

Iowa Department of Education
Division of PK-12 Education
October 15, 2007

21st Century Learning Skills Within the Core Curriculum Project

The purpose of the Core Curriculum Project is to ensure that all Iowa students have access to a rigorous and relevant curriculum to prepare them for success in postsecondary education, the workforce, and the emerging global economy.

Current Status The Core Curriculum Project is supported by a Project Lead Team, which collaborates with work teams to identify the essential concepts and skill sets of a world-class core curriculum. Originally convened in response to SF 245, the team has been reorganized and reconvened to support the implementation of SF 588. Its membership includes representatives of universities and community colleges, teachers, school boards, administrators, students, parents, business and industry, AEAs, the State Board of Education, and the Department of Education (DE).

This year, the DE will be identifying the essential concepts and skill sets in K-8 literacy, mathematics, and science; K-12 social studies; and K-12 21st Century Skills.

A 21st Century Skills work team is being developed. Chairs of this work team are Nadene Davidson, UNI, and Margaret Kelley, former curriculum director for the Fairfield Community School District. Recommendations regarding team members have been collected from Project Lead Team members and shared with co-chairs. Co-chairs are recruiting members and working to establish an agenda for the first meeting.

Process The Project Lead Team advised the DE to integrate Civic Literacy into the social studies curriculum and develop a 21st Century Skills Work Team that focuses on financial literacy, health literacy, technology literacy, and employability skills. Once the essential concepts and skill sets of these content areas are identified, another review will take place to determine how they can be integrated into the literacy, mathematics, science and social studies curriculum.

The DE also plans to apply to become a member of the Partnership for 21st Century Skills, the leading advocacy agency for infusing 21st Century skills into education. Currently, six states are involved in this collaborative effort.

The Wellmark Foundation and the Iowa College Student Aid Commission have indicated an interest in and support of this project.

Resources Partnership for 21st Century Skills publications
Learning Point Association's *enGauge 21st Century Skills*
21st Century Workforce Commission National Alliance of Business publications
Center for Civic Literacy Standards
International Technology Education Association's *Technology Literacy for All*
Technology Literacy Standards
International Science Technology Engineering Standards for National Educational
Technology Standards for Students
National Network of Libraries of Medicine's Information on Health Literacy
Center for the 21st Century Learning Curriculums
Achieve, Inc. documents

Timeline	Oct	Recruit Work Team members
	Oct-Feb	Work Team identifies essential concepts and skill sets
	Feb-Mar	Drafts from work team presented to the Project Lead Team
	Mar	Project Lead Team makes final recommendations
	Apr	Recommendations from Project Lead Team presented to State Board for action