



Measuring 21st Century Skills

Watertown Public Schools

Emerging and Current Assessments

April 13, 2009

<http://www.watertown.k12.ma.us/academics/>



New Tools for a New Era

- How is WPS enabling 21st learning?
- Emerging Assessments
- Current Assessments



Emerging Assessments

What we wish we could be using now:

- ETS iSkills
- Metiri Dimensions21
- Harvard Virtual Performance Assessments for Measuring Achievement in Science

The logo graphic consists of a vertical black line on the left, a horizontal black line below it, and three overlapping squares: a yellow one at the top left, a red one at the bottom left, and a blue one at the bottom right.

ETS iSkills

- “Your students can text message and download music files, but can they problem solve and think critically in a digital environment?”
- *iSkills* assessment uses scenarios that require students to complete specific tasks, rather than answering multiple-choice questions.
- <http://www.ets.org/portal/site/ets/>



Metiri Dimensions21

- “Are your students fully engaged in relevant, deep learning that is preparing them for the high-tech living, learning, and working endemic in today's global society?”
- Dimensions21 (D21) is an audit system that gauges a school or district's current status and readiness to implement 21st Century learning.
- <http://www.metiri.com/>



Virtual Performance Assessments

Harvard Virtual Assessment Project Research Questions

- Q1: Can we construct a virtual assessment that measures scientific inquiry, as defined by the NSES? What is the evidence that our assessments are designed to test NSES inquiry abilities?
- Q2: Are these assessments reliable?
- <http://virtualassessment.org/index.html>



Current Assessments

- Watertown Talks Tech Survey
- Atomic Learning Technology Skills Assessment
- Project-based learning assessments with teacher developed rubrics



Watertown Talks Tech Survey

- Teachers Talk Tech
 - <http://www.cdwg.com/TTT>
- Data drives *Technology-In-Practice* Professional Development
- Watertown Talks Tech Survey
 - <http://teacherweb.com/MA/WatertownHigh/TIP/h0.stm>



Atomic Learning Technology Skills Assessment

- Administrators
- Select High School Students
- All 8th graders and Middle School Faculty
- High School Faculty
- <http://movies.atomiclearning.com/k12/home/>



Teacher Developed Rubrics

- New High School Courses
 - Engineering by Design, Journalism
 - <http://www.watertown.k12.ma.us/academics/SpecialProjects.html>
 - Media Production and Interactive Journalism
<http://www.youtube.com/user/watertownhighschool>
- ThinkFinity
 - Lessons that include high concentration of 21st C skills and learning <http://www.thinkfinity.org/>
- Curriculum Mapping in Google Docs
 - Alignment to 21st Century Skills and Information & Communication Technologies



Measuring 21st Century Skills

- 21st Century Skills can't be measured in the same old way.
- How do you measure...?
 - Attitude
 - Creativity
 - Talent developed
 - Interactions with others
 - Leadership
 - Learning to learn
 - Authentic use of information and communications technologies