



BERRYESSA UNION  
SCHOOL DISTRICT  
EDUCATION SERVICES

# 21st Century Learning and the 4Cs



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# What are the 4 Cs?



# Why the 4 Cs?

A focus on *collaboration, communication, creativity and critical thinking* is essential to prepare students for increasingly complex life and work environments in the 21st century

# Collaboration

Collaboration occurs when two or more people work together to accomplish a shared, common goal



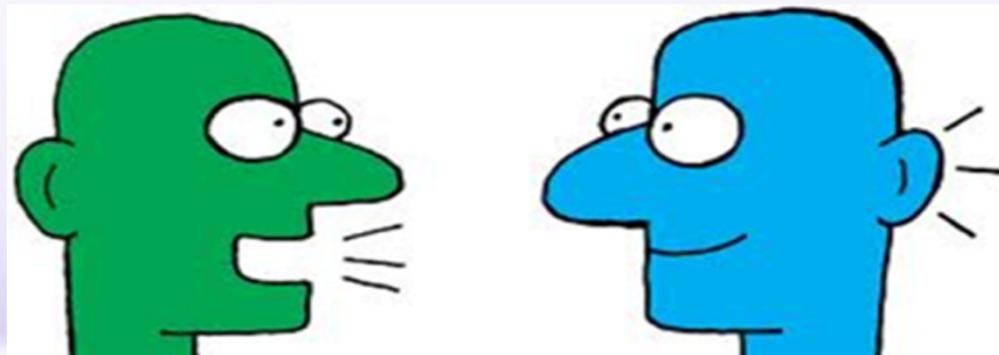
# What does that mean for our students?

To build good Collaboration Skills, students must learn to:

- Work effectively with different groups of people, including people from diverse cultures.
- Be flexible and willing to compromise with team members to reach a common goal.
- Demonstrate responsibility as a team member working toward a shared goal.

# Communication

Communication is expressing thoughts clearly, crisply articulating opinions, communicating coherent instructions, motivating others through powerful speech.



# What does that mean for our students?

To build effective Communication Skills students must learn to:

- Communicate using digital media and environments to support personal and group learning.
- Share information efficiently and effectively using appropriate digital media and environments.
- Communicate thoughts and ideas clearly and effectively to different audiences using various media and formats.

# Creativity

Creativity is the ability to produce new, diverse and unique ideas. Thinking creatively means looking at things from a different perspective and not be restricted by rules, customs, or norms.



# What does that mean for our students?

To build effective Creatively Skills students must learn to:

- Use a wide range of idea creation techniques (such as brainstorming)
- Create new and worthwhile ideas (both incremental and radical concepts)
- Elaborate, refine, analyze and evaluate their own ideas in order to improve and maximize creative efforts
- Act on creative ideas to make a tangible and useful contribution to the field in which the innovation will occur

# Critical Thinking

Critical thinking involves logical thinking and reasoning including skills such as comparison, classification, sequencing, cause/effect, patterning, webbing, analogies, deductive and inductive reasoning, forecasting, planning, hypothesizing, and critiquing.



# What does that mean for our students?

Today's students need to develop Critical Thinking skills by learning to:

- Use different kinds of reasoning, such as deductive and inductive, to understand a situation.
- Analyze complex systems and understand how their interconnected parts support the systems.
- Gather relevant information.
- Ask important questions that clarify points of view and help solve problems.
- Make decisions by selecting appropriate criteria and identifying alternatives to make reliable choices.



If today's students' want to compete in this global society, they must also be proficient collaborators, communicators, creators, and critical thinkers (the "Four C's").

