



PARTNERSHIP FOR 21ST CENTURY SKILLS

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Districts in Colorado, Indiana and Wisconsin Serve as National Models for 21st Century Education

Schools, Districts, and States Achieve Transformation through 21st Century Skills

WASHINGTON – March 22, 2005 – Leaders from Colorado, Indiana, and Wisconsin shared their strategies for supporting 21st century learning today with participants at the Consortium for School Networking's (CoSN) 10th Annual K-12 School Networking Conference. The Partnership for 21st Century Skills, the leading advocacy organization focused on infusing 21st century skills into education, highlighted these school districts as national models that have embed 21st century skills into learning to better meet the demands of the global economy.

“Every child needs 21st century skills for success in learning and life,” said Karen Bruett, chairwoman for the Partnership for 21st Century Skills and director of education and community initiatives for Dell. “We applaud these districts as national models for 21st century education and urge other education leaders to think strategically about implementing 21st century skills into learning, and work long-term to create an education system that better prepares today's students for tomorrow's workplace.”

From curriculum redesign that emphasizes 21st century learning skills to professional development plans that reflect current research and modern contexts, these districts are achieving transformation by applying the Partnership's model of learning that incorporates 21st century skills into education.

Denver Public Schools

In order to raise achievement levels and set high expectations for all students, Denver Public Schools (DPS) is implementing a Teaching and Learning Project that transforms how students in grades 6–12 learn in the core subject areas of mathematics, science, language arts, and social studies. Central to the project is the practice of “disciplinary literacy,” where students master concepts and skills in each subject area by learning and applying the habits of mind that characterize each discipline. For example, a history student learns to think like a historian and a science student like a scientist. The underlying pedagogical strategies promote increased engagement, deepen content knowledge, and strengthen essential learning skills.

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“Our Teaching and Learning Project emphasizes key elements of a 21st century education. For example, students taking U.S. History will analyze primary and secondary sources, rather than rely on traditional textbooks; they will become historians, rather than passive recipients of information,” said Stevan Kalmon, information literacy and technology coordinator for Denver Public Schools. “As a result of this learning, students will graduate from Denver Public Schools better prepared to succeed in 21st century communities and workplaces.”

Lawrence Township

The Metropolitan School District of Lawrence Township (MSDLT) in Indianapolis, Indiana created the Digital Literacy Project to help accomplish its mission of empowering all students with the knowledge and skills, as well as the compassion and integrity needed to contribute and succeed as self-directed, lifelong learners in a competitive global economy.

“Today’s students are ‘growing up digital’ in a world of abundant, interactive and dynamic information, and they will need 21st century skills in order to thrive in a global, knowledge-driven world,” said Marcia Capuano, assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction at MSDLT. “The Partnership’s framework for learning in the 21st century helped us define the 21st century skills – including self-direction, higher order thinking and cultural competence – that will allow our students to succeed as lifelong learners. As we implement our Digital Literacy Age Initiative, we have spent our energies working with administrators and teachers to understand 21st century skills, changing the face of instruction to support them, and developing rubrics to assess them.”

Southeastern Wisconsin

The Cooperative Educational Service Agency (CESA#1), which encompasses 45 public school districts and more than 270,000 students in southeastern Wisconsin, created a regional 21st Century Skills Initiative to equip educators and students with the knowledge and skills necessary to succeed as citizens and workers in the 21st century.

The Partnership's report, *Learning for the 21st Century*, provided the framework for CESA#1's initiative, which focuses on informing learning by applying interim measures and interventions that will increase student success; developing integrated data systems to support learning; providing professional development; and creating opportunities to advance professional growth by featuring their best practitioners as members of the learning community.

“Our schools face the challenge of preparing students to live, learn, and work in today's knowledge-based, global society,” said Robert Nelson, advisor to CESA#1. “Our 21st Century Skills Initiative creates a learning environment that prepares students to be dynamic thinkers able to solve complex, real-world problems, while using 21st century skills to help teachers lead and learn.”

About the Partnership for 21st Century Skills

The Partnership for 21st Century Skills has emerged as the leading advocacy organization focused on infusing 21st century skills into education. 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.

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Member organizations include: Agilent Technologies, American Association of School Librarians, American Federation of Teachers, Apple, Cable in the Classroom, Cisco Systems, Inc., Corporation for Public Broadcasting, Dell Inc., ETS, Ford Motor Company Fund, Intel, JA Worldwide, Microsoft Corporation, National Education Association, Oracle Corporation, 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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