

The New Basics

The categories and competencies in the New Basics evolved from existing research, feedback from teachers, principals and parents, and People for Education's Measuring What Matters initiative.

- Learning to learn
- Thinking creatively and critically
- Collaborating
- Communicating effectively
- Developing a sense of self and society



Learning to learn

Understanding how learning works fosters students' curiosity, persistence, and adaptability.

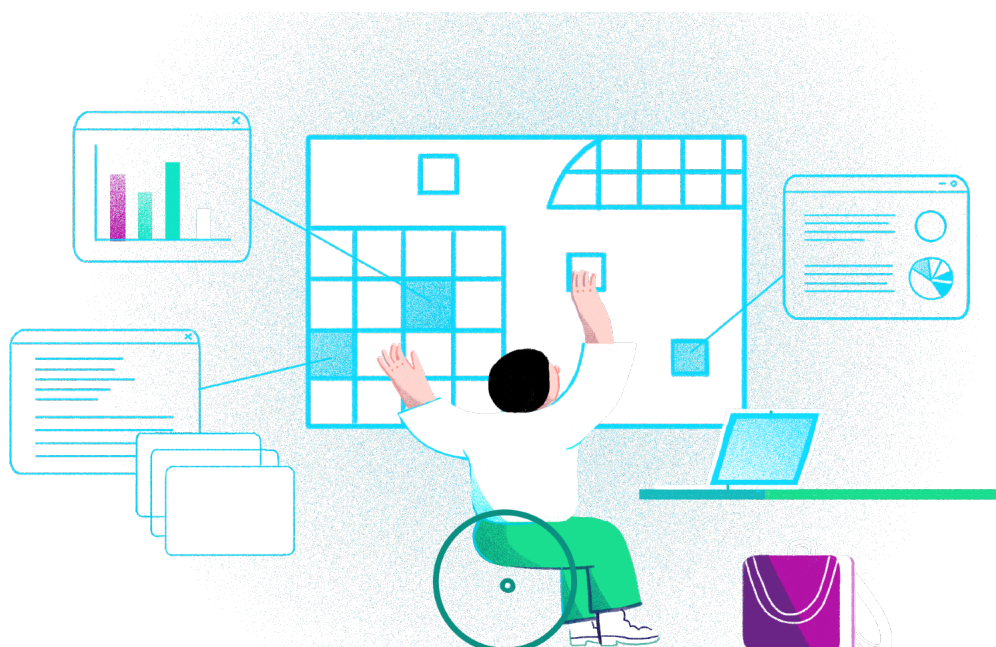
With these skills students can develop personalized learning strategies, objectively assess the strengths and weaknesses of their own ideas and work and respond constructively to factors that have an impact on their learning and emotions. They become resilient and curious learners with the tools to manage their learning in multiple scenarios.



Examples of student outcomes

Students will:

- Manage interpersonal stress and emotions (how to verbalize and develop strategies to manage anxiety, anger, and depression).
- Respond constructively to internal and external factors that have an impact on their learning and emotion.
- Self-reflect and evaluate their strengths and areas that need improvement.
- Develop personalized learning strategies to master academic material.
- Set attainable and realistic goals.
- Monitor and evaluate their own performance.
- Develop focus, concentration and perseverance skills and strategies.
- Monitor and manage academic goals.
- Adapt to different learning contexts.
- Respond and adjust to perceived failure.
- Identify problems when making decisions and generate alternatives.
- Ask for evaluative input from teachers and peers.
- Critically reflect on the outcomes of the work.
- Refine and improve work.



Thinking creatively and critically

Having the capacity to use ideas and strategies from a wide range of subjects and contexts helps students think of new ways to solve problems, and critically evaluate ideas and processes.

With these skills students become creative problem solvers with the capacity to generate new ideas – vital skills in a knowledge economy and a rapidly changing world. Fostering creativity helps students develop the capacity to adapt knowledge for use in different contexts, and increases their resilience, resourcefulness and confidence.



Examples of student outcomes

Students will:

- Challenge assumptions.
- Articulate potential problems to solve in relation to ambiguous or complex phenomena.
- Integrate different sets of discipline knowledge or skills to solve problems.
- Take paths or approaches different from their peers or teachers.
- Defend solutions and break conventions.
- Build connections across disciplines and between objects and ideas.
- Work with objects and ideas without an end goal in mind.
- Generate a range of novel ideas in relation to personal knowledge and learning context.
- Apply metaphorical thinking.
- Seek new resources to answer emerging questions.
- Explore initial ideas more deeply.
- Assess the strengths and weaknesses of creative ideas, work or products.
- Explore ambiguous and complex phenomena.



Collaborating

Effective collaborators are able to solve conflict, take feedback, and develop constructive relationships.

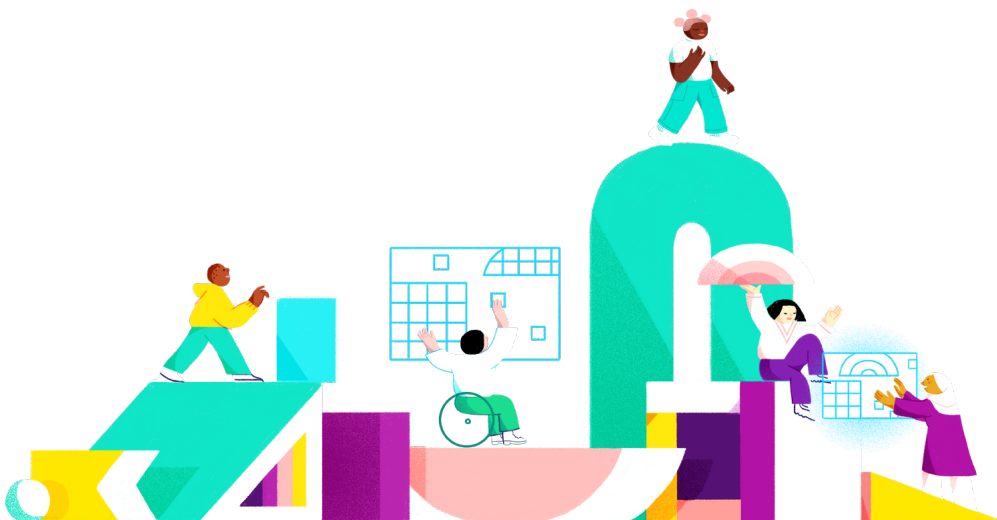
With these skills students become collaborators who can take on different roles and make a positive impact in any team environment.



Examples of student outcomes

Students will:

- Develop productive coping, problem-solving and resilience skills to overcome stressful and challenging situations.
- Examine problems from others' perspectives.
- Develop skills to recognize, understand, and address/resolve interpersonal conflict.
- Demonstrate respect and recognize its importance.
- Develop leadership skills.
- Integrate ideas and feedback offered by others.
- Cooperate with others.
- Include others in activities.
- Build and maintain trust in themselves and others.
- Adapt to the mood of a group and respond constructively.
- Engage in cooperative learning, and work toward group goals.



Communicating effectively

Learning to communicate effectively fosters students who can critically analyze ideas, consider multiple perspectives, and understand how to convey ideas and messages.

Persuasive and adaptive communicators can exchange ideas in multiple formats and over multiple platforms with people around the world and in their backyard to affect change.



Examples of student outcomes

Students will:

- Articulate a personal position with respect to important civic, social, environmental and/or economic issues.
- Recognize verbal and non-verbal emotional cues in themselves and in others.
- Understand key concepts and ideas underlying important civic, social, environmental, and/or economic issues.
- Identify a range of techniques used in public discussion to make points or manipulate opinion.
- Use appropriate institutions, structures, and mechanisms to affect change on important civic, social, economic, and/or environmental issues.
- Share information and ideas.
- Develop skills to negotiate fairly.



Developing a sense of self and society



A strong sense of self supports students in understanding and managing their emotions, developing positive relationships with others, and engaging with their community. It develops students' capacity to recognize and value different perspectives and their sense of agency to influence change in society.

These skills are critical for students' educational attainment, long-term well-being and prosperity, and their ability to contribute to society.

Examples of student outcomes

Students will:

- Identify and manage their emotions.
- Demonstrate the ability to empathize with others.
- Navigate their health choices in a responsible manner.
- Be able and willing to seek help for mental health issues for themselves.
- Articulate mental health issues and the impact that stigmatization can have.
- Acquire the movement and physical literacy skills needed to participate in and enjoy a range of activities.
- Identify social risks and develop strategies to resist peer-pressure and respond effectively to risky situations.
- Decode the role of social media in sexual health and how to be respectful and responsible in that context.
- Identify the importance of intimate relationships that are caring, respectful and non-violent.
- Evaluate how their decisions can affect themselves and others, the school, and the community.
- Describe the complex and fluid nature of their own and others' identities.
- Articulate elements of their own cultural identity and worldview.
- Navigate power relationships in everyday life and society.
- Identify the importance of equity and social justice.
- Determine how power is exercised through both formal and informal means.
- Evaluate how to work effectively with both formal and informal systems of power to make change.

