



PARTNERSHIP FOR 21ST CENTURY SKILLS

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Mastery of the 3Rs – Reading, Writing & Arithmetic – is Not Enough for Students’ Success in the 21st Century

Partnership for 21st Century Skills Leads Collaborative Effort to Transform Education

AUSTIN – January 27, 2005 – Fourteen leading technology companies and education organizations convened today to deliver a powerful vision for 21st century education: students need more than core subject knowledge to cope with work and life demands of the 21st century. Today’s students need to know *how* to apply their knowledge in a real world environment – they need 21st century skills.

Faced with accelerating technological change, rapidly accumulating knowledge, increasing global competition and rising workforce requirements, members of the Partnership for 21st Century Skills today put forward a call to action urging leaders from business, education and government communities to join this effort and incorporate a broad vision of 21st century skills into their educational framework. In recent months, six leading companies have joined the Partnership as Board Members including ETS, Ford Motor Company Fund, JA Worldwide, Intel, Texas Instruments and Verizon.

“Twenty first century jobs require 21st century skills,” said Karen Bruett, director of education and community initiatives for Dell and chairwoman of the Partnership for 21st Century Skills. “Successful businesses are looking for employees who can adapt to changing needs, juggle multiple responsibilities and routinely make decisions on their own. We must infuse 21st century skills into K-12 education in order to better prepare students for the realities of work and life in the 21st century.”

The Partnership’s efforts support the vision outlined in the U.S. Department of Education’s 2004 National Education Technology Plan, which highlights the need for 21st century skills and provides action steps and recommendations for federal, state and local entities to align to 21st century learning environments.

"Twenty-first century skills combining technology literacy, critical thinking, creativity and mastery of core subject matter are the lifeblood of a productive workforce in today's global, knowledge-based economy," said Susan D. Patrick, director of educational technology at the U.S. Department of Education.

(More)

Since its inception in 2002, the Partnership has taken real action - issuing two reports, *Learning for the 21st Century* and *A Policymakers' Guide to 21st Century Skills*; a self-assessment guide; an online tool; and a series of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Literacy Maps – in an effort to promote a powerful vision for 21st century education. Thousands of individuals have sought guidance from the Partnership's resources and tools in an effort to assist their schools, communities, districts and states in advocating for the infusion of 21st century skills into education.

About the Partnership for 21st Century Skills

The Partnership for 21st Century Skills has emerged as the leading advocacy organization focused on transforming teaching and learning in the 21st century. The organization brings together the business community, education leaders, and policymakers to define a powerful vision for 21st century education to ensure every child's success as citizens and workers in the 21st century. The Partnership encourages schools, districts and states to advocate for the infusion of 21st century skills into education and provides tools and resources to help facilitate and drive change.

Member organizations include: Apple, Cable in the Classroom, Cisco Systems, Inc., Dell Inc., ETS, Ford Motor Company Fund, Intel, JA Worldwide, Microsoft Corporation, National Education Association, SAP, Texas Instruments Incorporated, Time Warner, Inc. and Verizon. Corporations and institutions interested in joining the Partnership may contact info@21stcenturyskills.org or visit the Partnership's website at www.21stcenturyskills.org.

Based in Washington, DC and Tucson, Arizona, the Partnership for 21st Century Skills is administered by Infotech Strategies. The Partnership for 21st Century Skills is a tax-exempt 501 (c) 3 organization.

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