

Senators Rockefeller and Snowe
21st Century Skills Partnership Incentive Fund (S. 1483)

To be prepared to succeed in our communities and workplaces, students need 21st Century content beyond the traditional core subjects to include:

- Core subjects, and 21st century themes
- life and career skills
- thinking and innovation skills
- Information media and technology skills

Students need to develop critical thinking and problem solving skills, communication skills, creativity and innovation skills, collaboration skills, contextual learning skills, and information and media literacy skills. Information and communications technology literacy (ICT literacy) is the ability to use technology to develop 21st century content knowledge and skills, in the content of learning core subjects, and students must be able to use technology to learn content and skills so that they know how to learn, think critically, solve problems, use information, communicate, innovate and collaborate.

Educators need to incorporate life skills into classrooms, including leadership, ethics, accountability, adaptability, personal productivity, personal responsibility, people skills, and social responsibility.

There needs to be 21st Century assessments of education that measure five priorities including core subjects, 21st Century content, learning and thinking skills, information and communications technology literacy, and life skills.

Schools willing to adopt such a comprehensive approach deserve support and incentives including:

- An Incentive Fund at the Education Department to provide federal matching funds to eligible States that secure new monies to investment in this priority. States can provide state dollars, foundation grants or private donations to secure federal match.
- In order to encourage private donations, the legislation provides will corporate tax incentives to businesses that support the 21st Century Skills Partnership in states and schools.