

# Nonacademic Skills Are Key To Success

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“How Learning Happens”

Created by Dr. Hill based on article by Anya Kamenetz, NPR Ed

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Character



Noncognitive Traits + Habits



Social + Emotional Skills



Growth Mindset



21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills



Soft Skills



Grit

## Skills for Success

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"The *virtues* of individuals are of more consequence to society than their *abilities*; and for this reason, the *heart* should be cultivated with more diligence than the *head*."

*Noah Webster, Lexicographer and Educator,*

# 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills

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- The 4Cs of Critical thinking, Collaboration, Communication and Creativity
- Life and Career skills
- Information, Media and Technology skills.

# Character

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- There are some fundamental things that make people really great citizens, which usually include being kind.
  - Ethics – moral principles of right and wrong
  - Character strengths, such as: grit, zest, optimism, self-control, gratitude, social intelligence and curiosity.

# Grit (Persistence)

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- Alongside growth mindset and self-control, grit is a habit and quality that researchers have deemed essential.
  - Grit is the ability to persevere when times get tough, or to delay immediate gratification in pursuit of a goal.
  - Supportive traits of self-control, persistence and conscientiousness are also powerful determinants of success.

# Growth Mindset (Effort)

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- "**Growth mindset**" is the belief that positive traits, including intelligence, can be developed with effort and practice.
  - Growth Mindset respects individual's differences and timing for learning..... "I haven't mastered this skill yet, but I can and will....."
  - Mistakes and failures are essential to learning to take risks and recovering.
- "Fixed mindset" refers to the idea that intelligence and other talents are set at birth; that effort will not make a difference in one's ability to improve performance

# Non-cognitive Traits and Habits

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- Attributes such as self-discipline and persistence — not just academic achievement — affect education, labor market and life outcomes.
- Every skill or trait is cognitive in the sense that it involves and reflects the processing of information of some kind in our brains. Traditional academic skills more often than not are complements, not substitutes, for the attitudes and personality traits captured by the term "non-cognitive skills."



# Soft Skills

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- Being able to write a letter
- Showing up on time
- Having a firm handshake
- Owning responsibility for mistakes
- Using appropriate use of eye contact
- Increasing listening skills

# Social-Emotional Skills

- Increasingly, teachers who are on the front line say that it's very important to teach kids to be more socially and emotionally competent.
- Teachers feel, and growing research supports, that it helps them academically, it improves school climate, it improves discipline, and it's going to help them to be college and career — and life — ready."

# Adult Models

(We must demonstrate the skills that we expect our students to use.)

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- All adults (staff) model emotional self-regulation.
- Adults use active listening with students to identify their emotion before solving the problem or redirecting behavior - “I can see you are upset; however or nevertheless \_\_\_\_\_ .
- Adults validate a student’s effort and encourages them to persevere and offers support.
- Adults model growth mindset - “you haven’t learned this yet,” “learn from your mistake,” “keep trying,” “tomorrow will be better”

# Admiration Inspires Purposeful Learning

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TEDx - ManhattanBeach -

Dr. Mary Helen Immordino-Yang - USC Assistant  
Professor

*Embodied Brains, Social Minds*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RViuTHBIOq8>