

23

Essential skills schools need to help students master for their future

Par Thierry **KARSENTI**, M.A., M.Ed., Ph.D.

Canada Research Chair on Technologies and Education. University of Montreal, CANADA.
karsenti.ca/23skills.pdf

 @ThierryUdM

In tomorrow's society, the future of work is likely to herald a wide range of new jobs, many of which can scarcely be imagined today. Understandably, there is much interest in identifying the type of skills such jobs may require and how schools can best help students become proficient in these areas. For instance, many researchers argue that collaborative problem-solving will be among the most valued skills in decades to come. Why? Because many modern issues can only be solved if teams can combine group achievements with team members' idiosyncratic knowledge. An international literature review of more than 400 studies on future skills also revealed an emphasis on the soft skills that schools need to instill. We have heard a lot of talk about skills, transversal skills, 21st century skills, and even future skills. But what does it mean? A rather complex notion, it has been defined in many ways. The first thing to understand is that skills are deployed in real situations, and they are usually positioned on a continuum ranging from simple to complex. Skills also include the capacity to effectively mobilize a set of resources. A skill is therefore know-how put into concrete action. A skill is evident when someone acts efficiently, effectively, and recursively. Numerous studies have demonstrated the importance of fostering a variety of skills in students at all levels, and skills are central components of training programs worldwide. Unfortunately, recent reports have revealed that students and even trainers are lacking certain skills that future citizens will require. The scientific literature reviewed, allowed us to identify 23 skills that we believe are essential for building tomorrow's society. These are the 23 most critical soft skills that students must master for a brighter future at work. These are the essential skills schools need to help students master for their future. These are the 23 skills that schools must instill for future success

1. Ethical citizenship
2. Learning to learn
3. Information literacy
4. Collaboration
5. Communication
6. Content production
7. Entrepreneurship skills
8. Professional development perspective
9. Problem solving
10. Critical thinking
11. Innovation, creativity
12. Offering and receiving help
13. Cognitive flexibility; thinking outside the box
14. Risk taking; negotiating
15. Engagement; Resilience
16. Autonomy
17. Empathy; Human skills for a better world
18. Societal inclusiveness; social inclusion
19. Cognitive overload management
20. Task management
21. People management
22. Evaluation; sensemaking; reflection.
23. Digital literacy

