



PARTNERSHIP FOR  
21ST CENTURY SKILLS

# Preparing Every Child for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

Partnership for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills  
Corporation for Public Broadcasting  
Washington, DC  
April 15, 2008

# Overview

- Who is the Partnership?
- Why are 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills so important?
- What is the Framework for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills?
- What should public broadcasting do?

# Overview

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# Who is the Partnership?

A unique partnership  
between business, education  
and policymakers

With support from the U.S.  
Department of Education

# P21 Members



# Overview

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# Why are 21<sup>st</sup> century skills so important?



# Why are 21<sup>st</sup> century skills so important?

**Global Competition**

**Global Cooperation**

**Information Growth**

**More Jobs & Careers**

**Service Economy**

There are new  
21<sup>st</sup> Century  
Contexts

# New Context

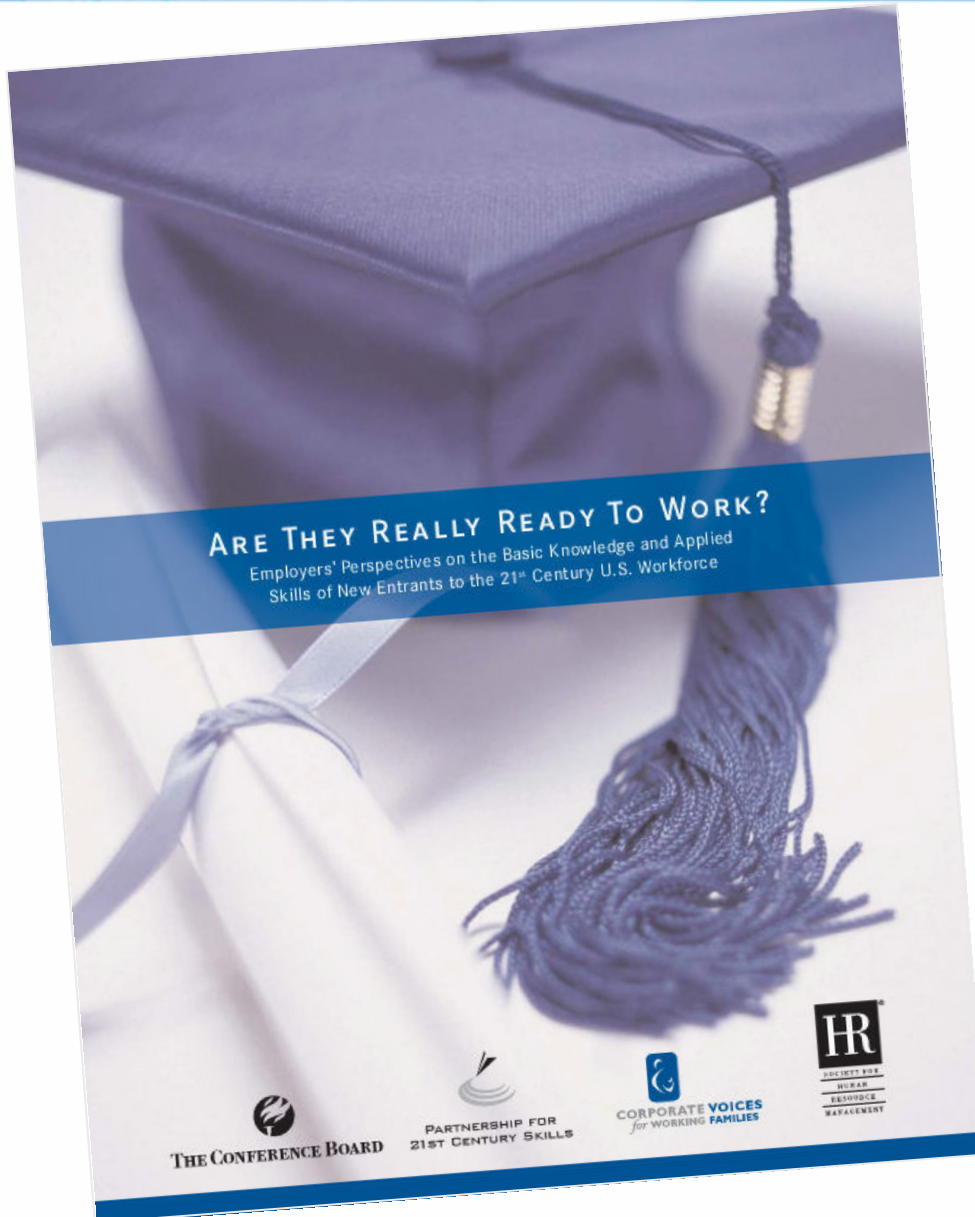
# Skills Required

<b>Global Competition:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>●Global Awareness</li><li>●Self-Direction</li></ul>
<b>Global Cooperation:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>●Global Awareness</li><li>●Collaboration</li><li>●Information &amp; Communication Technology (ICT) Literacy</li></ul>
<b>Information Growth:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>●Information Literacy</li><li>●Critical Thinking</li><li>●Problem Solving</li></ul>
<b>More Jobs &amp; Careers:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>●Critical Thinking &amp; Problem Solving</li><li>●Innovation &amp; Improvement</li><li>●Flexibility &amp; Adaptability</li></ul>
<b>Growing Service Economy:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>●Communication Skills</li><li>●Life and Career Awareness Skills</li></ul>

# Why are 21<sup>st</sup> century skills so important?



# Why are 21<sup>st</sup> century skills so important?



The requirements of the workforce are changing

# Why are 21<sup>st</sup> century skills so important?

- What skills are most important for job success when hiring a high school graduate?

Work Ethic	80%
Collaboration	75%
Good Communication	70%
Social Responsibility	63%
Critical Thinking & Problem Solving	58%

# Why are 21<sup>st</sup> century skills so important?

- Of the high school students that you recently hired, what were their deficiencies?

Written Communication	81%
Leadership	73%
Work Ethic	70%
Critical Thinking & Problem Solving	70%
Self-Direction	58%

# Why are 21<sup>st</sup> century skills so important?

- What applied skills and basic knowledge are most important for those you will hire with a four-year college diploma?

Oral Communication	95.4%
Collaboration	94.4%
Professional/Work Ethic	93.8%
Written Communication	93.1%
Critical Thinking/Problem Solving	93.1%

# Why are 21<sup>st</sup> century skills so important?

- Of the four-year graduates you recently hired, how do they rate?

Deficient Adequate Excellent

Oral Communication	9.8	65.4	24.8
Collaboration	8.1	67.3	24.6
Professional/Work Ethic	18.6	64.6	16.8
Written Communication	27.8	56.4	15.8
Critical Thinking/Problem Solving	9.0	63.4	27.6

# Why are 21<sup>st</sup> century skills so important?

- What skills and content areas will be growing in importance in the next five years?

Critical Thinking	78%
I.T.	77%
Health & Wellness	76%
Collaboration	74%
Innovation	74%
Personal Financial Responsibility	72%

# Why are 21<sup>st</sup> century skills so important?



# Why are 21<sup>st</sup> century skills so important?



PUBLIC OPINION  

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STRATEGIES

Peter D.  
**HART**  

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**RESEARCH**  
A S S O C I A T E S



## Beyond the Three Rs Voter Attitudes toward 21st Century Skills



## Beyond the Three Rs Voter Attitudes toward 21st Century Skills

A new, nationwide poll of registered voters reveals that Americans are deeply concerned that the United States is not preparing young people with the skills they need to compete in the global economy.

A virtually unanimous **99 percent** of voters say that teaching students a wide range of 21st century skills—including critical thinking and problem-solving skills, computer and technology skills, and communication and self-direction skills—is important to our country's future economic success.

This strong and highly unusual consensus, which cuts across all socioeconomic classes, age groups and political affiliations, indicates that there is nearly universal agreement among Americans about the connection between 21st century skills and economic—and individual—competitiveness.

**How important to our country's future economic success is teaching and learning 21st century skills?**

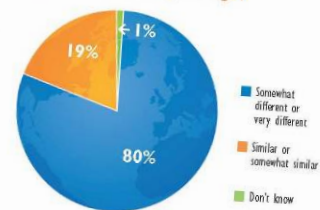


An overwhelming **80 percent** of voters say that the kind of skills students need to learn to be prepared for the jobs of the 21st century is different from what they needed 20 years ago.

The findings indicate that Americans understand that the economy has changed and that, without skills that reflect today's workforce demands, young people may face tougher challenges earning a living wage and maintaining U.S. competitiveness than previous generations did. And, while Americans believe schools have not kept pace with changing times, a resounding majority (88 percent) believes schools can and should incorporate 21st century skills into their curriculum.

This report presents the key findings of the outcomes of voter attitudes on public education.

**To be prepared for the jobs of the 21st century, do you think the kind of things a student needs to learn in school are very similar, somewhat similar, somewhat different or very different from what a student needed to learn 20 years ago?**



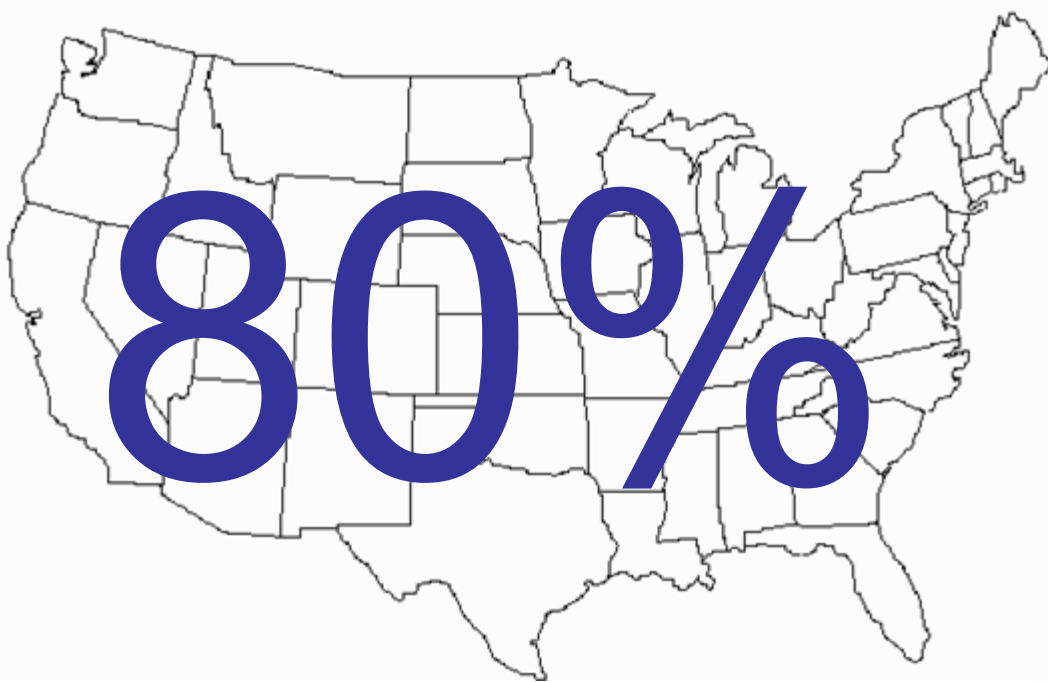
Source: PISA: Charles Brannan and Peter D. Hart, Research Associates

WWW.21STCENTURYSKILLS.ORG



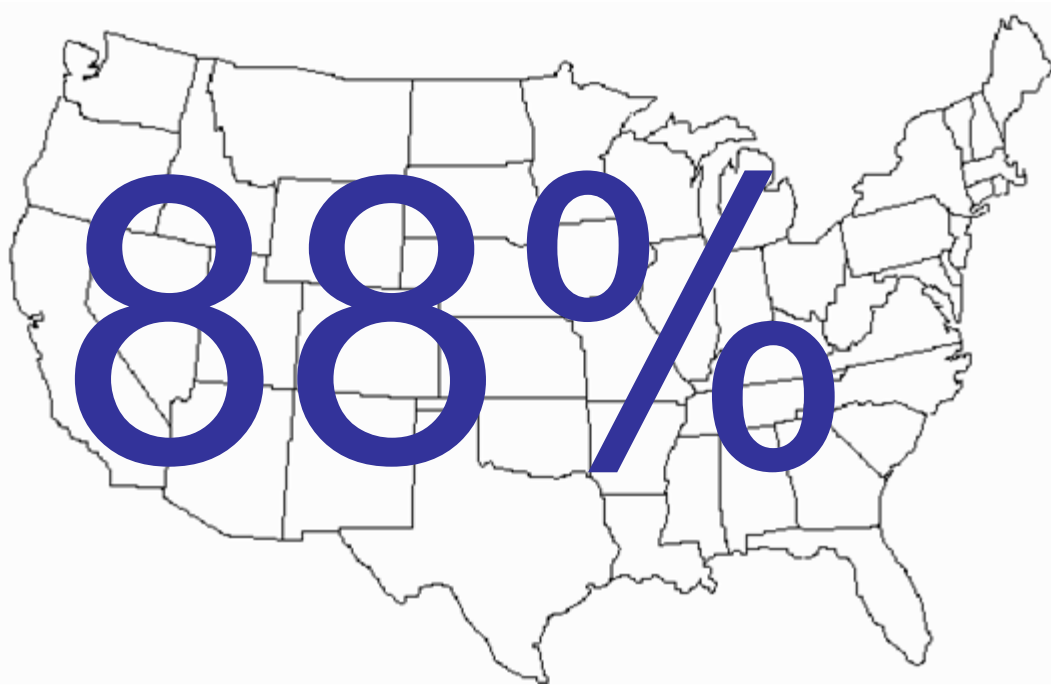
PARTNERSHIP FOR  
21ST CENTURY SKILLS

# Voter Attitudes toward 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills



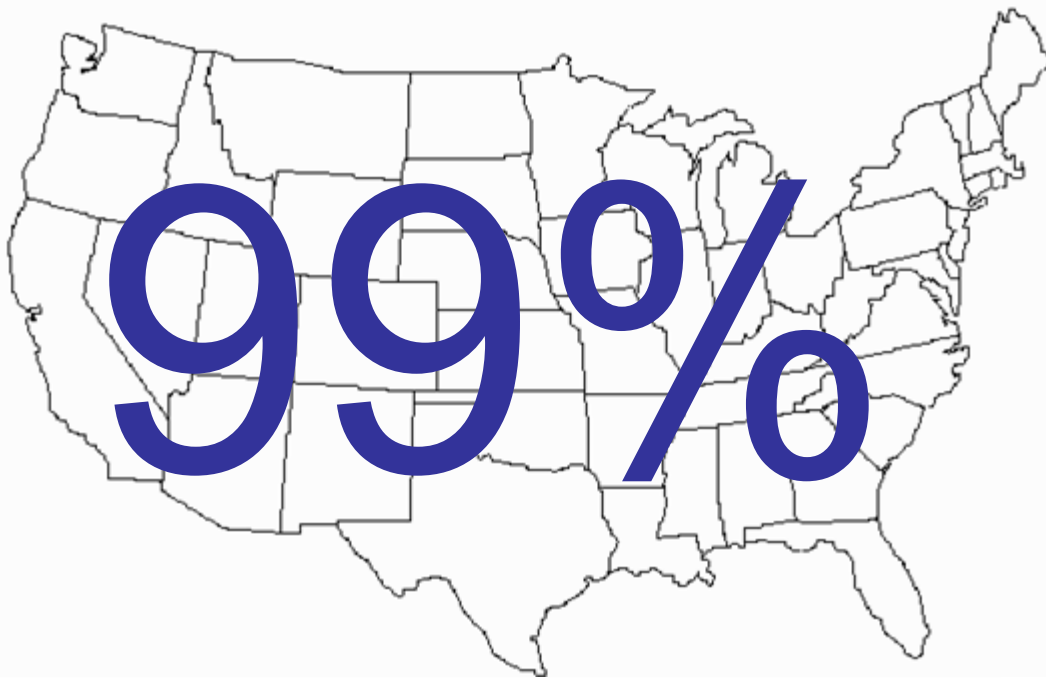
**The things students need to learn in school today are different than what they were 20 years ago.**

# Voter Attitudes toward 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills



**21<sup>st</sup> century skills are important for schools to teach.**

# Voter Attitudes toward 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills



**Teaching and learning 21<sup>st</sup> century skills are very important to our country's future economy.**

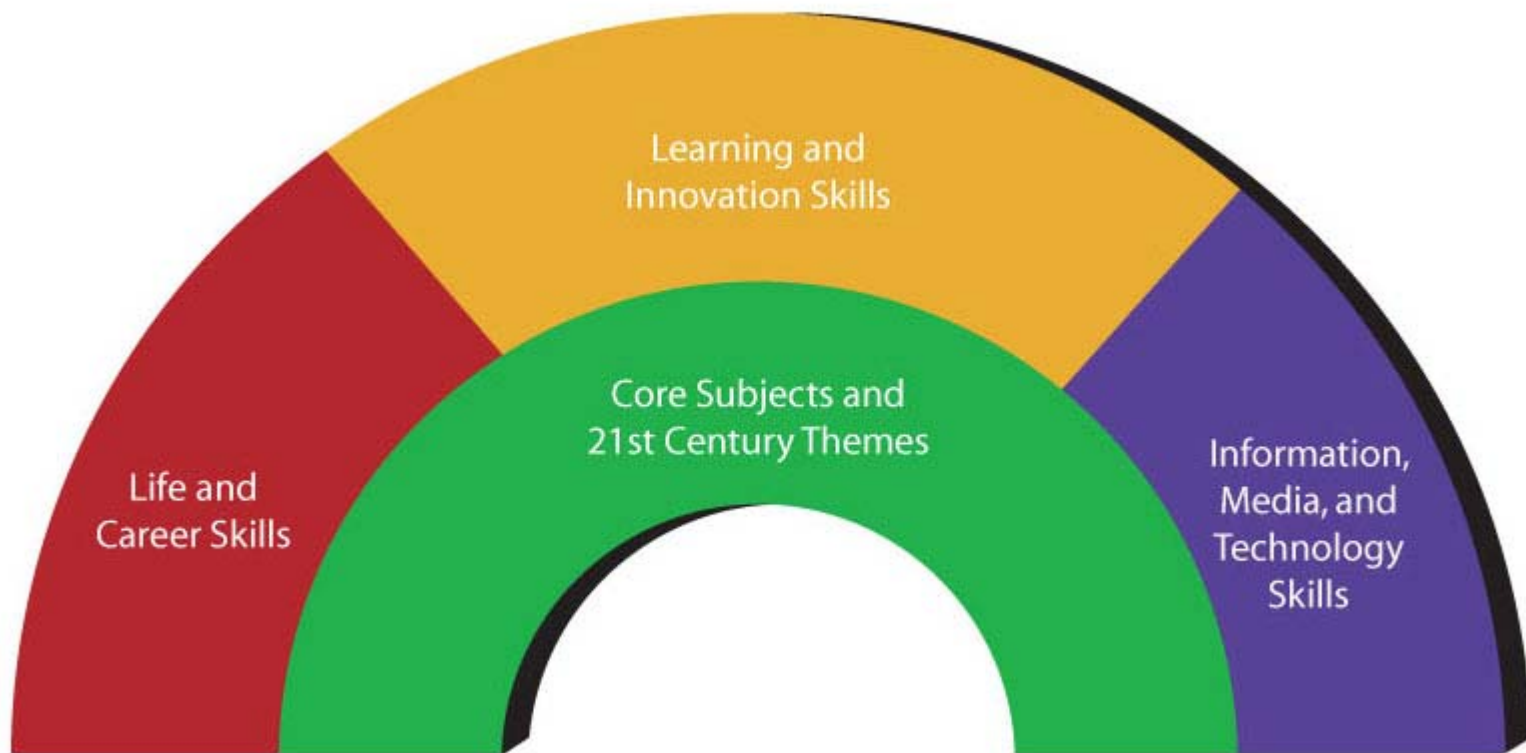
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# 20<sup>th</sup> Century Education Model



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



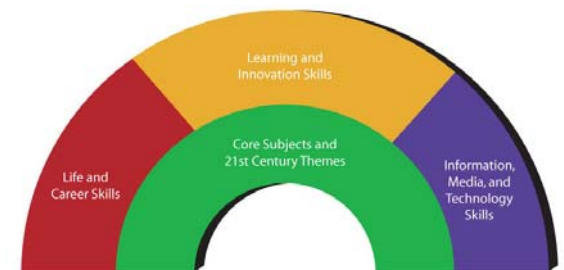
# 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills Framework

## Core Subjects

- Economics
- English
- Government
- Arts
- History
- Geography
- Reading or Language
- Arts
- Mathematics
- Science
- World Languages
- Civics

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

- Global Awareness
- Financial, Economic, Business & Entrepreneurship Literacy
- Civic Literacy
- Health Literacy



## Learning & Innovation Skills

- Critical Thinking & Problem Solving
- Creativity & Innovation
- Communication & Collaboration



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

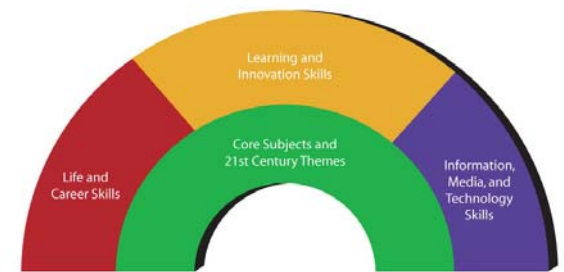
## Information, Media & Technology Skills

- Information Literacy
- Media Literacy
- ICT (Information, Communications & Technology) Literacy



## Life & Career Skills

- Flexibility & Adaptability
- Initiative & Self-Direction
- Social & Cross-Cultural Skills
- Productivity & Accountability
- Leadership & Responsibility



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21st Century Support Systems

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21st Century States

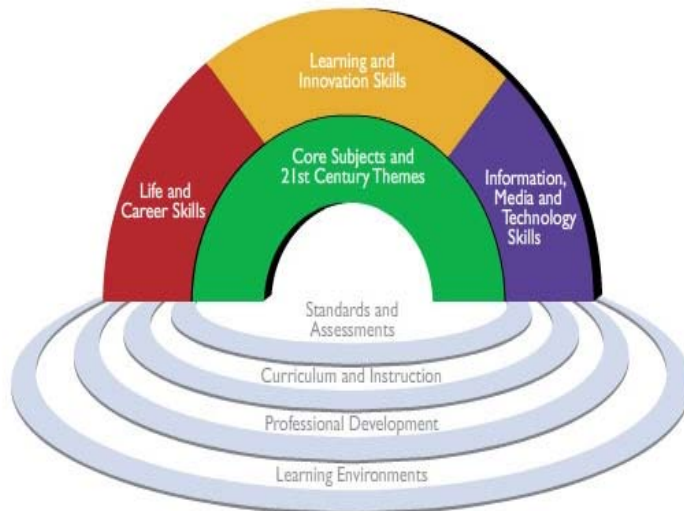
## Welcome to Route 21

The Partnership for 21st Century Skills is pleased to offer Route 21, a one-stop-shop for 21st century skills-related information, resources and community tools. To get started, [take a tour](#) or [explore the P21 framework](#).

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15 members  
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How do I learn more about 21<sup>st</sup> century skills?

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## Wisconsin



A QUALITY  
EDUCATION  
FOR EVERY  
CHILD

**Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction**

[Wisconsin Department of Education](#)

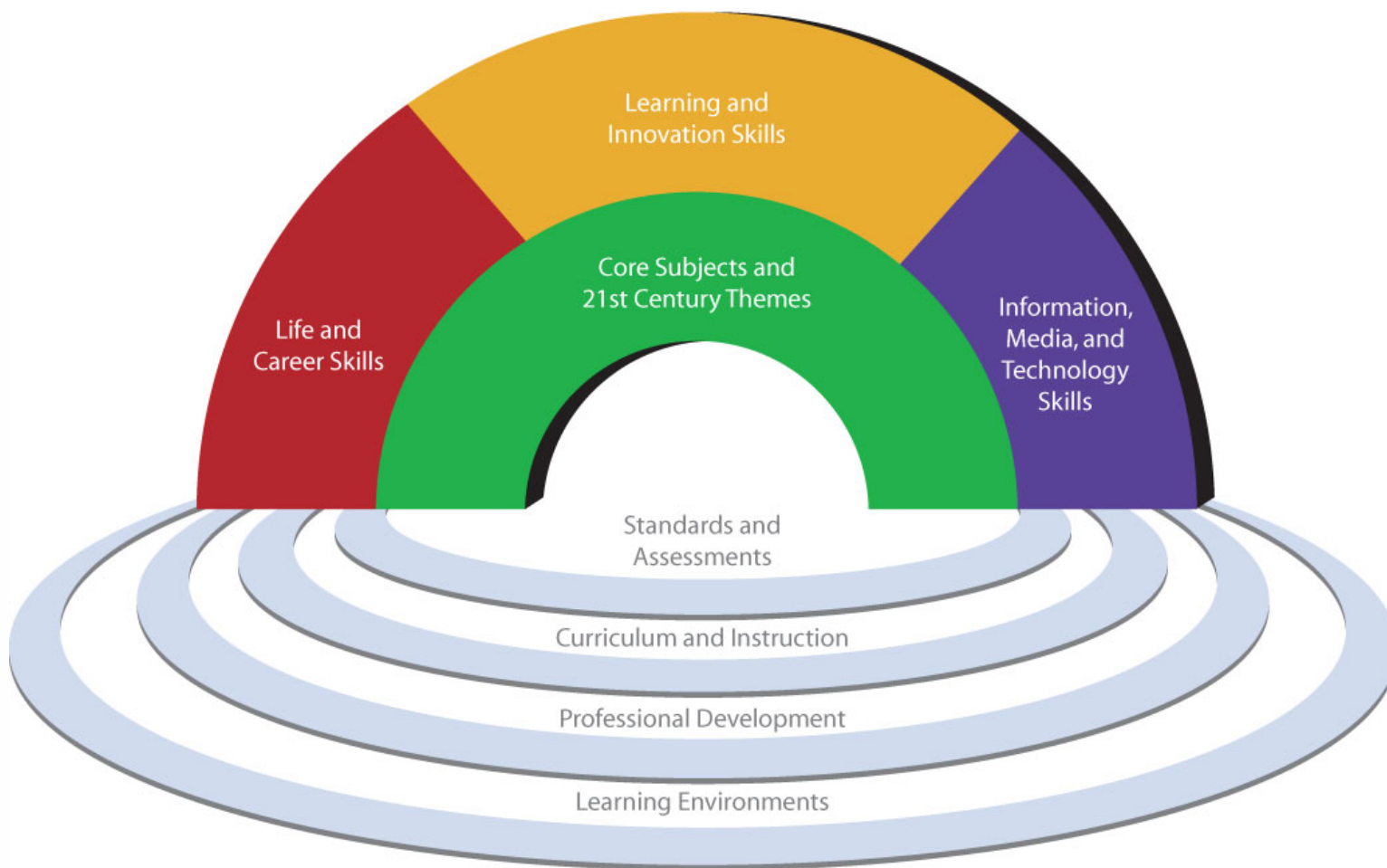
State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster is leading Wisconsin's 21st century skills initiative. Accelerating technological change, rapidly accumulating knowledge, increasing global competition and rising workforce requirements make 21st century skills essential for every student's success.

"The single best investment we can make is in our children. Educated children become educated adults, who participate in the social, economic and civic life of their community. To remain competitive, Wisconsin realized that it must invest in its human capital to ensure

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## 21st Century Student Outcomes and Support Systems



# What should public broadcasters do?

## 1. Develop a “Partnership” Focused on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Outcomes

Develop a consensus among the key stakeholders on the 21<sup>st</sup> century skills needed by your students. Be sure the business community is included.



# What should public broadcasters do?

## 2. Upgrade Professional Development

West Virginia Department of Education

Search K-12 Sites

INTERACTIVE CSOS

INSTRUCTIONAL GUIDES

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

UNIT PLANS

LEARNING SKILLS

TECH TOOLS

WESTEST SAMPLE

CONTACT US

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

21<sup>st</sup> Century Knowledge Base

21<sup>st</sup> Century Content

Student Performance

Welcome to the Teach 21 Web site!

Teach 21 Vodcast

Policy 2444.4  
Until Jan 14

This site was designed by teachers to assist colleagues in planning and delivering effective 21st century instruction in West Virginia Classrooms. It enables educators to quickly access 21st Century Content Standards, Learning Skills and Technology Tools for WV Schools, as well as other resources that exemplify rigorous and relevant instructional design and delivery.

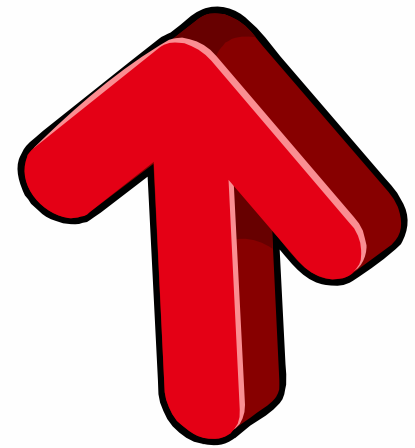
Create a teacher professional development strategy for 21<sup>st</sup> century skills.

<http://wvde.state.wv.us/teach21/>

# What should public broadcasters do?

## 3. Upgrade Assessments

Use a full range of assessments, including high-stakes and classroom assessments, to measure 21<sup>st</sup> century skills.



# Conclusion

Are our students ready for the  
new global economy?

# Conclusion

Are our students critical thinkers and problem solvers?



Are our students globally aware?

Are our students self-directed?

Are our students good collaborators?



# Conclusion

Are our students information and technology literate?



Are our students flexible and adaptable?

Are our students innovative?



Are our students effective communicators?

# Conclusion

These skills should become the “design specs” for 21<sup>st</sup> century education in every district.

# Contact Us

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Avenue  
Suite 305  
Tucson, AZ 85701  
(520) 623-2466



The screenshot shows the website's header with the logo and navigation menu: PARTNERSHIP FOR 21ST CENTURY SKILLS, STATE INITIATIVES, FRAMEWORK, EVENTS & NEWS, ABOUT US, and RESOURCES. Below the header are two images: a young man using a laptop and a young girl reading a book. The main content area features a 'HIGHLIGHTS' section with the title 'First Online Resource Dedicated to 21st Century Skills Teaching and Learning is Launched' and a sub-headline 'Route 21 Provides Extensive Database on 21st Century Skills-Related Standards, Assessments, Curriculum, Professional Development and Learning Environments'. To the right is an 'IN THE NEWS' section with two news items: 'U.S. Students Need 21st Century Skills to Compete in a Global Economy' and 'Americans Express Strong Support in National Poll for Teaching More Than Basic Skills'. A 'WASHINGTON, DC - Oct. 10, 2007' news item is also present. On the left side of the main content area, there is a 'SUBSCRIBE' section with a text input field and a 'go' button, and a 'Contact Us' link.

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The leading advocacy organization infusing 21st century skills into education.

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### HIGHLIGHTS

**First Online Resource Dedicated to 21st Century Skills Teaching and Learning is Launched**  
*Route 21 Provides Extensive Database on 21st Century Skills-Related Standards, Assessments, Curriculum, Professional Development and Learning Environments*

**Washington, DC – Nov. 7, 2007** – Americans increasingly recognize that the U.S. education system can and should do more to prepare our young people to succeed in the rapidly evolving 21st century. Skills such as global literacy, problem solving, innovation and creativity have become critical in today's increasingly interconnected workforce and society. To help education leaders and policymakers implement 21st century teaching and learning, the Partnership for 21st Century Skills launched Route 21, an online, one-stop shop for 21st century skills-related information, resources and tools.

### IN THE NEWS

**U.S. Students Need 21st Century Skills to Compete in a Global Economy**  
*Americans Express Strong Support in National Poll for Teaching More Than Basic Skills*

**WASHINGTON, DC - Oct. 10, 2007** - A new, nationwide poll of registered voters reveals that Americans are deeply concerned that the United States is not preparing young people with the skills they need to compete in the global economy.

[www.21stcenturyskills.org](http://www.21stcenturyskills.org)