

# Pedagogical Principles for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Sustainability Education

## Criteria for designing curriculum, instruction and school-wide implementation

Curriculum	Instruction	School Culture
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Themes, problems, ethical questions, and/or projects are used as the primary organizers and generators of content.</b></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Themes/problems/questions are <b>locally, regionally, and/or globally relevant</b>; relate to students' experience and sensibilities and engage 21<sup>st</sup> Century "core values" (see "school culture" domain).</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Content includes "supplementary disciplines/subjects"</b> (See Student Learning Domains) in scope and depth appropriate for the curricular context and application, in addition to core content.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Opportunities for <b>extended, individual and creative study are supported</b> and built into the curriculum.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Activities lead students to pursue an <b>inquiry-based, constructivist approach</b> to learning.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Instructional units <b>integrate and/or draw upon multiple disciplines</b> in the pursuit of exploring a central theme, question, or problem.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Activities address <b>diverse learning styles</b> and utilize a broad range of instructional modalities (group, individual, debate, research, lecture, technology, etc.).</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Assessment is authentic</b> and performance-based; students actively demonstrate their knowledge through products, performances, and exhibitions in addition to standardized tests.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Complex topics are introduced to young students</b> in intellectually appropriate forms; key concepts are spiraled over many years.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>A classroom culture of inquiry</b> is established and students' original ideas are respected and honored.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Participatory decision making:</b> Learners participate in decisions on how they are to learn.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Outdoor learning</b> is utilized in multiple forms.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Students are <b>encouraged to think whole systems</b> and to examine direct and indirect relationships between parts over multiple levels of scale.</li> <li><b>Teachers</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> are willing and able to <b>assume the role of facilitator/coach and work together as learners</b> with students in the pursuit of knowledge, understanding and problem solutions.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>engage in a reflective practice</b> that utilizes teaching journals, examination of student work, critical friend colleague relationships and action research to refine and develop SE efforts.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> are willing and able to <b>improvise, respond to student learning in real time</b>, and capitalize on "teachable moments;" teachers can make appropriate judgements to deviate from lesson plans to accommodate unanticipated student creativity and inquiry.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>21<sup>st</sup> Century core values:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Futures orientation</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Global responsibility and awareness</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Holistic/systems-based orientation to problem solving</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Expanded definition of intelligence</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Expanded vision of learning and school purpose.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Focus on social responsibility, social justice, and deep respect for the living systems that support life and civilization.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Commitment to education and civic and community engagement for societal transformation (economic, technological, ethical and philosophical) to ensure a sustainable future for the world.</li> </ul> </li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 21<sup>st</sup> Century core values (above) <b>are infused into school mission statements</b> and culture overall.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 21<sup>st</sup> Century core values are <b>incorporated into character education</b> initiatives.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> <b>All school personnel</b> (teachers, administrators, support staff, custodial, etc.) demonstrate awareness, sensitivity and <b>modeling of 21<sup>st</sup> Century core values</b>.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Administrators and teachers actively support and <b>work to adopt 21<sup>st</sup> Century curriculum and instruction principles</b> and student learning objectives.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> 21<sup>st</sup> Century core values are <b>embedded in the whole curriculum</b>, across disciplines (not taught as a separate subject).</li> </ul>