



# 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY SKILLS AND POPULATION EDUCATION

## 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY INTERDISCIPLINARY SKILLS:

The Framework offers a universal view of 21<sup>st</sup> century teaching and learning that combines student outcomes with support systems to help students master the multi-dimensional abilities that will be required of them in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Students are educated in the three R's (English, reading or language arts, world languages, arts, mathematics, economics, science, geography, history, and Government and civics.) and four C's (critical thinking and problem solving, communication, collaboration, and creativity and innovation).

### CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK

21<sup>st</sup> century learning focuses on five core interdisciplinary themes that align with the goal of Population Education:

- GLOBAL AWARENESS
- FINANCIAL, ECONOMIC, BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURIAL LITERACY
- CIVIC LITERACY
- HEALTH LITERACY
- ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY

**POPULATION EDUCATION**

A PROJECT OF POPULATION CONNECTION

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## HOW DOES POPULATION EDUCATION FIT INTO THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY CURRICULA?

The 21<sup>st</sup> century curricula focuses on several distinct skills that students must master in order to be competitive in a modern work environment. Addressed skills include: thinking critically, solving multidisciplinary problems, being creative, communicating and collaborating with others, making innovative use of knowledge, and taking charge of civic responsibilities. Population Education addresses all of these skills by providing a forum for students to inquire, collaborate, and explore contemporary and cross-curricular issues that will have an effect on their future.

## WHAT CONCEPTS RELATED TO POPULATION EDUCATION ALIGN WITH 21<sup>ST</sup> LEARNING GOALS?

Population Education best fits the 21<sup>st</sup> century curricula under the component of *Environmental Literacy*.

### **The *Environmental Literacy* component requires students to:**

- *Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the environment and the circumstances and conditions affecting it.*
- *Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of society's impact on the natural world.*
- *Investigate and analyze environmental issues.*
- *Take individual action towards addressing environmental challenges.*

While researching issues related to population, students must understand concepts such as interconnectivity, cause and effect, human impacts on the natural world and change over time. Students must be able to make predictions about the state of the future environment based on data, background and content knowledge as well.

Population Education curricula also fits the Global Awareness framework in that students must utilize 21<sup>st</sup> century skills to understand and address global issues.

## WHAT RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE TO HELP INTEGRATE POPULATION EDUCATION INTO THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY CURRICULA?

Population Education offers a variety of classroom resources, lesson plans, and professional development opportunities to help teachers facilitate effective and engaging lessons. In each lesson, students use real-world data and scenarios to apply concepts of math, science, social studies and English to contemporary environmental challenges. Population Education's hands-on activities foster critical thinking and problem solving, along with the rest of the four C's using real-world examples and provide memorable learning experiences. Sample topics include: carrying capacity, natural resource extraction, environmental health and quality, resource scarcity, and population growth trends. Lesson plans and resources are available on the Population Education website or through professional development opportunities offered nationwide each year.