

## November 2021 REL Corner: Promoting Students' Deeper Learning and Skills Related to Virginia's Five C's

[Learn about REL Appalachia and its work](#), and dive into these resources from across the REL program to learn about strategies and best-practices educators can use to promote deeper learning and skills related to Virginia's Five C's: critical thinking, collaboration, communication, creative thinking, and citizenship.

- [A Pivot to Performance Assessments](#). This blog post from REL Appalachia provides an overview of performance assessments, an alternative to standard assessments. Performance assessments include engaging options to assess and meet students' needs that allow for educators and students to be innovative, creative, and adaptable in ways that lead to the development of Virginia's 5 C's. The blog post includes a collection of resources based on a partnership with Virginia educators that can be adapted, as well as other resources for ongoing learning to support educators with the implementation of performance assessments locally.
- [Supporting Positive Culture in CTE Programs](#). This blog post shares how REL Appalachia is partnering with the West Virginia Department of Education to strengthen the culture of West Virginia's career and technical education (CTE) program, Simulated Workplace, to promote students' technical and 21<sup>st</sup> century skills such as critical thinking, problem solving, collaboration, and goal setting. The blog post features an educators' guide that shares evidence-based practices to strengthen Simulated Workplace culture.
- [Research-Based Instruments for Measuring Students' Soft Skills](#). This fact sheet from REL Mid-Atlantic provides a selection of instruments middle and high school educators can use to measure students' soft skills, such as teamwork and conscientiousness, and includes soft skill categories and subscales, sample items, modes of administration, and the cost for implementation.

- [Assessing Students' 21st Century Skills](#). This Ask A REL from REL West shares research studies and descriptive articles on strategies and best practices for K-12 educators to provide feedback to students on 21<sup>st</sup> century skill development such as critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and creativity.
- [Organizing Instruction and Study to Improve Student Learning](#). This What Works Clearinghouse practice guide provides seven strategies K-12 educators and students can use to enhance instruction and study time to promote deeper content learning in subjects such as social studies, science, and mathematics.
- [K-12 State and National Civics Standards for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Informed Citizenship](#). This Ask A REL response from REL Mid-Atlantic shares research papers and studies that describe state and national civics/social studies standards and how citizenship education fits within state and national curriculum.
- [Using Technology to Increase Depth of Learning](#). This blog post from REL Midwest discusses how a Networked Improvement Community (NIC) explored effective use of technology tools in different rural contexts to deepen students' understanding of academic material and support learning goals.
- [The Relationship Between Student \(K-12\) Participation in Collaborative Learning Activities and Academic and Deeper Learning Outcomes](#). This Ask A REL response from REL Midwest shares literature reviews, meta-analyses, experimental or quasi-experimental studies on the relationship between (1) student goal setting, (2) personalized college and career advising, and (3) collaborative learning and academic and deeper learning outcomes.