



Virginia ASCD Position Statement

Teaching, Learning, and Leading for a Changing World

Recommendations

VASCD supports teaching, learning, and leading that focuses on student success in a complex, rapidly changing world. This responsibility requires schools to provide essential skills that equip students to successfully navigate technological, societal, economic, informational, and demographic issues.

Position

VASCD recognizes that although acquisition and application of core knowledge serve as building blocks to new learning, students must graduate with skills that go well beyond facts and content. Students should apply knowledge and skills to novel situations and authentic problems, demonstrating creativity, innovation, self-reflection, and flexibility in thinking.

In order to assess student learning in today's world, testing and accountability systems must go beyond selected response tests to include the assessment of student-generated products. This shift requires that school leaders engage students and teachers in experiences that connect them with a wider learning community.

Rationale

For students to thrive in a complex, interconnected world, they must be equipped with skills that allow them to serve as both participants in and leaders of change. The future will demand a citizenry capable of solving societal and ethical challenges. High quality instructional programs must include the use of advanced technologies to access and facilitate learning, interactions in learning communities that foster teamwork through inquiry and authentic problem solving, and environments where innovation and creativity are valued and practiced.

Therefore, teachers and administrators must inspire students to achieve, to collaborate, and to respect diversity of thought and backgrounds. These essential approaches to teaching, learning, and leadership will prepare Virginia's students for success in college and the workforce.

Adopted, September 2010