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VITAL News

Virginia Initiative for Technology and Administrative Leadership



Report Outlines 21st Century Skills

The Partnership for 21st Century Skills is a public-private partnership whose members include the AOLTW Foundation, Apple, Cable in the Classroom, Cisco, Dell, Microsoft, the National Education Association and SAP. The effort is supported by the U.S. Department of Education. The Partnership has come together to reach consensus on and advocate for a model of learning that will help close the gap between the knowledge and skills most

students learn in school and what they need in 21st century communities and workplaces. Their report, *Learning in the 21st Century*, and companion *MILE (Milestones for Improving Learning and Education) Guide for 21st Century Skills*, is designed to help communities develop a framework for moving forward. Both were developed through a comprehensive process involving hundreds of educators, researchers, and employers across the country.

“The Partnership’s leaders are calling on communities to take advantage of the window of opportunity provided by *No Child Left Behind* to put into place a long-term vision to better prepare students for the workforce and society of the 21st century. Our doctors don’t treat patients using 19th century medicines, and our teachers shouldn’t educate students using 19th century teaching models. Today’s students need to demonstrate knowledge of core subjects such as reading, math, and science, but they also must learn additional skills including critical thinking, decision making, problem solving and communication and the ability to adapt to a changing world,” said Terry Crane, Partnership co-chair and vice president for education, AOL, Inc. on behalf of the AOLTW Foundation.

Want to learn more? Visit the Partnership’s website at <http://www.21stcenturyskills.org>.

Feature Web

NASSP

[The National Association of Secondary School Principals](#) maintains an extensive website with news, information and professional development opportunities designed just for high school principals.

The site includes sections on advocacy, research, school improvement, publications and conferences.

The message boards are active, providing a place for working principals to share experiences and ideas with each other. The boards include access to four online mentors.

[Information about joining the association](#) including the variety of member benefits is available on the site.

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Professional Development Available Online

The Institute for the Advancement of Emerging Technologies in Education (IAETE) has partnered with T.H.E. Institute to release the *Administrator's Guide to Technology Leadership*, a nine-module series of online courses for school and district leaders.

The series is designed to enhance school and district administrators' ability to integrate technology into teaching, learning, and school management. Administrators use their own data and experiences as they learn to plan and budget for technology incorporation, increase access to existing technologies, and deal with ethical and legal concerns surrounding technology in the school. The modules help leaders create and implement their vision for technology to enhance learning. Specific modules address topics such as student assessment, community building, and professional development.

The modules contain real examples from schools around the country as well as helpful data-gathering tools and procedures that administrators can immediately apply to their own situations. Module topics include Vision, Planning, Community Relationships, Integration, Professional Development, Support, Access,

Accountability, and Ethical & Legal Issues.

For more information, visit the [IAETE](#) website. While you're there, be sure to explore some of the other resources available to you. For instance, the [Total Cost of Ownership](#) calculator provides a way to determine how much maintenance and support add to the cost of buying technology.

On the Bookshelf

Paul Leonhard, Director of Instruction at Rockbridge County Schools recommends two books for school leaders.

First, Break all the Rules: What the World's Greatest Managers Do Differently by Marcus Buckingham and Curt Coffman and *Now, Discover Your Strengths* by Marcus Buckingham and Donald Clifton.

First, Break all the Rules is the result of two large research studies conducted by the Gallup Organization. After reviewing nearly 80,000 interviews with leaders in all fields, the authors "four keys" to becoming an excellent manager: Finding the right fit for employees, focusing on strengths of employees, defining the right results, and selecting staff for talent--not just knowledge and skills.

Now Discover Your Strengths, the companion to *First, Break all the Rules* encourages leaders to focus on enhancing people's strengths rather than eliminating their weaknesses.

Register Now for Annual Conference

Technology Integration: Charting the Course is the theme of the ninth annual Educational Technology Leadership Conference. The conference will be held at the Hotel Roanoke and Conference Center in Roanoke, Virginia, from December 8 through 10. This annual event focuses on information, strategies, and technologies of interest to technology leaders in Virginia's school divisions. To learn more, visit [the conference website](#). Hope to see you there!

What are you reading? Use the [online form](#) to submit a brief review that will appear in upcoming newsletters.