

Handout from Rep. Valerie Stuart

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To: "Valerie Stuart" <stuartcomm@gmail.com>

Subject: 21st century skills and more

Hi Val,

Just 3 things to remember

1. The classic 21st century skills are the 4 C's: collaboration, critical thinking, creativity, and communications.
There are several more but this is a good shorthand. To teach them you need a problem-based (i.e., critical thinking) and project-based (collaboration), authentic environment. This requires retraining teachers.
2. 3 important systems work off the 4 C's: (1) human learning; (2) the world of video games and social media in which kids live; and (3) the 21st century world, especially the economy. Traditional schools short circuit the natural 4 C's wiring.
3. Benefits of schooling based on the 4 C's: higher performance; teacher empowerment and job satisfaction; closing the achievement gap; economic development (McKinsey's 20%); reduced youth alienation and thus (projected) drug use; greater flexibility as teachers innovate, thus easier refactoring of school districts; and more.

- Hugh

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