



The **Critical Skills Program** offers educators a set of powerful learning experiences in support of classroom and school change initiatives. Through the model of the Critical Skills Classroom, we help you to develop a cohesive approach to address many of the challenges faced by educators today: aligning curricula with state and district learning frameworks, designing real-world, problem-based learning experiences, shaping safe, collaborative classroom and school cultures, integrating critical skill development with content learning, implementing competency-based assessment practices, and achieving substantive and compelling learning for students. Our program faculty and staff are experienced master teachers and leaders who have significant experience and success implementing this Critical Skills Classroom model and have completed advanced Critical Skills and leadership training.

The **Critical Skills Classroom** is a comprehensive model that creatively and effectively integrates four powerful teaching methodologies into coherent strategies such as;

Collaborative Learning
Problem-Based Learning

Experiential Learning
Standards-Driven Learning

Working together these methodologies provide teachers and students the means to simultaneously and intentionally:

- build and sustain a strong, supportive classroom learning community
- target the curriculum in ways that provide both a depth of understanding and meaningful learning
- develop the critical skills and fundamental dispositions
- meet or exceed the demands of district and state frameworks and standards

Students in a Critical Skills Classroom :

- frequently work as learning teams and groups
- actively solve academic problems, scenarios and real-world problems,
- make public presentations and exhibitions of their learning
- systematically reflect on what they are doing and learning
- focus on standards of quality for their work
- take shared responsibility and ownership of their learning and for the classroom community

Teachers in a Critical Skills Classroom:

- model, guide, coach and support the learning process
- design learning activities that are carefully connected and built on one another
- incorporate targeted learning standards to guide the classroom culture, curriculum, and assessment

The **Antioch Center for School Renewal** is the service division of the Department of Education at Antioch University New England. Our unique staff of highly skilled, experienced K-12 teacher-leaders and core university faculty are part of an educational institution that dates back to Horace, Mann and embodies the values of progressive, student center education. The mission of the Antioch Center for School Renewal is to support and nurture the creation of equitable, inspiring, personalized learning communities, and to make them the common experience for young people and educators everywhere.