

The Profile of a Lifelong Learner

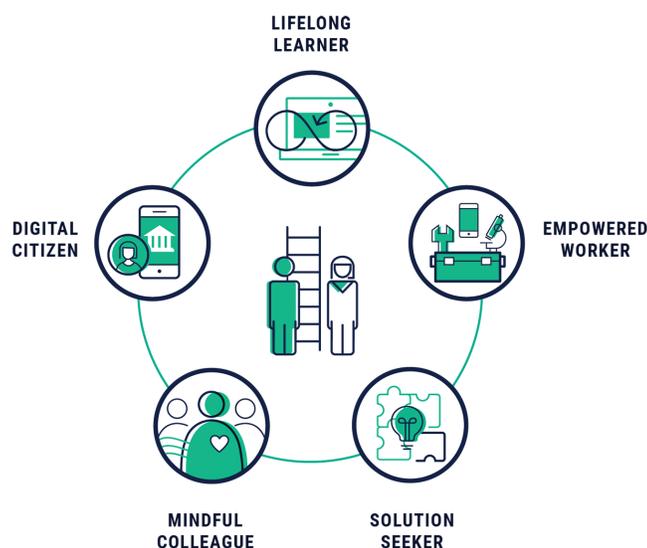
SKILLRISE OVERVIEW

SkillRise is an ISTE initiative that helps adult learning organizations advance education with technology. It provides a broad offering of resources, guidance, and coaching services to adult learning organizations, workforce development centers, and employers to better support the employment outlook and quality of life of their workers. More information about these offerings can be found at skillrise.org.

The Profile of a Lifelong Learner is a framework that defines the digital skills and lifelong learning dispositions that adult learners need to be competitive in the future of work. It offers guidance for organizations developing learning and training opportunities for working learners, driving the ways in which we orient working learners toward more effective and equitable outcomes.

THE PROFILE OF A LIFELONG LEARNER

The Profile of a Lifelong Learner is a research-based set of qualities to guide lifelong learning in the digital age. The Profile stands firmly on three legs: (1) the ISTE Standards for Students; (2) a literature review of peer-reviewed research that explored skills that predict workplace success; (3) and a landscape scan of adult educational and occupational skills frameworks that already exist in the field. Additionally, development of the Profile has been guided by a panel of advisors who represent leaders in the fields of adult education, workforce development, community college education, edtech, and K-12 career pathways. On this foundation, the Profile was developed to be a heretofore missing “north star” for adult learning practitioners that details the digital and lifelong learning skills that working learners need to be able to thrive in the future of work.



The Profile of a Lifelong Learner

The Profile consists of five Features, each supported by three Practices.

Feature 1 | LIFELONG LEARNER

Lifelong Learners access, analyze, and apply digital resources in order to build knowledge, advance their careers, and experience the best life possible.

- **Practice 1a** Lifelong Learners set and achieve individualized learning goals related to work and life.
- **Practice 1b** Lifelong Learners digitally engage with information, determine its accuracy, credibility, and relevance, and use it to cultivate their learning and professional pursuits.
- **Practice 1c** Lifelong Learners build digital literacy, exhibit digital resilience, and effectively adapt to ongoing changes related to the future of work.

Feature 2 | EMPOWERED WORKER

Empowered Workers persevere through challenges, shape career paths in alignment with personal interests and goals, and upskill to be successful in a digital-age workforce.

- **Practice 2a** Empowered Workers use technology to continuously build awareness of career pathways both within and outside of their workplaces and pursue opportunities to grow in their careers.
- **Practice 2b** Empowered Workers understand systems and policies that govern their individual workplaces and strategically advocate for their own success and well-being.
- **Practice 2c** Empowered Workers draw upon digital and face-to-face networks to actively cultivate a healthy relationship between work, personal, and social lives.

Feature 3 | DIGITAL CITIZEN

Digital Citizens are inclusive, equitable, and culturally aware as they live, learn, and work in an interconnected world.

- **Practice 3a** Digital Citizens expand their perspectives, develop greater empathy, and support more inclusive and equitable workplaces using digital tools and resources.
- **Practice 3b** Digital Citizens use technology in a safe, legal, ethical, and culturally mindful manner in order to advance inclusion and equity in local and global communities.
- **Practice 3c** Digital Citizens are willing to challenge systems, procedures, and technologies that promote biases or perpetuate racism and inequity.

Feature 4 | SOLUTION SEEKER

Solution Seekers use technology to explore independent perspectives, amplify creative thinking, and develop smart solutions to practical problems in work and life.

- **Practice 4a** Solution Seekers are curious, flexible thinkers, and open to new ideas and experiences.
- **Practice 4b** Solution Seekers persevere through open-ended challenges and work within design and resource constraints to help discover new solutions.
- **Practice 4c** Solution Seekers leverage digital tools to break down systems, processes, and problems into component parts to develop critical understandings, new perspectives, and equitable solutions.

Feature 5 | MINDFUL COLLEAGUE

Mindful Colleagues employ situational awareness and a collaborative team approach to effectively communicate, learn from, and work with diverse colleagues in digital and face-to-face environments.

- **Practice 5a** Mindful Colleagues demonstrate awareness of their environment, audience, and interpersonal dynamics in order to succeed in work.
- **Practice 5b** Mindful Colleagues develop empathy, communicate thoughtfully, and support positive and fair collaborations in person and online.
- **Practice 5c** Mindful Colleagues are honest, conscientious, and support the success of their colleagues while advocating for their own career mobility.