruction:

- Utilizing digital tools for research and communication
- Integrating technology into core instruction
- Fostering creativity in the classroom
- Implementing project-based learning
- Encouraging collaboration among students
- Promoting safe online behavior

Digital Learning Solutions for the 21st Century

Learning.com offers digital curriculum and assessments that make it easy to integrate technology into the classroom and help students develop 21st century skills:



Inquiry

Inquiry is a 21st century skills curriculum for grades K–8 that takes a project-based approach to integrating technology into everyday instruction. Inquiry's projects cover concepts in ELA, math, science, and social studies. Teacher guides, lesson plans, and implementation strategies are also included.



EasyTech

EasyTech is a K-8 digital literacy curriculum that provides self-paced, interactive lessons that help students develop mouse, keyboarding, word processing, and other technology skills while they study core subjects. Designed with the busy teacher in mind, EasyTech can be easily integrated in daily classroom routines.



21st Century Skills Assessment

21st Century Skills Assessment provides actionable data that identifies student skill strengths for all 24 performance indicators of the ISTE Standards for Students. Based on individual student results, the assessment can prescribe lessons and projects from EasyTech to differentiate instruction and address skill gaps.



Digital Citizenship App

The Digital Citizenship App provides students with comprehensive instruction on online safety, ethical use of digital resources, and cyberbullying. The app is available on tablet and mobile devices for both iOS and Android. It combines the quality of a subscription-based curriculum with the ease of a student downloaded app and includes the assurance of reporting for E-Rate.



WayFind

WayFind uses performance-based and multiple-choice questions to measure teachers' 21st century instructional skills. It provides reports at the individual teacher, school, and district levels to help districts compare data. WayFind also includes a professional development curriculum for teachers that is aligned to the ISTE Standards for Teachers.

Questions?

For more information or to schedule a demo, please contact us at 877.284.0160 or info@learning.com.