



21st Century Learners: What Works!

Staff and Community Newsletter

Office of Curriculum, Instruction and Professional Development
New Hope-Solebury School District
180 West Bridge Street
New Hope, PA 18938

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“The Partnership for 21st Century Skills” has developed a vision for 21st century student success in the new global economy. This study has significant educational implications.

The New Commission on the Skills of the American Workforce, a bipartisan assembly of education secretaries, business, government and other education leaders released a blueprint for rethinking American education from pre-K to 12 and beyond to better prepare students to thrive in the global economy. There was remarkable consensus among these educators, business and policy leaders on one key conclusion. **We need to bring what we teach and how we teach into the 21st century.** The New Hope-Solebury School District is in alignment with these recommendations.

Today’s global economy and competition demands not only a high-level competence in the traditional academic disciplines, but also what might be called **21st century skills**. They include the following:

1. **Knowing more about the world.** America’s youth are global citizens now. Educators and CEO’s speak of needing a workforce who are global trade literate, sensitive to foreign cultures, and conversant in different languages.

Key Educational Goals:

- √ Understand the value of interdisciplinary themes and connections.
- √ Promote global awareness.
- √ Understand financial, economic, business and entrepreneurial literacy.
- √ Develop civic literacy.
- √ Develop and internalize health literacy.

2. **Thinking outside the box.** The new economy puts an enormous premium on creative and innovative skills, seeing patterns where other people see only chaos. America’s youth need to think across disciplines, since that is how most new breakthroughs and innovations occur.

Key Educational Goals:

- √ Need to become effective and self-reliant lifelong learners.
- √ Integrate critical thinking skills that are taught, practiced, and mastered.
- √ Facilitate analytical thinking skills.
- √ Foster creative and spontaneous capacity building in each student.

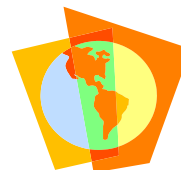


Summary Of Study

“The Partnership for 21st Century Skills” has released an updated version of its 21st Century framework which encapsulates the outcomes and support systems needed to prepare students for 21st century life.

While the framework’s primary focus is forward-looking in identifying the learning needs of the future, it may be less apparent that the framework is bolstered by time-honored learning practice and theory, as well as more recent research on the modern workplace.

By tracing the interplay between societal demand and educational response, as well as the implications of advances in learning science and learning technology, this study aims to make visible the theory, research and policy antecedents that support the 21st Century Skills Framework.



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3. **Becoming smarter about new sources of information.** In an age of multiple means of gathering information, students need to rapidly process and distinguish between what is reliable and what is not and to use technology as a significant learning tool. The immediacy of information provides new knowledge independent of instruction.

Key Educational Goals:

- √ Need to develop media literacy.
- √ Need to learn information communication and technology (ICT) literacy by mastering new technologies to enhance their education and personal life.
- √ Need to utilize new knowledge effectively.

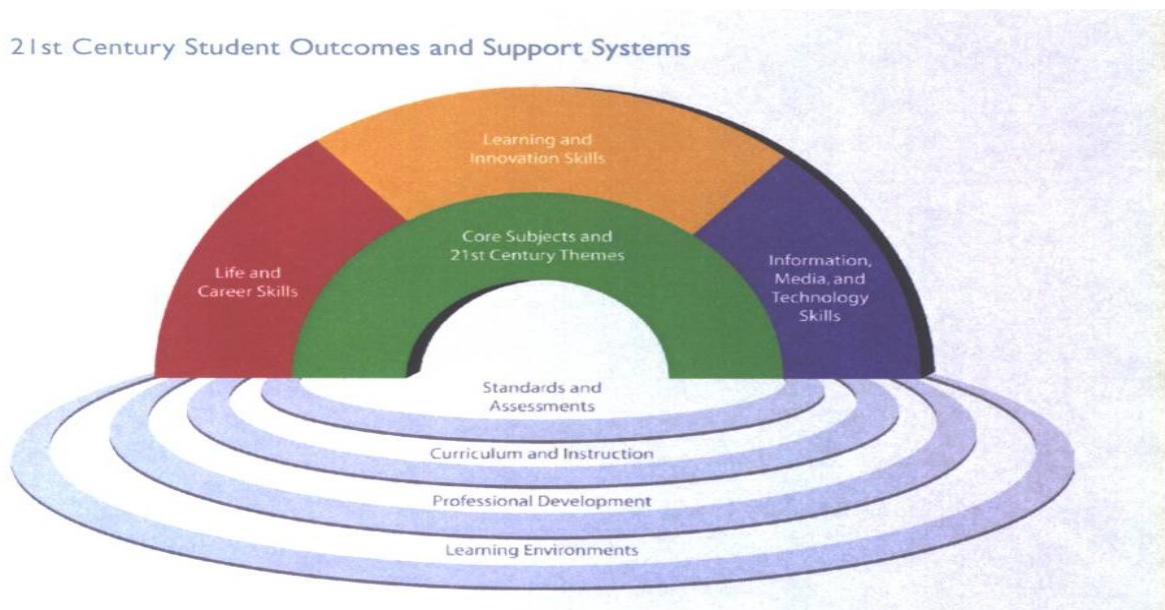
4. **Developing good people skills.** Emotional intelligence is as important as IQ for success in today's education and workplace. Emphasis should be placed on communication skills. Also, there should be emphasis on the skills and the ability to work in teams and with people from different cultures and backgrounds.

Key Educational Goals:

- √ Need to work with and to learn from diverse groups in our global technological age.
- √ Become flexible in a variety of work and social settings.
- √ Become adaptable to changing times.
- √ Demonstrate leadership and take responsibility for results.
- √ Initiative and resourcefulness.
- √ Be productive and accountable for actions in individual and team settings.

21st Century Student Outcomes and Support Systems

“The Partnership for 21st Century Skills” has developed a unified, collective vision for 21st century learning that can be used to strengthen American education. The key elements of 21st century learning are represented in the graphic and descriptions below. The graphic represents both 21st century skills student outcomes (as represented by the arches of the rainbow) and 21st century skills support systems (as represented by the pools at the bottom):



New Hope-Solebury School District's Strategic Plan strives to address the needs of the 21st century learner. For more information on this topic, please go to: www.21stcenturyskills.org. [Click this link to view overview.](#)