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Chapter 1
What are 21st Century Skills?

Most traditional schools have changed very little in terms of instruction and how students are educated. Even though we live in a 21st century world marked by modern technology, traditional schools lag behind in terms of the instruction of technology that most modern businesses and companies commonly use today. Many of these school districts, for one reason or another, are not equipped with laptop computers, tablets, mobile devices, software, applications and/or internet access to bring our students classrooms into the 21st century. Some school districts have the technology but have not changed their educational system and policies to allow for fluid integration of technology as a learning tool in the curriculum, and having students use this technology on a daily basis.

If we, as educators, are to assist our students in becoming academically and skillfully competitive for entry level positions in the future job market, we need to teach them 21st century skills today. The most effective way to do this is through web-based learning. Many careers today make use of computer technology and the Web to conduct business, to communicate with people around the world, and to run companies efficiently. It is only practical that we our students learn these skills early and frequently to ensure that they are fully prepared for these opportunities.

Our students are still being taught with 20th century skills in the 20th century classroom. The educational paradigm must shift to allow students to learn 20th century skills across the curriculum at every grade level. The The one size fits all curriculum, based mainly on a physical textbook and the teacher as the "sage on the stage" is no longer an effective instructional model for our students today. We need to transform our approach for the benefit of our students.

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