

**21<sup>st</sup> Century Competencies**

Policy References	Policy Development Tracking
<b>External:</b>  <b>Internal:</b> AP 140 – Acceptable Use of Technology	<b>Adopted:</b> January 22, 2013  <b>Amended:</b> September 22, 2015

C21 is an organization of Canadians for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning and Innovation. C21 Canada has conducted research and developed “***Shifting Minds – A 21<sup>st</sup> Century Vision of Public Education for Canada***”. Incorporating this research, the Board of Education believes that Sun West students need to be competent in literacy, numeracy and science. Today’s knowledge and digital reality means that changes occur at an astronomical rate. This reality requires our students and staff to have additional competencies and skills. The Sun West School Division will therefore endeavor to infuse 21<sup>st</sup> Century learning skills into all curricula and into the development of any and all educational programming. Staff will be supported and expected to continually develop their 21<sup>st</sup> Century Competencies.

**Specifically**

1. Develop Creativity, Innovation and Entrepreneurship
  - 1.1 Creativity is the ability to apply creative thought processes to create something of value.
  - 1.2 Innovation and entrepreneurship is the capacity to create and apply new knowledge in innovative and entrepreneurial ways to create new products or solve complex problems.
  
2. Develop Critical Thinking
  - 2.1 A deep understanding of and capacity to apply the elements and processes associated with critical thinking and problem solving.
  - 2.2 The ability to acquire, process, interpret, rationalize and critically analyze large volumes of often conflicting information to the point of making an informed decision and taking action in a timely fashion.
  
3. Develop Collaboration
  - 3.1 The ability to interact positively and respectfully with others in creating new ideas and developing products.
  - 3.2 The ability to lead or work in a team and to relate to other people in varying contexts, including capacity to resolve and manage conflict.
  - 3.3 The capacity for sensitivity to the issues and processes associated with collaborating across cultures.
  - 3.4 The ability to collaborate across networks, using various information and communication technologies.
  
4. Develop Communication
  - 4.1 High level literacy skills with multilingual capacity a definite asset.
  - 4.2 The ability to use technology to develop 21st Century competencies in the context of core subjects.

- 4.3 The capacity to communicate using a variety of media and technologies.
- 4.4 The ability to access, analyze, integrate and manage large volumes of information.
- 4.5 The capacity to effectively use social media to communicate and resolve challenges.
- 4.6 The ability to critically interpret and evaluate ideas presented through a variety of media and technologies.
- 4.7 Highly developed cooperative interpersonal capabilities.

## 5. Develop Character

5.1 Learners will develop 21<sup>st</sup> Century Life Skills, such as:

- Life-long learner
- Leadership, responsibility and accountability
- Self-directed, adaptable and resilient
- Tolerant, ethical and fair
- Personal productivity
- Interpersonal (people) skills
- Mental and physical well being
- Proficiency in managing personal relationships.

## 6. Develop Cultural and Ethical Citizenship

- 6.1 The capacity to comprehend Canada's political, social, economic and financial systems in a global context.
- 6.2 The ability to appreciate cultural and societal diversity at the local, national and global levels.
- 6.3 The ability to critically analyze the past and present and apply those understandings in planning for the future.
- 6.4 The capacity to understand key ideas and concepts related to democracy, social justice and human rights.
- 6.5 Disposition and skills necessary for effective civic engagement.
- 6.6 The ability to understand the dynamic interactions of Earth's systems, the dependence of our social and economic systems on these natural systems, our fundamental connection to all living things, and the impact of humans upon the environment.
- 6.7 The capacity to consider the impact of societal and environmental trends and issues.

## 7. Develop Computer and Digital Technologies

- 7.1 The capacity to use computers and digital resources to access information and create knowledge, solutions, products and services.
- 7.2 The capacity to use social media for learning.

**Note:** *While the capacity to effectively use computer and digital technologies is identified above as a 21<sup>st</sup> Century competency, Information Communications Technology (ICT) must also be seen as inherent in all other competencies. Specifically, this means that ICT is a key enabler in achieving all the other competencies.*