

**Superintendent’s Interpretation
Board Policy 1800 OE-1 Fundamental 4
(Approved March 11, 2021)**

Fundamental 4

“Engage students in analytical and critical thinking in order to identify and address global concerns.”

Focusing on analytical and critical thinking, creativity and innovation, as well as communication and collaboration are essential to prepare students for their future. These skills are fostered across disciplines and throughout all grade levels.

Thinking and process skills promote rigor and relevance for students, as we expect students to own their learning. The upper levels of Bloom’s Revised Taxonomy - analyze, evaluate and create - constitute the higher order thinking skills. Instructional technology is used as a resource and tool to learn, create, and solve authentic problems. To address global concerns, students need to think like global citizens by considering global issues and their potential impacts, based on a deep understanding of diverse values and worldviews. Through analytical and critical thinking, students gain competence in focusing on complex problems, take responsibility for their learning, and exhibit concern for and contribute to the world.

Critical Thinking

Critical thinking is the ability to think in an organized and rational manner in order to understand connections between ideas and/or facts. It helps a student decide what to believe in. In other words, it’s “thinking about thinking”— identifying, analyzing, and then fixing flaws in the way a student thinks. Defining critical thinking includes:

1. Evaluating information and arguments;
2. Making connections and identifying barriers;
3. Problem solving;
4. Constructing meaningful knowledge;
5. Experimenting, reflecting, and taking action on ideas in the real world.

Analytical Thinking

A key element to analytical thinking is the ability to quickly identify cause and effect relationships. This means understanding what might happen during the problem-solving process, for example, and examining how new ideas relate to the original topic. The process of applying analytical skills usually involves several steps, including:

1. Identifying a topic, problem or issue;
2. Gathering information through testing and observation;
3. Developing solutions or deepening your understanding of the topic;
4. Testing solutions or new ideas based on what you’ve learned;
5. Post-analysis, or reviewing what solutions worked, to assess and apply your new knowledge.

Creative Thinking

Creative thinking is the process of bringing something new and innovative into existence through imagination. Creative thinking involves:

1. Having an entrepreneurial eye for economic and social opportunities;
2. Asking the right inquiry questions;
3. Considering and pursuing novel ideas and solutions;
4. Leadership to turn ideas into action.

Cross-Discipline Thinking

Students apply what they have learned across content areas. They go beyond merely knowing to using and applying the skills and knowledge they have acquired in a productive manner.

Reference: Deep Learning Engage the World Change the World 2018 Fullan, Quinn and McEachen