



21st Century Learning Environment

The purpose of this framework is to provide a supporting structure and guidance for technology integration into the curriculum. This shared vision is based on research as well as District stakeholder beliefs.

Themes

Students must be exposed to instruction that moves learning well beyond a focus on memorizing and understanding content. In order to be successful global citizens, students need exposure to 21st Century interdisciplinary themes along with the content which prepares them to think at a higher level. These themes are:

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

Skills

Students need adaptive skills that prepare them for success in a global society. These skills include the ability to effectively:

- **Communicate and Collaborate**
- **Research and Evaluate Information**
- **Think Critically and Solve Problems**
- **Practice Digital Citizenship**
- **Select Appropriate Technology Tools for Tasks**

Teaching

What does teaching look like in the 21st Century?

The teacher must transition from being the conduit of all knowledge to more of a “Guide on the Side” where they are helping students build their own learning experiences. Teaching in a 21st Century Learning Environment requires:

- **Interactive and student-focused instruction with student-driven activities**
- **Authentic learning activities centered around real-world problems and issues**
- **Blended Learning approaches that supports the individual student**
- **Interdisciplinary units integrating 21st Century Themes**
- **Flexible digital rich environments that model effective use of digital tools and resources**

Learning

What does learning look like in the 21st Century?

Student must be given opportunities to collaborate and construct their learning as opposed to merely consuming it from the teacher. In our globally connected society, learning must expand well beyond the classroom. Learning in a 21st Century Learning Environment requires:

- **Smaller group and personalized instruction**
- **Collaboration with peers (in classroom, across the state or even globally) to solve relevant, rigorous, and real-world problems and/or issues**

- **Inquiry or Project-based explorations that are hands-on and research-driven**
- **Student-driven instruction and evaluation** (e.g., helping teacher to design rubrics and lessons)
- **Selecting emerging technologies to communicate their ideas and demonstrate knowledge** (e.g., classroom blogs, wiki)
- **Publishing of digital content and work** (e.g., presentations, spreadsheets, graphics design)

Assessment

What does assessment look like in the 21st Century Learning Environment?

Evaluating learning must evolve from multiple-choice tests that merely show a student understands the content to assessing a student's ability to analyze, evaluate and solve problems using the content.

Assessment in a 21st Century Learning Environment requires:

- **Authentic and real-world assessment** (e.g., performances, project-based tasks)
- **Peer-based evaluations and self-reflections**
- **Varied formative and summative assessments aligned with content** (e.g., digital assessments, performance-based rubrics)
- **Multiple assessment opportunities integrated throughout the unit** (e.g., providing multiple opportunities to evaluate learning and for students to reflect on their learning)

Technology Tools and Resources

Core resources and tools necessary to support a 21st Century Learning Environment are:

- Teacher/Student Workstations with Internet Access
- Presentation Devices (i.e., Interactive Whiteboards, Digital Projectors)
- Wireless Connectivity
- Learner Response Devices
- Web Conferencing Capability and Devices (i.e., Skype, Web-Cams)
- Mobile Devices and Learning Labs (i.e., Tablets, Laptops)
- Multimedia Devices (i.e., Microphones, Document Cameras, Video Cameras)
- Productivity Software (i.e. Microsoft Office)
- Digital Content & Interactive Textbooks
- Collaborative Software & Interactive Web Tools (i.e. Blogs, Wikis, Google Drive, Office 365)
- Student, Classroom & School Data Collection, Management & Reporting Software (e.g. IDMS, Universal Screener)
- Learning Management System
- Job-embedded Professional Development and Coaching

The list above is not an exclusive list. However, these are the basic tools needed to support this framework in any environment. As the district's needs and technology tools evolve, this list will evolve as well.

For More Resources on 21st Century Teaching, Learning, and Skills:

- **P21:** <http://www.p21.org/about-us/p21-framework>
- **ISTE NETS:** <http://www.iste.org/standards>
- **SETDA:** <http://www.setda.org/web/guest/NETP>
- **ATC21S:** <http://atc21s.org>