Foster 21st Century Learning Skills with Future Problem Solving

LEARN A PROBLEM SOLVING PROCESS
- Identify challenges
- Determine an underlying problem
- Produce solution ideas
- Develop criteria
- Apply criteria to solution ideas to identify the best solution
- Develop an action plan

RESEARCH & ANALYZE GLOBAL ISSUES
(recent examples)
- Agriculture
- Alternative Energy
- Artificial Intelligence
- Climate Change
- Cultural Prejudice
- DNA Identification
- Entertainment
- E-commerce
- Environmental Law
- Freedom of Speech
- Healthcare Access
- Media Impact
- Nanotechnology
- Oceanic Species
- Sports Medicine
- Terrorism & Security
- World Communication

APPLY THE PROCESS TO GLOBAL ISSUES through team problem solving

EXTEND THE LEARNING
- Identify real issues and implement real solutions in school or community through Community Problem Solving
- Use creative imagination to write stories focused on global issues in the future through Scenario Writing

The Future Problem Solving Program offers three competitive components for grades 4-12: Global Issues Problem Solving, Community Problem Solving, and Scenario Writing. The program can also be integrated non-competitively into the curriculum areas of language arts, science, and social studies. Participation in the program strongly supports the development of these skills as described by the Partnership for 21st Century Skills:

21st Century Themes
Through the study of a series of global issues, students increase their global awareness and explore content related to business & economics, science & technology, and society & politics. Students focus on what is happening in the world today, as well as what might happen in the future.

Learning and Innovation Skills
- **Creativity and Innovation** – Students learn to look at situations from a variety of perspectives. They must use creativity to develop multiple ideas for solutions to pressing problems. Problem solving situations are set in the future to encourage inventive thinking.
- **Critical Thinking and Problem Solving** – Students use analysis to gain an understanding of issues in today's world, and to understand the significant aspects of complex situations set in the future. They apply problem solving skills to work through to solutions and action plans for those situations.
- **Communication and Collaboration** – Students collaborate in teams while learning about the issues and while applying their problem solving skills. Clear and articulate communication is developed while working with a team, as well as through writing that is submitted for evaluation.

Information, Media, and Technology Skills
While studying about the issues, students gather information from a wide variety of information and media sources. With the help of a teacher, they work on evaluating and analyzing that information. Diverse perspectives are encouraged. The goal of Future Problem Solving is to teach students how to think, not what to think!

Life and Career Skills
Testimonials from former "FPSers" in multiple countries confirm the value of the content and skills of FPS as tools for lifelong learning. The skills have had an impact on students' college success, work life, and personal decision-making.

Wisconsin Future Problem Solving is an affiliate of the Future Problem Solving Program International
"Opening Doors to the Future"