
The Four Purposes

EFF surveyed 1,500 adult students to identify the specific knowledge and skills needed for them to meet the responsibilities they faced in their lives. These results were summarized as the Four Purposes:

Access to information so adults can orient themselves to the world.

Voice to be able to express ideas and opinions with the confidence that they will be heard and taken into account.

Independent Action to be able to solve problems and make decisions on one's own, acting independently, without having to rely on others.

Bridge to the Future to learn how to learn so adults can keep up with the world as it changes.

The Three Role Maps

EFF asked focus groups around the country to identify the broad areas of responsibility and activities that make up an adult's life. The results were summarized into the three Role Maps. Each of the role maps consists of an area of adult responsibility and activities related to these responsibilities. The three adult roles are:

Citizen/Community Member - effective citizens and community members are ones who take informed action to make a positive difference in their lives, communities, and world.

Parent/Family Member - effective family members are ones who contribute to building and maintaining a strong family system that promotes growth and development.

Worker Member - effective workers are ones who can adapt to change and actively participate in meeting the demands of a changing workplace in a changing world.

The Thirteen Common Activities

EFF defined thirteen activities that occur across all three roles. These common activities are:

- Gather, Analyze, and Use Information
 - Manage Resources
 - Work Within the Big Picture
 - Work Together
 - Provide Leadership
 - Guide and Support Others
 - Seek Guidance and Support From Others
 - Develop and Express Sense of Self
 - Respect Others and Value Diversity
 - Exercise Rights and Responsibilities
 - Create and Pursue Visions and Goals
 - Use Technology and Other Tools to Accomplish Goals
 - Keep Pace With Change
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The Sixteen Standards

The sixteen Standards define the core knowledge and skills adults need to effectively carry out their roles as parents, citizens and workers. Each Standard contains Components of Performance (see [the Equipped for the Future Content Standards](#) for the components of each Standard), which identify the necessary elements of the standard. The standards are divided into four categories:

Communications Skills,
Decision-Making Skills,
Interpersonal Skills, and
Lifelong Learning Skills.

Contact Judy Franks for more information about EFF at 330-672-0753 or jfranks@literacy.kent.edu

The Four Categories of Standards

Communication

- Read with Understanding
- Convey Ideas in Writing
- Speak So Others Can Understand
- Listen Actively
- Observe Critically

Decision-Making

- Solve Problems and Make Decisions
- Plan
- Use Math to Solve Problems and Communicate

Interpersonal

- Cooperate With Others
- Guide Others
- Advocate and Influence
- Resolve Conflict and Negotiate

Lifelong Learning

- Take Responsibility for Learning
- Learn Through Research
- Reflect and Evaluate
- Use Information and Communications Technology



The Pocket Guide to EFF Terminology