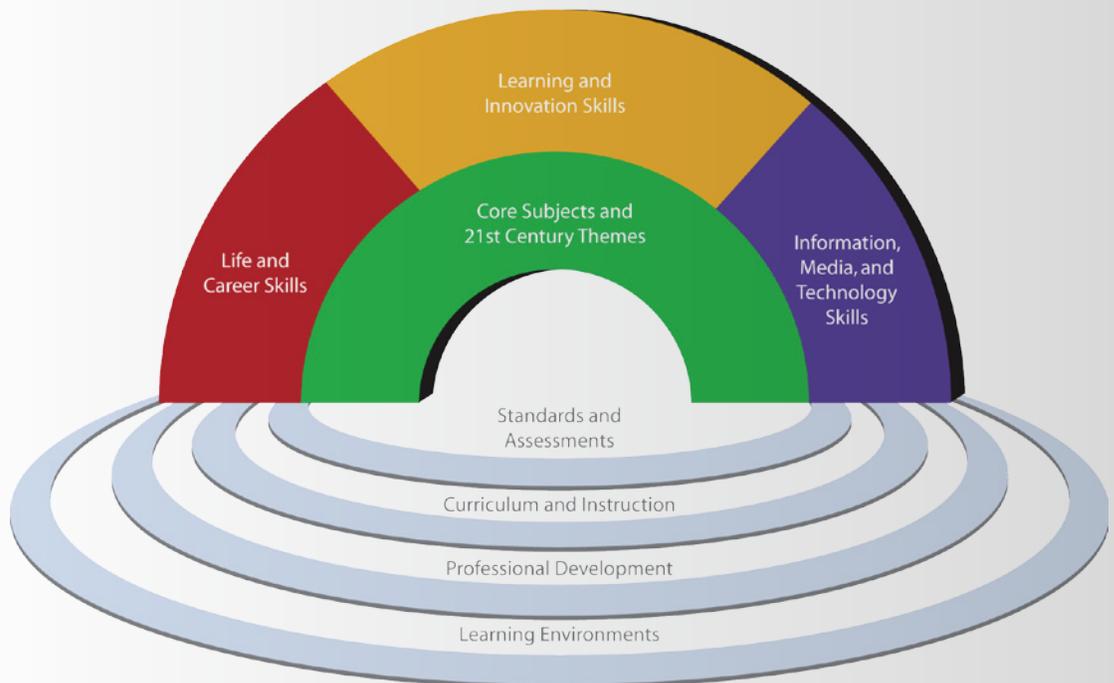# Framework for 21st Century Learning

Member Organizations

- Adobe Systems Inc.
- American Association of School Librarians
- Apple
- AT&T
- Blackboard Inc.
- Cable in the Classroom
- Cisco Systems Inc.
- Corporation for Public Broadcasting
- Davis Publications Inc.
- Dell Inc.
- Discovery Education
- EF Education
- Educational Testing Service
- Education Networks of America
- Ford Motor Company Fund
- Intel Foundation
- JA Worldwide
- KnowledgeWorks Foundation
- LeapFrog SchoolHouse
- McGraw-Hill Education
- Microsoft Corporation
- National Education Association
- Oracle Education Foundation
- Pearson Education
- PolyVision
- SAP
- SAS Institute
- Texas Instruments
- THINKronize
- Thomson Gale
- Verizon

The Partnership for 21st Century Skills has developed a vision for 21st century student success in the new global economy.

21st Century Student Outcomes and Support Systems

21ST CENTURY STUDENT OUTCOMES

The elements described in this section as "21st century student outcomes" (represented by the rainbow) are the skills, knowledge and expertise students should master to succeed in work and life in the 21st century.

Core Subjects and 21st Century Themes

Mastery of **core subjects and 21st century themes** is essential for students in the 21st century. Core subjects include English, reading or language arts, world languages, arts, mathematics, economics, science, geography, history, government and civics.

We believe schools must move beyond a focus on basic competency in core subjects to promoting understanding of academic content at much higher levels by weaving **21st century interdisciplinary themes** into core subjects:

- **Global Awareness**
- **Financial, Economic, Business and Entrepreneurial Literacy**
- **Civic Literacy**
- **Health Literacy**

Learning and Innovation Skills

Learning and innovation skills are what separate students who are prepared for increasingly complex life and work environments in the 21st century and those who are not. They include:

*   **Creativity and Innovation**
*   **Critical Thinking and Problem Solving**
*   **Communication and Collaboration**

Information, Media and Technology Skills

People in the 21st century live in a technology and media-driven environment, marked by access to an abundance of information, rapid changes in technology tools and the ability to collaborate and make individual contributions on an unprecedented scale. To be effective in the 21st century, citizens and workers must be able to exhibit a range of functional and critical thinking skills, such as:

*   **Information Literacy**
*   **Media Literacy**
*   **ICT (Information, Communications and Technology) Literacy**

Life and Career Skills

Today's life and work environments require far more than thinking skills and content knowledge. The ability to navigate the complex life and work environments in the globally competitive information age requires students to pay rigorous attention to developing adequate life and career skills, such as:

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

21ST CENTURY SUPPORT SYSTEMS

Developing a comprehensive framework for 21st century learning requires more than identifying specific skills, content knowledge, expertise and literacies. An innovative support system must be created to help students master the multi-dimensional abilities required of them in the 21st century. The Partnership has identified five critical support systems that ensure student mastery of 21st century skills:

*   **21st Century Standards**
*   **Assessment of 21st Century Skills**
*   **21st Century Curriculum and Instruction**
*   **21st Century Professional Development**
*   **21st Century Learning Environments**

For more information, visit the Partnership's website at www.21stcenturyskills.org.