

How 21st Century Skills Assessment Meets Title II-D Goals

This guide is intended to help you with your grant applications by providing specific ways 21st Century Skills Assessment meets guidelines for Title II-D, the federal Enhancing Education Through Technology (EETT) program.

The primary goal of the Title II Part D section of the No Child Left Behind Enhancing Education Through Technology (EdTech) program is to improve student academic achievement through the use of technology in elementary and secondary schools. In order to receive EdTech funding, districts must submit an application illustrating how they will meet the guidelines of the program.

Learning.com’s 21st Century Skills Assessment informs instruction by providing psychometrically valid data on your students’ technology proficiency and by measuring how well your students grasp critical 21st century skills. It is fully aligned to the ISTE NETS-S 2007 standards, and reports on student proficiency of these standards.

21st Century Skills Assessment aligns with a majority of the 12 Title II-D guidelines, and can help your grant qualify for funding.

Title II-D Guideline	Recommended Practice	21st Century Skills Offering
1. Goals and Strategies		
<p>1.1 Identify and describe the State educational agency’s goals for using advanced technology to improve student academic achievement, and how those goals are aligned with challenging State academic content and student academic achievement standards.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students should be tech literate • Students should use technology to work with core curriculum and complete assignments • Students should recognize technology in all aspects of life and use it appropriately • Students should become more efficient in their daily curriculum tasks through the use of technology 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 21st Century Skills Assessment is accessed online, removing the obstacles to meaningful technology integration and the resulting student success. • The assessment measures critical 21st century skills defined in the ISTE NETS-S 2007, used or adapted for technology standards by most states. The assessment measures proficiency overall and for the six NETS-S standards strands that prepare students to use technology to work with core curriculum and complete assignments, recognize how best to use technology and use it appropriately, and to become more efficient in their daily curriculum tasks through the use of technology in these areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Creativity and Innovation - Communication and Collaboration - Research and Information Fluency - Critical Thinking, Problem Solving and Decision Making - Digital Citizenship - Technology Operations and Concepts • Reports inform instruction by showing student proficiency overall and per NETS-S strand, indicating which strands require instructional time, showing which teachers have been most successful teaching each strand, and indicating standards students answered incorrectly. • An optional portfolio assessment enables per standard proficiency measurement of skills such as creativity and innovation.

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<p>1.2 Outline the State educational agency's long-term strategies for improving student academic achievement, including technology literacy, though effective use of technology in classrooms throughout the State, and improving the capacity of teachers to integrate technology effectively into the curricula and instruction</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve infrastructure and access to technology • Provide student and teacher training in technology and applied technology • Provide integration resources for teachers to use and build upon • Provide relevant, standards-based activities • Provide professional development for teachers' ongoing training (teacher tech training, integration training, instruction about effective use of technology in classroom) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 21st Century Skills Assessment can be accessed by all students, teachers and Administrators associated with a licensed school or district. • 21st Century Skills Assessment offers online teacher resources and ongoing staff training support. • Reports inform instruction by showing student proficiency overall and per NETS-S 2007 strand. An optional portfolio assessment provides a student project and grading rubrics that enable per standard proficiency measurement of skills such as creativity and innovation. • 21st Century Skills Assessment provides professional development on how best to use data to inform instruction, and to support teachers to improve student technology literacy. Its reports also provide data on which teachers have been most successful teaching each strand of the NETS-S 2007, making it possible to identify best practices that can be shared school- and district-wide, and tied to professional development.
<p>1.3 Describe how the State educational agency will ensure ongoing integration of technology into school curricula and instructional strategies in all schools in the State, so that technology will be fully integrated into the curricula and instruction of the schools by December 31, 2006, as written in the original legislation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use technology increasingly and consistently as a tool to complete daily lessons and projects • Use portfolios to assess students' ongoing skills; track classes' progress • Provide resources for implementation of technology curriculum • Track and assess teachers' technology and integration skills • Pretest at beginning of every year • Assess progress at end of year • Set goals for the year based on the progress of the previous year • Set technology requirements for advancing to grades/grade ranges • Provide means for collaboration and communication between relevant parties in the school 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 21st Century Skills Assessment management system monitors individual student, teacher, and school-wide progress to promote accountability. • 21st Century Skills Assessment provides a pretest/posttest format with portfolio projects that assess students' ongoing skills; track individual student, class, school, and district progress, and can show student progress by teacher. • Communication tools enable proctors to generate notes to administrators, for students working on a portfolio assessment project to write comments to the proctor, and for the proctor to provide formative advice back to the student. The individual student report is designed to be sent home with the student; a letter to the parents to explain the report is available. • 21st Century Skills Assessment provides ongoing staff training and online teacher resources.

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<p>1.4 Describe how public and private entities will participate in the implementation and support of the plan.</p>	<p>Public School, district, and state support — funding (grants), PTA support, program implementation, standardized tests</p> <p>Private Materials, hardware and infrastructure access, software, curriculum/training resources, professional development</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As a private entity, Learning.com provides materials and resources on a yearly renewal basis for integrating digital assessment to inform instruction and provides products, training, and professional development.
<p>1.5 Describe how the plan addresses teacher preparation, professional development, and curriculum development to ensure that teachers and principals in the State are technologically literate.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide ongoing support and training resources and materials Provide opportunities for reinforcement and review of skills learned Plan or step-by-step process to follow Require a technology component and assessment for future certification and recertification Incorporate professional development program for increasing tech and integration skills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 21st Century Skills Assessment includes online resources and professional development for ongoing training. Phone and email-based support are available to assist teachers and administrators. Teachers can also take the assessment, enabling ongoing, just-in-time skills assessment.
<p>2. Accountability</p>		
<p>2.1 Describe the process and accountability measures that the State educational agency will use to evaluate the extent to which activities funded under the program are effective in integrating technology into curricula and instruction.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perform classroom observation Keep portfolios (class and individual student) Require and review teacher created tech curriculum / integration plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 21st Century Skills Assessment management system offers a tracking system that monitors individual student, teacher, school and district progress to promote accountability. 21st Century Skills Assessment provides a pretest/posttest format with portfolio projects that assess students' ongoing skills; track class, school, and district progress, and can show progress by teacher. 21st Century Skills Assessment provides ongoing staff training and online teacher resources. 21st Century Skills Assessment reports inform instruction by showing student proficiency overall and per NETS-S 2007 strand, indicating which strands require additional instructional time An optional portfolio assessment provides a student project and grading rubrics that enable per standard proficiency measurement of skills such as creativity and innovation. Reports show which teachers have been most successful teaching each strand of the NETS-S 2007, making it possible to locate best practices that can be shared and tied to professional development.

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3. Increased Access		
<p>3.1 Describe how the State educational agency will take steps to ensure that all students and teachers in the State, particularly students and teachers in schools served by high need local educational agencies, have increased access to technology.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify schools with high-need and/or low resources and increase infrastructure there • Distribute resources according to formula • Provide after school access • Provide online/distance learning opportunities in libraries or other community locations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 21st Century Skills Assessment reports help inform instruction, curriculum and resource allocations by class, teacher and school within a district.
<p>3.2 Describe the State’s long-term strategies for financing technology to ensure that all students, teachers, and classrooms have access to technology.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decide what infrastructure/hardware needs to be acquired or improved • Create an upgrade plan • Create an annual plan for providing curriculum/training • Establish a minimum level of spending for needed upgrades, training, and ongoing curriculum resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 21st Century Skills Assessment licensing models support multi-year licenses for district or school-wide adoption.
<p>3.3 Describe how the State educational agency will encourage the development and utilization of innovative strategies for the delivery of specialized or rigorous academic courses and curricula through the use of technology, including distance learning technologies, particularly for those areas of the state that would not otherwise have access to such courses and curricula due to geographical isolation or insufficient resources</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify online resources and curriculum • Look into state approval/adoption for materials that may provide discounts or subsidies for funding them • Establish distance/off-site labs in rural areas • Issue laptops with needed software to students in rural areas for the school year • Hold seminars/workshops in outlying areas • Establish toll-free or local toll number for students in rural areas to access the Internet and online resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Web-delivered, the assessment is accessible to all teachers, students, and administrators associated with a licensed school or district wherever they have Internet access. • Adoption pricing is available for states that elect to adopt the program. • 21st Century Skills Assessment can be used for performance monitoring for students in remote locations.
4. Incentives, Best Practices, and Parental Involvement		
<p>4.1 Describe how the State educational agency will encourage local educational agencies in the State to provide incentives to teachers who are technologically literate and teaching in rural or urban areas to remain in those areas.</p>	<p>Provide financial bonuses, perks, or benefits for certain levels of technology certification</p>	<p>Not Applicable</p>

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<p>4.2 Describe the technology resources and systems that the State will provide for the purpose of establishing best practices that can be widely replicated by State educational agencies and local educational agencies in the State and in other States.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide online delivered resources • Implement a standard curriculum and process for delivering it • Provide hardware/materials and consistent access 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 21st Century Skills Assessment is fully Web-delivered, enabling the assessment to be consistently and widely implemented. • 21st Century Skills Assessment staff development and support provides users with best practices. • 21st Century Skills Assessment provides reports to show which teachers have been most successful teaching each strand of the NETS-S 2007, making it possible to identify best practices to share school- and district-wide, and for professional development.
<p>4.3 Describe the State's strategies for using technology to increase parental involvement.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student portfolios to showcase work • Home access to online resources and materials for those with home computers • Public labs with access for those without home computers • Community/parent workshops showcasing and training with online resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parent letters notify parents that their students are being assessed with 21st Century Skills Assessment and provide information on the program that they can discuss and learn about together with their child. • Students go home with a post-assessment report for parents that shows student results, and includes a letter that explains how to read the report and understand the student's proficiency, and how the student did compared to other students in the class, school, district and nationally.