

# New Skills for New Times

## Are your students ready for the 21<sup>st</sup> century?

The challenges of globalization demand more from today's students than ever before. To prepare for life after graduation, U.S. students must learn the traditional core curriculum skills as well as 21<sup>st</sup> century skills, like technology literacy and high-level critical thinking, so they can succeed in this new environment and compete on a global level.

### The Challenge

In a recent poll, 84 percent of employers said that students leaving high school are not ready for the workplace and nearly 40 percent of high school graduates feel inadequately prepared for college or employment. Everyone agrees—students need better preparation. Employers expect young people to arrive with basic skills such as math, writing, and reading, but also to have mastery of 21<sup>st</sup> century skills such as teamwork, critical thinking, leadership, problem-solving and communication as well.

### The Goal

Students need a way to develop these new skills while still mastering the core subjects. Incorporating new tools and resources into teaching and learning promotes and reinforces 21<sup>st</sup> century skills. Learning to evaluate information for a collaborative project and turning that data into knowledge to communicate to others are important skills. When students do research online in the process, they need trustworthy sources. This means using a search engine that leads only to reliable educational Web sites with dependable data.

### 21 Skills for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning—Can Your Students...

- |                                      |                               |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Benchmark a process               | 11. Make complex choices      |
| 2. Communicate clearly               | 12. Manage a negotiation      |
| 3. Connect with the global community | 13. Motivate others           |
| 4. Cope with change                  | 14. Organize information      |
| 5. Demonstrate innovativeness        | 15. Read a digital map        |
| 6. Distinguish fact from opinion     | 16. Resolve conflict          |
| 7. Frame problems and solutions      | 17. Respond to a blog         |
| 8. Give an effective presentation    | 18. Sell ideas to others      |
| 9. Lead a team                       | 19. Set priorities and goals  |
| 10. Learn outside the classroom      | 20. Use technology well       |
|                                      | 21. Work effectively in teams |

"From day one we knew that netTrekker d.i. would be one of the most valuable tools our teachers could use to incorporate 21<sup>st</sup> century skills in the classroom. netTrekker d.i. ensures the accuracy of the content, and gives students the opportunity to use real-world search skills in a controlled environment. We always say, 'Start with netTrekker d.i.' when beginning any research project."

—Amy Ellisor, Technology Integration Specialist  
Richland School District Two,  
Columbia, SC



### The Solution

netTrekker d.i., the award-winning search engine designed specifically for school use, delivers standards-based resources organized by grade and readability level to help students learn. And now netTrekker d.i. includes a new, dedicated 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills channel that helps educators and students learn about the recommended 21<sup>st</sup> century skills and then find resources that reinforce content and help develop those skills.

### The Strategy

The new 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills channel in netTrekker d.i. includes three separate pathways that support the core elements of 21<sup>st</sup> century skills: Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Literacy, Life Skills, and Learning and Innovation Skills. Each area includes customized resources and a "What are" and "How do I teach or acquire" section to meet the varying needs of teachers and students.

The new channel also includes Lesson Integration Models that incorporate 21<sup>st</sup> century skills with core curriculum topics so both can be taught at the same time. Each unit includes a lesson plan, procedures to integrate the lesson with 21<sup>st</sup> century objectives, and a model student project. In addition, a valuable collection of free software downloads and tutorials helps students with 21<sup>st</sup> century projects.

netTrekker d.i. free trials available.

[www.netTrekker.com](http://www.netTrekker.com)

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