Learning for the Future

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Following is a synthesis of suggestions for change in current classroom structures and practices that may bolster and fortify the skills students need as lifelong learners in order to be successful in this digital age of information and connectivity.

☐ Create learning environments that mirror the way students engage with the world and hold students' interest by appealing to their interactive instincts and well-honed digital acuity.

☐ Reinvent the role of the instructor to an activator of learning.

☐ Imbed multiple opportunities to fuel creativity, innovation, and adaptability into the learning process.

☐ Create opportunities for students to explore cross-cultural perspectives and solutions and to develop tangible skills such as language proficiency.

☐ Provide experiences that foster less tangible skills such as greater sensitivity to cultural differences, openness to new and different ideas, and the ability to adapt to change.

☐ Allow students to identify problems, think through solutions and alternatives, and explore new options if their approaches don't pan out.

☐ Allow students to create their own "what-if" scenarios and self-evaluation activities that provide students with immediate feedback about their learning.

☐ Incorporate Web capabilities to extend the classroom far beyond its four walls and to implement interactivity, creativity, and information sharing activities to an unprecedented degree.

☐ Provide curricula that are adaptable enough to present theoretical material for students who can handle it, regardless of age, and also deliver basic instruction on the same subjects for those who are at a less rigorous level of readiness.

☐ Create learning experiences that replicate real-world tasks and require students to foster a strong work ethic and develop problem solving and critical thinking skills.

☐ Re-engage the most disconnected students in academically stimulating courses and place them on pathways to graduation and post secondary opportunities.

☐ Provide the most successful students the opportunity to accelerate beyond what is traditionally available in school.

☐ Provide learning opportunities that require students to practice critical communication tasks: responding constructively to discrepancies, developing professionalism and respect, building teamwork and collaboration skills, and coordinating and managing activities.