



PARTNERSHIP FOR
21ST CENTURY SKILLS

The Road to 21st Century Learning: A Policymakers' Guide to 21st Century Skills

In order to help policymakers promote and create policies conducive to the integration of 21st century skills into education, the Partnership for 21st Century Skills released *The Road to 21st Century Learning: A Policymakers' Guide to 21st Century Skills*.

While the Partnership's early report, *Learning for the 21st Century*, was commended for establishing a collective vision for learning in the 21st century, the Partnership recognizes the need to create a policy framework that promotes 21st century skills in K-12 education.

This guide was written to assist state education leaders in crafting visionary education policies and to give policymakers specific guidance to help create a 21st century learning environment. It also asks policymakers to promote 21st century learning in their states and districts.

In addition to broad guidance, the report includes five policy recommendations that ask state education leaders to:

- Adopt state standards that incorporate 21st century tools and learning skills as part of the eighth-grade technology literacy requirement of No Child Left Behind (NCLB);
- Embed ICT Literacy into current standards, curricula and assessments for core subjects;
- Create state and local infrastructure that supports a 21st century education;
- Provide professional development that is strategically aligned to support the goal of offering a 21st century education to all students; and
- Engage educators, employers, community members, parents and policymakers in an ongoing dialogue that provides recommendations and advice about 21st century education.

These five recommendations are excellent starting points for policymakers to begin to create education policies that include 21st century skills.

The Road to 21st Century Learning: A Policymakers' Guide to 21st Century Skills was written through development and feedback from educators and business leaders across the nation. The Report is available at www.21stcenturyskills.org/downloads/p21_policy_paper.pdf.

The Partnership for 21st Century Skills – a coalition of Apple, Cable in the Classroom, Cisco Systems, Inc., Dell, Intel, Junior Achievement, Microsoft Corporation, National Education Association, SAP, Texas Instruments Inc., Time Warner, Inc. and Verizon – is committed to helping educators prepare students for success in the 21st century.