What is the 21st Century Coalition for California?
Based on a national framework outlined by the Partnership for 21st Century Skills, a leading advocacy organization focused on infusing 21st century skills into education, the 21st Century Coalition for California advocates for the integration of the four Cs (critical thinking and problem solving, communication, collaboration, and creativity and innovation) into all academic core content areas including English-Language Arts, Mathematics, History-Social Science, Science, Visual and Performing Arts, and World Languages to prepare all students for college, career and civic engagement in the 21st century.

Why we need P21 in California
Our state faces some of the most complex business, political, scientific, technological, health and environmental challenges in its history and yet, our schools are struggling to prepare students to meet these challenges and be successful in the 21st century.

- **High Dropout Rates:** Research indicates that approximately one-third of California students fail to graduate high school on time. Dropouts earn significantly lower wages, pay less in taxes and are more likely to be involved in crimes and end up in prison. California is hit with $46.4 billion in losses every time 120,000 20-year olds fail to complete high school.
- **Achievement Gaps:** English Learners and students of under-represented groups are struggling at much higher levels than their counterparts and represent a large percentage of students who do not graduate.
- **Failing Economy:** California and the nation have lost their global competitive edge. Jobs are being outsourced overseas. Schools need to focus on developing critical thinking, communication, collaboration and creativity and innovation skills for American businesses to thrive, spur job growth, and compete in a global market.
- **Preparation for College, Career and Citizenship:** A narrowed curriculum has shortchanged students from acquiring the knowledge, skills, and motivation to be successful in college, productive in careers and prepared to become civically engaged in a democratic society.

What can families do?
1. Work with PTA and English Learner Advisory Committees to support P21 resolutions to raise awareness.
2. Ask children about whether critical thinking, collaboration, communication, creativity is happening in their classrooms. Is it being taught? Simply put, is there more writing, speaking, working in groups, pair/share, etc. going on everyday? Are students having opportunities to do projects that apply their knowledge to real challenges?
3. Ask teachers and principals what they are doing to be intentional about developing critical thinking, collaboration, communication, creativity in all subject areas.
4. Engage principals and district administrators about ensuring all children have access to a well-rounded curriculum that includes all subjects - Science, Technology, Engineering, Math, Social Studies, Geography, History, Civics and Government, Visual and Performing Arts, Health Education and World Languages. Does the district support acquisition of languages through Dual Immersion, Seal of Biliteracy and Spanish for Spanish Speakers programs.
5. Inform others about legislation introduced by California State Assembly Education Chair Julia Brownley, AB 250 and State Senator Lou Correa, SB 402 that promote the vision and goals of P21 for all students.

How can we help our children at home?
- Encourage your child to work and play with others to learn how to be a cooperative team player.
- Explore avenues for utilizing technology, reading, writing, listening, speaking, and performing in multiple languages to learn how to communicate effectively in a number of cultural settings.
- Find opportunities for your child to solve problems in their home and community to develop critical thinking and problem solving skills.
- Give permission for your child to “think outside the box” to promote creative, innovative thinking.
- Engage your child in activities that explore and practice civic mindedness and environmental stewardship.
21ST CENTURY STUDENT OUTCOMES
The elements described as "21st century student outcomes" (represented by the rainbow) are the skills, knowledge and expertise students should master to succeed in work and life.

- Core Subjects and 21st Century Themes
- Life and Career Skills
- Learning and Innovation Skills
- Information, Media, and Technology Skills

America’s students are falling behind our global competitors as measured by the Program for International Students Assessment (PISA) and other measures. This growing knowledge and skill gap has energized fifteen states and several Fortune 500 Corporations including the Walt Disney Corp., Intel, Dell, Verizon, Apple Computer Inc. as well as the National Educators Association to support the Partnership for 21st Century Skills as a framework for America. To sustain our nation as a world economic power to meet challenges both domestically and globally, the P21 Framework calls for a well-rounded curriculum that integrates 21st century skills into all content areas for all students from our rich, diverse society to acquire:

- Global awareness
- Financial, economic, business and entrepreneurial literacy
- Civic literacy
- Health literacy
- Environmental literacy

For more information, please contact the 21st Century Coalition for California Co-Chairs:
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CALIFORNIA COALITION PARTNERS
The 21st Century Coalition for California has been endorsed by the following organizations:

California Science Teachers Association
California Council for the Social Studies
California Mathematics Council
EF Education First
Californians Together

For more information about the 21st Century Coalition for California, visit www.p21california.com