

CHECKLIST

Future-Ready Skills Readiness Checklist (K–8)

HOW TO USE:

This checklist helps district leaders assess whether students are developing the future-ready skills needed to succeed in advanced coursework, career pathways, and a rapidly changing workforce.

Use it to:

- Evaluate early foundations for career readiness
- Identify gaps in skill progression and equity
- Align leadership, curriculum, and instructional priorities

1 District Vision & Readiness Alignment

- ☐ The district has a clear definition of what “future-ready skills” mean for students
- ☐ Career readiness is viewed as a K–12 responsibility, not just a secondary initiative
- ☐ Leadership understands how early digital skills support long-term outcomes
- ☐ Career readiness goals align with district strategic plans
- ☐ Expectations are consistent across schools and grade levels
- ☐ Equity and access are considered in career readiness planning

2 Skills Progression & Curriculum Readiness

- ☐ Foundational digital skills are intentionally developed in elementary grades
- ☐ Skills build progressively from grade to grade (not repeated or isolated)
- ☐ Students develop problem-solving and critical thinking skills over time
- ☐ Digital literacy is integrated across subjects, not siloed
- ☐ Instruction prepares students for increasingly complex tasks
- ☐ Learning experiences reflect real-world applications



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3 Instructional Consistency & Teacher Support

- ☐ Teachers have clear guidance on which skills students should master
- ☐ Instruction does not rely on individual teacher experience alone
- ☐ Ready-to-use resources support consistent instruction
- ☐ Teachers understand how digital skills connect to future careers
- ☐ Instruction balances foundational skills with creativity and application
- ☐ Teacher workload is supported, not increased

4 Student Skill Development & Application

- ☐ Students build confidence using productivity and digital tools
- ☐ Students practice communication, collaboration, and problem-solving
- ☐ Instruction emphasizes transferable skills—not specific platforms
- ☐ Students engage in projects that require planning, reasoning, and creation
- ☐ Learning experiences support independence and adaptability
- ☐ Students understand how skills connect to future learning and careers

5 Measurement, Equity, Readiness Visibility

- ☐ The district can see how student skills develop over time
- ☐ Skill development is measurable—not assumed
- ☐ Gaps across schools or student groups are visible
- ☐ Instruction supports equitable access to future-ready skills
- ☐ Leadership has visibility into district-wide readiness
- ☐ Data informs instructional and strategic decisions





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Where do you stand?

Use the total number of checkmarks you selected to identify your district's current level of future-ready skills readiness.

EMERGING

(1-7 Checks)

Career readiness is discussed, but early foundations and consistency are limited.

What to do next:

Clarify district expectations and begin building intentional skill development in earlier grades.

DEVELOPING

(8-14 Checks)

Key elements are in place, but progression, equity, and measurement vary.

What to do next:

Strengthen skill progression, support consistent instruction, and improve visibility into student readiness.

PREPARED

(15+ Checks)

Future-ready skills are intentionally developed, measured, and aligned across K–8.

What to do next:

Sustain progress by refining instruction, monitoring outcomes, and aligning early skills to secondary pathways.

Supporting Districts at Every Stage of Career Readiness

Learning.com helps districts build strong K–8 foundations for career readiness by supporting consistent, age-appropriate skill development, emphasizing transferable, real-world skills, and promoting equitable access across schools and student groups.

Whether your district is establishing early foundations or strengthening progression and measurement, Learning.com partners with teams to provide leaders with clear visibility into readiness and growth—helping students develop the skills they need to succeed in future learning and career opportunities.

Ready to bring Learning.com to your district?

Meet with our specialists to learn more at Learning.com.

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