CRITICAL THINKING & PROBLEM SOLVING

Students will apply knowledge and skills in practical ways to solve real world problems. The teacher provides the activities, experiences, and feedback needed for students to develop critical thinking and problem solving skills.

Entry	Developing	Approaching	Ideal/Target
Teacher disseminates information with limited real world connections. Teacher places little emphasis on helping students think analytically, make decisions, and solve problems.	Teacher provides direct instruction on critical thinking and problem solving skills. Teacher creates opportunities for students to solve basic problems. Students use resources including technology to make decisions and solve problems.	Teacher incorporates problem and project based learning into instruction. Teacher utilizes open-ended questioning and emphasizes higher order thinking skills. Teacher guides and encourages the use of appropriate resources to solve authentic problems. Students use technology and work independently to solve problems. Students engage in open-ended learning experiences that require higher order thinking skills.	Students use multiple resources to plan, design, and execute solutions to real-world problems. Students use technology and collaborate to solve authentic problems. Students develop and answer open-ended questions using higher order thinking skills.