

NORTH CAROLINA ESSENTIAL STANDARDS

INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY

[standards that are delivered by classroom teachers in all curriculum areas and grade levels]

Introduction to the Standards

To succeed in the 21st Century, today's students must be able to access, evaluate, and use information effectively and use a variety of technology tools and resources to communicate, collaborate, create, and share. Rather than focus on specific content, the new *North Carolina Information and Technology Skills Essential Standards* emphasize processes such as problem solving, critical and creative thinking, decision-making, cooperative learning, and the appropriate use of technology tools.

The flexibility of these new Standards and the emphasis on learning to learn (and relearn) will enable students to thrive in a rapidly changing information and technology environment and prepare students for success at college and careers in a future we can only imagine. The new Essential Standards were developed using Bloom's Revised Taxonomy and replace both the Computer Skills and Information Skills Standard Courses of Study. Unlike the Common Core State Standards and other Essential Standards, the *North Carolina Information and Technology Skills Essential Standards* are to be implemented during the 2011-2012 academic year.

Although the *North Carolina Information and Technology Skills Essential Standards* were developed by North Carolina educators, they reflect the *Partnership for 21st Century Skills Framework* (2009), *Standards for the 21st Century Learner* (AASL 2007), and the *National Education Technology Standards for Students* (ISTE 2007). These documents support the agency's position that the *North Carolina Information and Technology Skills Essential Standards* are to be embedded into instruction rather than taught in isolation. Therefore, all support materials for these standards will be embedded within the Instructional Toolkits developed by the NCDPI Curriculum and Instruction Division.

2011 Summer Professional Development Leadership Institute

North Carolina Information and Technology Skills Essential Standards must be integrated with other content-area curricula even though these standards are not addressed in an individual session during the 2011 Summer Institute. These Standards are modeled, described, and explored within the context of other content-specific sessions at the Institute. To provide the opportunity for a deeper understanding of these Standards, a model workshop plan on the new *North Carolina Information and Technology Skills Essential Standards* is available. The workshop plan may be accessed on the Instructional Technology Division's Essential Standards webpage and the NCDPI ACRE Instructional Support Tools webpage.