

21st Century Competencies

Globalisation, changing demographics and technological advancements are some of the key driving forces of the future. Our students will have to be prepared to face these challenges and seize the opportunities brought about by these forces.

To help our students thrive in a fast-changing world, MOE has identified competencies that have become increasingly important in the 21st Century. These competencies, represented in the following framework, underpin the holistic education that our schools provide to better prepare our students for the future. It is envisaged that schools and parents need to work hand-in-hand to help our students develop these 21st Century Competencies.

Framework for 21st Century Competencies and Student Outcomes



21st Century Competencies

Knowledge and skills must be underpinned by values. Values define a person's character. They shape the beliefs, attitudes and actions of a person, and therefore form the core of the framework of 21st Century Competencies.

The middle ring signifies the Social and Emotional Competencies – skills necessary for children to recognise and manage their emotions, develop care and concern for others, make responsible decisions, establish positive relationships, as well as handle challenging situations effectively.

The outer ring of the framework represents the emerging 21st Century Competencies necessary for the globalised world we live in. These are:

- Civic Literacy, Global Awareness and Cross-Cultural Skills;
- Critical and Inventive Thinking;
- Communication, Collaboration and Information Skills

Together, these competencies will enable our young to capitalise on the rich opportunities of the new digital age, while keeping a strong Singapore heartbeat. Annexes A to C elaborate on these competencies.

Student Outcomes

The development of 21st Century Competencies will help our students to embody the Desired Outcomes of Education (DOE). These are attributes that educators aspire for every Singaporean to possess upon the completion of his formal education.

The person who is schooled in the Singapore Education system has a good sense of self-awareness, a sound moral compass, and the necessary skills and knowledge to take on challenges of the future. He is responsible to his family, community and nation. He appreciates the beauty of the world around him, possesses a healthy mind and body, and has a zest for life. In sum, he is:

- a confident person who has a strong sense of right and wrong, is adaptable and resilient, knows himself, is discerning in judgment, thinks independently and critically, and communicates effectively.
- a self-directed learner who questions, reflects, perseveres and takes responsibility for his own learning.
- an active contributor who is able to work effectively in teams, is innovative, exercises initiative, takes calculated risks and strives for excellence.
- a concerned citizen who is rooted to Singapore, has a strong sense of civic responsibility, is informed about Singapore and the world, and takes an active part in bettering the lives of others around him.