

## Skills needed for quality of living are both “hard” and “soft.”

Skills needed for successful working and living include both “hard” and “soft” varieties. Family and Consumer Sciences courses teach both types of skills.

A close examination of the “Framework for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning” released by the Partnership for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills reveals strong support for infusing 21<sup>st</sup> century skills into education. There are four key elements in the 21<sup>st</sup> century student outcomes ---life and career skills; core subjects and 21<sup>st</sup> century themes; learning and innovation skills; and information, media and technology skills. Family and Consumer Sciences courses provide strong support for each of these elements.

## How does Family and Consumer Sciences Education support 21<sup>st</sup> century skills?



### Core Subjects and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Themes

Family and Consumer Sciences courses are project-based. Students apply content from reading, mathematics, social studies, science, etc. to solve problems, apply strategies, and design systems. Students apply content when reading a lease, reading instructions, or reading a story to a toddler. They use math skills to measure, estimate, and interpret pictorial representations. These academic applications provide a rich context in which understanding and retention of core subject skills flourish.

Four 21<sup>st</sup> century themes are described as not typically emphasized in schools today --- global awareness; financial, economic, business, and entrepreneurial literacy; civic literacy; and health literacy. Family and Consumer Sciences courses teach 21<sup>st</sup> century content. Global awareness is seen in international foods and the impact of global markets on local systems. Financial literacy is taught in many high schools. Entrepreneurial literacy is taught in many high school career-focused courses related to food, apparel, and interior design. Civic literacy is taught in courses on family and community and reinforced through programs of the integrated career and technical student organization, Family, Career and Community Leaders of America. Health and wellness are widely taught in foods and nutrition classes in most states.

Family and Consumer Sciences is the intersection at which content and context cross, the place where abstract concepts gain deeper meaning. Global awareness, health and wellness, and financial, entrepreneurial, and civic literacy only scratch the surface of 21<sup>st</sup> century themes in Family and Consumer Sciences classrooms.

## The Wheel of Family and Consumer Sciences Education depicts the synergy of this diverse field of work and study.



### The Center

At the center of the Family and Consumer Sciences Education Wheel is the Family and Consumer Sciences diamond. This represents the central focus of this field of work and study --- a common passion for and commitment to helping individuals develop knowledge and skills that empower them to achieve quality of life. Framing the center is the premiere partner of Family and Consumer Sciences Education --- the Family, Career and Community Leaders of America organization. Family and Consumer Sciences and FCCLA are superimposed over the logo of the original *National Standards*, which were first conceptualized in 1998 and provided direction for Family and Consumer Sciences Education until the 2008 revision. Framing the center are four process skills that are central to teaching and learning content---leadership, thinking, communication, and management.

### The Spokes

At the juncture of the wheel’s hub and radiating outward like the sun’s rays are the spokes of the wheel, the 16 revised *National Standards*. These reconfirm the Family and Consumer Sciences mission and vision and serve as an expression of the content of the field. Each standard is stated broadly as a content standard, then broken down into more specific content standards with accompanying competencies.

### The Rim

The rim of the Wheel of Family and Consumer Sciences Education contains three bands depicting the role of Family and Consumer Sciences in the larger education picture:

The inner white band contains icons representing the sixteen national career clusters that are supported by Family and Consumer Sciences courses.

The light blue band represents the broader field of Career and Technical Education, the education entity in which the field of Family of Consumer Sciences Education functions. Family and Consumer Sciences shares this identity with a range of other career and technical program areas, all of which prepare students for careers in fields related to their cluster of competencies.

The outer band represents four key elements of the “Framework for 21<sup>st</sup> Learning” and affirms the commitment of Family and Consumer Sciences toward ongoing school improvement. This band also emphasizes the vital role that Family and Consumer Sciences plays in reinforcing core content and 21<sup>st</sup> century themes, fostering learning and innovation skills, information/media skills, and life/career skills. Turn the page to view a larger center-fold of the Wheel of Family and Consumer Sciences Education.