

ADEQUATE EDUCATION TABLE

In 1993, the Supreme Court of Tennessee declared that the Tennessee Constitution mandated a fundamental right to an adequate free education.¹ The Court determined that an adequate education gives students at least, the “opportunity to acquire general knowledge, develop powers of reasoning and judgment, and generally prepare students intellectually for a mature life.” The skills listed below fall under one of the three elements outlined in this mandate.

This mandate is a qualitative standard, which at a minimum, should be delivered to all students equally and without exception. An adequate education equips students to enter into secondary education or the workforce with the skills and knowledge that are necessary to function and succeed in the 21st century, without the need for remedial course work. These 21st century skills include but are not limited to:

<u>Acquiring general knowledge</u>	<u>To develop powers of reasoning & judgment</u>	<u>Prepare intellectually for a mature life</u>
Core Subjects: English, reading or language arts, math, science, foreign languages, civics, government, economics, history, geography, physics, chemistry and biology.	Problem-solving & decision-making – ID problem; locate, gather & organize relevant info; generate alternatives; choose a solution; implement solution; evaluation solution.	Interpersonal skills – demonstrating concern for others; insight into behavior; meaningful open communication; respecting diversity; takes action to learn about other cultures.
*English – includes language, communication—listening and speaking, persuasion/influence, writing, research, logic, informational text, media & literature.	Teamwork – acknowledging team membership & role; establishing productive relationships; ID with the team and its goals; resolve conflicts; ability to collaborate.	Integrity – behaving ethically, acting fairly & taking responsibility.
Reading – comprehension; attention to detail; integration (evaluating & analyzing info in written materials); application (integrates info w/prior knowledge, applies to complete specific tasks, & applies to future situations). Includes skills in comprehending technical writing and reading for entertainment.	Adaptability/flexibility – employing unique analyses; entertain new ideas; deal with ambiguity.	Professionalism – demonstrating self-control; professional appearance; substance abuse; positive attitude.
Writing – org. & development; mechanics (grammar, spelling, structure); tone. Audience, formal and informal and technical writing.	Customer/client focus – understand needs; provide personalized service; act professionally (pleasant, courteous & cooperative); keeping customers informed (following up).	Initiative – persistence; self-discipline; setting challenging goals; working independently; achievement motivation.
*Math – includes number sense & numerical operations, algebra, geometry, and data interpretation, stats & probability; measurement & estimation; problem solving.	Planning & organizing – incl., prioritizing, allocating resources, and anticipating obstacles.	Dependability & reliability – fulfilling obligations; punctuality; attending to details; complying with policies.

¹ Tenn. Small Sch. Sys.v. McWherter, 851 S.W.2d 139, 150 (Tenn. 1993).

<p>Science & Technology – comprehension of basic principles & scientific method; understand overall intent and proper procedures for set-up & operation of equipment; application.</p>	<p>Creative thinking – generating innovating solutions (reframing probs in different light to find fresh approaches, open to all possibilities); seeing the big picture.</p>	<p>Willingness to learn – demonstrating an interest in learning; participating in training; anticipating changes in work; identifying career interests.</p>
<p>The Arts – Art, Music, & Dance appreciation.</p>	<p>Working w/tools & technology – selecting tools; keeping current; troubleshooting; “ICT” Literacy (info & communications technology) – ability to use tech to develop 21st century content knowledge & skills.</p>	<p>Active learning – apply a range of learning techniques to acquire new knowledge & skills; application.</p>
<p>“21st Century Content” – global awareness; financial, economic, business & entrepreneurial literacy; foreign languages; health & wellness awareness.</p>	<p>Basic computer skills – comprehending the basics of hardware & software; understand common terms and be familiar with the fundamental capabilities of computers; entering data & preparing documents. Includes workplace applications such as keyboarding & word processing, internet applications, email, & spreadsheets.</p>	<p>Critical & Analytic thinking – reasoning (inductive and deductive; critically review, analyze, synthesize, compare & interpret info) and mental agility (ID connections between issues; responding to new assignments).</p>
	<p>Scheduling & coordinating – arranging, informing, verifying; coordinating in distributed environments; shiftwork.</p>	
	<p>Checking, examining & recording – detecting errors; completing forms; obtaining info; maintaining logs.</p>	
	<p>Business fundamentals – situational awareness; business ethics; market knowledge.</p>	