

FINAL DRAFT

**FUTURE-READY STUDENTS
for the 21st Century**

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The single priority of the North Carolina State Board of Education is that every public school student will graduate from high school, globally competitive for work and postsecondary education and prepared for life in the 21st Century.

Goal 1: Globally Competitive Students

- Every student excels in rigorous and relevant core curriculum that reflects what students need to know and demonstrate in a global 21st Century environment, including a mastery of languages, an appreciation of the arts, and competencies in the use of technology.
- Every student's achievement is measured with an assessment system that informs instruction and evaluates knowledge, skills, performance, and dispositions needed in the 21st Century.
- Every student will be enrolled in a course of study designed to prepare them to stay ahead of international competition.
- Every student uses technology to access and demonstrate new knowledge and skills that will be needed as a life-long learner to be competitive in a constantly changing international environment.
- Every student has the opportunity to graduate from high school with an Associates Degree or college transfer credit.

Goal 2: 21st Century Professionals

- Teachers have the skills to deliver 21st Century content in a 21st Century context with 21st Century tools and technology that guarantees student learning.
- Teachers and administrators use a 21st Century assessment system to inform instruction and measure 21st Century knowledge, skills, performance, and dispositions.
- Education professionals will receive preparation in the interconnectedness of the world with knowledge and skills, including language study.
- Education professionals have 21st Century preparation and access to ongoing high quality professional development aligned with State Board of Education priorities.

Goal 3: Healthy, Responsible Students

- Learning environments are inviting, respectful, supportive, inclusive, and flexible for student success.
- Every school provides an environment in which each child has positive, nurturing relationships with caring adults.
- Every school promotes a healthy, active lifestyle where students are encouraged to make responsible choices.

- Every school focuses on developing strong student character, personal responsibility, and community/world involvement.
- Every school reflects a culture of learning that empowers and prepares students to be life-long learners.

Goal 4: Leadership for Innovation

- Schools collaborate with national and international partners to discover innovative transformational strategies that will facilitate change, remove barriers for 21st Century learning, and understand global connections.
- Schools create a culture that embraces change as dynamic continuous improvement.
- Education decisions are made in collaboration with parents, students, businesses, education institutions, and faith-based and other community and civic organizations to impact student success.
- The public schools collaborate with community colleges and public and private universities and colleges to provide enhanced educational opportunities for students.

Goal 5: 21st Century Systems

- Processes are in place for financial planning and budgeting that focus on resource attainment and alignment with priorities to maximize student achievement.
- Twenty-first century technology and learning tools are available and are supported by school facilities that have the capacity for 21st Century learning.
- Information and fiscal accountability systems are capable of collecting relevant data and reporting strategic and operational results.
- Procedures are in place to support and sanction schools that are not meeting state standards for student achievement.