



21st Century Learning Everything you ever wanted to know and where to find it!

Compiled by Emily Wooldridge & the ELH Team

There's a bewildering range of information available on what many are calling a revolution in education... So we thought this short checklist could help you find what you need to know – whether you want to apply 21CLD in your own classrooms, or just work with those who do.

First, let's get the terminology right!

21CL 21st Century Learning

21CLD 21st Century Learning Design

"21st Century Learning Design, formerly called 'LEAP21' is a global professional development program for teachers and schools to develop more innovative pedagogies that develop students' skills for the 21st Century." ITLresearch.com

Why 21CL?

Parents, politicians and community leaders are calling on education to adapt to the needs of the 21st century; to prepare today's youth for the world they will live and work in. 21CLD is seen as the answer to key questions currently asked by educators and education systems, including:

1. How do we develop basic digital literacy skills in and competencies in educators and students on a large scale?
2. How is technology supporting development of a curriculum fit for the 21st century?
3. How can we make a technology-rich curriculum available to all students?
4. How can 21CL outcomes be measured and what new models of assessment can be supported by technology?
5. What's the best way to deliver Professional Learning in a fast-changing education system?

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ITLresearch.com

What are the 21CL Skills?

Skill	In a nutshell...
Collaboration	Working productively in teams, integrating individual expertise/ideas to create solutions, making substantive decisions together
Knowledge construction	Going beyond knowledge reproduction to generate new ideas/understandings
Self-regulation	Long-term responsibility for/monitoring your own life, work and ongoing learning
Real-world problem-solving & innovation	Defined challenges WITHOUT all information needed/procedures to arrive at a solution
Skilled communication	Producing effective communication representing a set of connected ideas, not a single simple thought
Use of ICT for learning	Exploring opportunities for using ICT to construct knowledge, create new ideas, products and solutions for authentic audiences and users

You can find detailed guides to these skills and their measurement in both classroom activities and student work [here](#).



The foundation of the **Australian National Curriculum** is based on the entitlement that every Australian student is provided with opportunities to develop skills for the 21st Century. These skills are best taught through curriculum that is technology rich.



Through our work in schools across Australia, a common challenge for many teachers is 'how do we measure 21CL?'. The means by which these skills can be measured is through the use of **rubrics**. Think of them as criterion for teachers to use to accurately assess how the design of their lesson plan and student work are developing each of the skills. We think that the 21CLD rubrics are a revelation because they enable us to easily quantify the quality of the education we are delivering and continuously improve it.

Where to now?

At ELH, we're excited about the recent launch of Australian 21CLD – especially how it has connected 21st Century Learning with the general capabilities in the National Curriculum. By connecting the 21CLD with these general capabilities, we're now ready to take our students to new heights.

Please talk to us about how your school could be involved in this exciting adventure and become a leader in incorporating 21st Century Skills into your lesson design.

Where do I go for more information?

Microsoft, which is leading the 21CLD charge through its Partners in Learning program, sponsors the ITLresearch.com website which is a great place to start.

The global Innovative Teaching and Learning (ITL) Research project contributes information and policy insights on where and how effective education transformation is taking place – publishing a wide range of useful information resources.

How does 21CLD work?

We love these two videos that demonstrate 21CLD in action:



[Click on the Flag to watch them](#)

Finland

Finland is regarded as leading the world in progressive education – discover the approach of one its schools to teaching real-world skills in the classroom.



[Click on the Flag to watch them](#)

South Africa

Sit in on a 21CLD Professional Learning workshop for teachers and hear about the theories behind the practice