

### Nine Steps to Build Momentum for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills

The Partnership's *Learning for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* report identifies nine specific steps for communities to take in order to successfully integrate 21<sup>st</sup> century skills into education. They should:

1. **Embrace** a powerful vision of public education that includes 21<sup>st</sup> century skills.  
The combination of research, best practices and insights from educators, employers and policymakers points to a comprehensive education model. This model honors core subjects, *No Child Left Behind* and strategically integrates 21<sup>st</sup> century tools, context, content and assessment.
2. **Align** leadership, management and resources with educational goals.  
Policymakers, superintendents and school administrators commit to incorporate 21<sup>st</sup> century skills in standards and assessments, invest in professional development and allocate adequate resources to ensure access to tools that promote a 21<sup>st</sup> century education.
3. **Assess** where schools are now.  
Use the MILE Guide for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills to gauge their schools' capacity for preparing students to succeed; many will find they have already begun a journey to success.
4. **Prioritize** the 21<sup>st</sup> century skills on which to focus.  
The MILE Guide will help education leaders pinpoint their strengths and weakness. As a result, schools can focus on gaps between their vision and reality.
5. **Develop** a professional development plan for 21<sup>st</sup> century skills.  
21<sup>st</sup> century teachers model lifelong learning and development, reflect current research and use modern contexts to engage students and assess their learning.
6. **Ensure** that students have equitable access to a 21<sup>st</sup> century education.  
All students need highly qualified, effective teachers and regular, reliable access to modern technology. This may require the provision of leaders and outside partners.
7. **Begin** developing assessments to measure student progress in 21<sup>st</sup> century skills.  
States, school districts and schools can work with outside testing companies or use their own assessment system to measure 21<sup>st</sup> century skills.
8. **Collaborate** with outside partners.
  - Education leaders need to cooperate with all available partners.
  - Parents can partner with schools to teach their children and improve schools.
  - Community groups can extend learning opportunities outside the classroom.
  - Colleges and universities can develop formal relationships with K-12 schools to provide students a seamless transition to higher education or the workforce.
  - Schools of education can prepare future teachers with a solid foundation, instructional strategies and competence of 21<sup>st</sup> century tools.
  - Employers can work with leaders and teachers to identify workforce needs and provide opportunities and/or funds.
  - Content providers can embed 21<sup>st</sup> century skills in their products.
9. **Plan** collectively and strategically for the future.  
Education, business and community leaders can use MILE 21 Chart for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills to understand where they are and how to transition into 21<sup>st</sup> century schools. Key stakeholders can collaborate to articulate a vision that reflects current realities and unique workforce and community needs.