The Los Angeles Framework for 21st Century Learning is 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. As part of a joint working group, the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce and the Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) reviewed the original framework, and with minor modifications, have endorsed it as a roadmap for education in the region.

The Partnership for 21st Century Skills has developed a vision for 21st century student success in the new global economy.

21st Century Student Outcomes and Support Systems

21ST CENTURY STUDENT OUTCOMES
The elements described in this section 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
Mastery of core subjects and 21st century themes is essential for students in the 21st century. Core subjects include English, reading or language arts, world languages, arts, world religions and cultures, mathematics, economics, science, geography, history, government and civics.
We believe schools must move beyond a focus on basic competency in core subjects to promoting understanding of academic content at much higher levels by weaving 21st century interdisciplinary themes into core subjects:

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

Learning and Innovation Skills
Learning and innovation skills are what distinguish students who are prepared for an increasingly complex life and work. Graduates must not achieve learning skills, but develop a "love of learning." Our educational system and connections to internships and the world of work can cultivate this natural joy of learning through incorporating hands-on and applied learning opportunities. These skills include:

- Creativity and innovation
- Critical thinking and problem solving
- Effective application of knowledge and skills
- Communication and collaboration

Information, Media and Technology Skills
The 21st century is a technology, digital and media-driven environment, marked by access to an abundance of information, rapid changes in technology tools and the ability to collaborate and make individual contributions on an unprecedented scale. To be effective in the 21st century, citizens and workers must be able to exhibit a range of functional and critical thinking skills, such as:

- Information literacy
- Media literacy
- ICT (Information, Communications and Technology) literacy

Life and Career Skills
The ability to navigate in the globally competitive information age requires students to pay rigorous attention to developing adequate life and career skills, such as:

- Flexibility and adaptability
- Initiative, persistence and self-direction
- Awareness of both aspirations and potential careers
- Social and cross-cultural skills
- Productivity and accountability
- Leadership and responsibility
- Personal and work ethics
- Interpersonal skills and teamwork

21ST CENTURY SUPPORT SYSTEMS
Developing a comprehensive framework for 21st century learning requires more than identifying specific skills, content knowledge, expertise and literacy. An innovative support system must be created to help students to master multidimensional abilities. 21st Century standards and accountability systems should emphasize depth, rather than breadth of knowledge of core concepts. The Partnership has identified live critical support systems that ensure student mastery of 21st century skills:

- 21st Century Standards
- Assessment of 21st Century Skills
- 21st Century Curriculum and Instruction
- 21st Century Professional Development
- 21st Century Learning Environments

For more information about the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce and Los Angeles County Office of Education working group, contact Alma Salazar, 213.580.7566 or asalazar@lachamber.com. For more information on the Partnership for 21st Century Skills, or to view the original framework, go to www.21stcenturyskills.org.