## CREATIVE PROBLEM Essential Skills Today's Students Need for

Jobs in Tomorrow's Age of Automation

Creative problem solving is the process of redefining problems and opportunities, coming up with new, innovative responses and solutions, and then taking action.

Research shows that tomorrow's jobs will demand creative problem solving skills. We asked 400 higher and secondary educators, and 100 policymakers and influencers around the world to tell us about how students are being prepared to be creative problem solvers. Here is what we found...

### Creative problem solving is critical to future

**Educators and policymakers agree:** 

# career success in an age of automation

**Educators** 

**Policymakers** 81%

Creative problem solving is very important for students to learn in school.

Professions that require creative problem solving skills are less likely to be impacted by automation.

**81**%

Students who excel at creative problem solving will have higher-earning jobs in the future.

**85**%

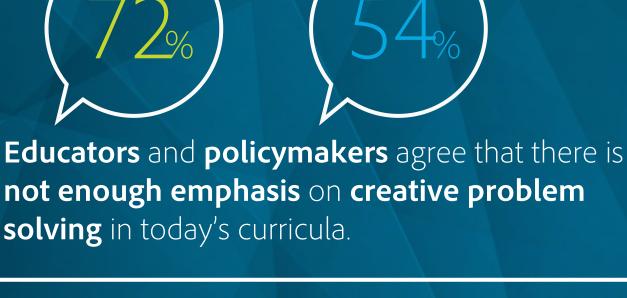
Creative problem solving skills are in high demand today for senior level/ higher-paying careers.

And yet these skills are NOT being

nurtured in schools today

**92**%





**TOP CREATIVE PROBLEM SOLVING SKILLS EDUCATORS** 200/

In fact, the skills identified as most important to creative problem solving

are currently playing a minimal role in today's curricula.



Great Deal of Emphasis

Placed on Learning Skills

Very Important Skills

for the integration of creative problem solving.

"

Policymaker

The specifics of individual curricula do not allow space



### **LACK OF ACCESS TO SOFTWARE** LACK OF TIME TO CREATE **IN CLASSROOMS** LACK OF EDUCATOR TRAINING

There are many barriers to teaching

creative problem solving in schools today

OUTDATED STANDARDIZED

76% TESTING REQUIREMENTS

LACK OF ACCESS TO HARDWARE IN CLASSROOMS 70%

LACK OF STUDENT ACCESS TO 3% SOFTWARE AT HOME

LACK OF EDUCATOR CONTROL 63%

LACK OF STUDENT ACCESS TO HARDWARE AT HOME 69%

" Focus on exam results has

gotten worse over time and with

budget cuts, this means there

isn't enough time and there

understand new policies and implement them effectively. We need to be given dedicated (paid) time to undertake training, not just

asked to get on with it on top of

already ridiculous workloads.

Teachers have precious little time to

aren't enough resources

Educator, Secondary More than half of educators don't have access to the tools and training they need to

Educator, Secondary

"

nurture these skills. School budget restraints and a lack of time, technology and training keep teachers from getting the knowledge they need.



Today's education policies aren't helping either

" Current education policies have introduced the worst of reform and change because of the continuous emphasis on exams,

Policymaker

test scores and more exams

Cuts in funding have made nurturing creativity in students

worse. There is also a larger amount of material the students need to learn for the exams than ever before, so the tutors spend time on teaching set facts. **Educator,** Post-secondary

Educators and policymakers believe that current national education policies actually hurt teachers' ability to nurture creative problem solving.



enable schools to include more

diverse ideas.

**91**% •

**Educator,** Secondary

There is a gap in understanding the realities of integrating creative problem solving into the classroom. Policymakers see these skills as less difficult to integrate into today's curricula than educators do.

Current policies do not give teachers

the creative focus to change their

teaching to make it more focused

on creative elements.

**Educator,** Secondary

"



84%

**83**%

Educators and policymakers believe it will take a variety of solutions to better nurture creative problem solving

We need to find ways to reform the current curricula

to better nurture creative problem solving

There are many ways — small and large — to bridge the skills gap:

Ensuring local implementation of federal changes in digital capability programs

We need to find ways to better integrate **83**% creative problem solving into today's curricula

1. CURRICULUM REFORM Revisiting standardized testing requirements

2. TRAINING AND ACCESS **87**% • Additional professional development for educators

Prioritizing access to technology for

underprivileged students

3. TECHNOLOGY **82**% • Allocating more budget to schools for technology Requiring more digital literacy courses

> Today's students are facing a sea change like no other, and Adobe is working with educators and students to help them develop these essential skills for entering tomorrow's workforce.

 Why creative problem solving skills are so important to jobs of the future. ❷ How Adobe is supporting educators, inspiring students and making tools more accessible. And to hear directly from educators successfully using technology to teach

creative problem solving skills in their classrooms

but it plays a key role To learn more about:

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Technology alone is not the answer,