

CURRICULUM

21 Essential Education
for a Changing World



Edited by
HEIDI HAYES JACOBS

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

To encourage means to give courage. I thank the 10 authors who have contributed to this book by sharing their convictions and bold thinking. They are a virtual team spanning diverse places, but with a singular belief that growth is essential in education. I continue to learn from each of them.

I feel deep appreciation for the personal encouragement (and prodding) from specific colleagues who have been with me relentlessly at every turn: Betsi Shays, Ann Johnson, Valerie Truesdale, Earl Nicholas, Greg Lind, Beth Beckwith, Janet Hale, Jeanne Tribuzzi, and Brandon Wiley. Thanks to Nicki Newton for our collaboration over the years at Columbia University's Teachers College. I value the devotion and steadfastness of Kathy Scoli who has worked with me for almost 20 years. My communication with Kathy feels like a comforting shorthand.

Perspective means to see meaningful relationships from a range of angles. On this one I am sincerely grateful to Vivian Goldstein, Jay McTighe, Giselle Martin-Kniep, and Brian Cory. ASCD has played a pivotal role in my work over many years. Praise to the astute and insightful editorial eye of Scott Willis and Darcie Russell. They have made this book a better one. And, a special thanks to Kathleen Burke for giving me the opportunity to make a special presentation at the ASCD conference held in San Francisco in 2003 on the seed ideas that eventually grew into this book. It was a turning point for me.

For both encouragement and perspective, I thank my husband Jeffrey, and our adult children, Rebecca and Matt. They help me clarify what matters every day. I rely on their honest and aware views of the world.

Over many years, I have had the opportunity to meet many educators in many parts of the world. I have been fortunate to be a learner and I thank you. Ultimately this book is to help all of us prepare our learners for their future.

CURRICULUM

21 Essential Education for a Changing World

What year are you preparing your students for? 1973? 1995? Can you honestly say that your school's curriculum and the program you use are preparing your students for 2015 or 2020? Are you even preparing them for today?

With those provocative questions, author and educator Heidi Hayes Jacobs launches a powerful case for overhauling, updating, and injecting life into the K-12 curriculum. Sharing her expertise as a world-renowned curriculum designer and calling upon the collective wisdom of 10 education thought leaders, Jacobs provides insight and inspiration in the following key areas:

- **Content and assessment**—How to identify what to keep, what to cut, and what to create, and where portfolios and other new kinds of assessment fit into the picture.
- **Program structures**—How to improve our use of time and space and groupings of students and staff.
- **Technology**—How it's transforming teaching, and how to take advantage of students' natural facility with technology.
- **Media literacy**—The essential issues to address, and the best resources for helping students become informed users of multiple forms of media.
- **Globalization**—What steps to take to help students gain a global perspective.
- **Sustainability**—How to instill enduring values and beliefs that will lead to healthier local, national, and global communities.
- **Habits of mind**—The thinking habits that students, teachers, and administrators need to develop and practice to succeed in school, work, and life.

Curriculum 21 is the ideal guide for transforming our schools into what they must become: learning organizations that match the times in which we live.