

FAQ

VBCPS CONTINUUM FOR 21ST CENTURY SKILLS

What is the purpose of the Virginia Beach Continuum for 21st Century Skills?

The continuum outlines the actions and behaviors that students are expected to exhibit on the 11 identified skills at four competency levels: Novice, Emerging, Proficient, and Advanced. It was designed to serve as an instructional planning tool for teachers to successfully plan and execute classroom instruction and assessment that supports these skills.

How was the continuum developed?

The continuum was developed by analyzing definitions of the 21st century skills, identifying smaller distinctive elements within each skill, and defining specific student behaviors that demonstrate progress and mastery for each of these skills.

What are some ways teachers can use the continuum?

Teachers are encouraged to collaborate with other teachers to plan for and reflect upon instructional activities and assessments to ensure that students are provided opportunities to demonstrate the 21st century skills. For example, teachers may use the continuum as they plan for, refine, or critique a performance task or activity to determine if opportunities to demonstrate skill mastery are present and that the cognitive demand of those opportunities is appropriate.

How should the continuum NOT be used?

The continuum should not be used as an assessment tool that measures student products or teacher learning plans. In addition, it should not be used as an instrument to evaluate teachers.

When should students meet proficiency on the various skills listed in the continuum?

While all students throughout all grade levels and all courses should be given opportunities to develop the 21st century skills, the expectation is that all students should demonstrate behaviors at the proficient level by the end of their senior year.

Why aren't there two continua - one for the elementary level and one for the secondary level?

The actions and behaviors described in the levels of the continuum can be demonstrated at both the elementary and secondary levels. The larger context of required content will help identify the actions and behaviors that are aligned to the specific course/subject at hand.