



CASE STUDY BRIEF

Since 2013, the Partnership for 21st Century Learning (P21) has annually designated 21st Century Learning Exemplars based upon exceptional implementation of the [Framework for 21st Century Learning](#).

Each year, P21 has highlighted a cohort of early learning centers, K–12 schools, school districts, and beyond school programs in the U.S. as 21st Century Learning Exemplars. Now that P21 is a network of Battelle for Kids, we are leading together in celebrating the current year of 21st Century Learning Exemplars.

As part of celebrating these awardees, Battelle for Kids and its P21 network provide ways for their stories and impactful practices to be shared with others. This case study brief and those for the other awardees provide powerful insights to guide other school districts, schools, and programs so that every child can experience the best of 21st century learning experiences.



Vicksburg Warren School District Vicksburg, MS

With a strong focus on the community, Vicksburg Warren School District (VWSD) equips each student for the future, prepared for the next step in life and career as a caring and competent member of society.

Grades Served: PreK–12

Enrollment: 8,070 Students

Consolidated in 1989

[Website](#)

- Google Reference District
- Recipient of a multi-year \$5.7 million grant from Vivian Burey Marshall STEM Pilot Initiative

Vicksburg Warren School District

Vicksburg, MS

District-Wide Implementation of School Improvement Model

Vicksburg Warren School District has implemented the FranklinCovey Leader in Me Model in all of its sixteen schools. One of the only districts in the nation to implement this program district-wide and across all grade levels, the district has the only four Mississippi schools to be designated Lighthouse Schools by FranklinCovey.

Funded through a public-private partnership with the local Chamber of Commerce, the Leader in Me Model was first executed in five of the district's schools. The results from those first five schools compelled the Mississippi Legislature, in a year of cutbacks, to help fund the implementation of the program in all of the district's remaining schools.

Based on Steven Covey's concept and associated book, *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*, this initiative engages students, teachers, administrators, and support staff. With a focus on 21st century leadership and life skills, students are empowered by the belief that every single person can be a leader and has the innate ability to affect positive transformation.

Academy Model

As one of only three school districts to partner with Ford Next Generation Learning, in 2016 Vicksburg Warren restructured its high schools by integrating curriculum, schedules, on-and off campus experiences, as well as family and community engagement. With the ultimate vision that all education leads to employment, all grade 8 students complete a keystone course in which they explore the 16 nationally recognized career clusters and choose one of the three academies to enroll in for high school: ACME (Architecture, Construction, Mechatronics, and Engineering), CAB (Communications, Arts, and Business), and HHS (Health and Human Services).

In grade 9, all students are provided a dynamic checklist for their selected exit strategy—employed, enrolled, enlisted, or entrepreneur—and offered guidance throughout high school to successfully navigate their post-graduation plan with confidence.

In addition to the support received from Ford Next Generation Learning to implement the Academy Model, more than 180 business, civic, and faith-based leaders convened over a year long process to collaborate on the Vicksburg-Warren community's collective long-term vision for VWSD graduates and the future workforce.



Business and Industry Partnerships

To ensure they are graduating work-ready employees, the district has continued to strengthen its ties with industry and community leaders. An Industry Council made up of business leaders and school district personnel meets every other month to ensure that curriculum is aligned with employment needs in the community.

It also has partnered with Mississippi State College to provide an engineering course to high school students, as a first step to potential employment at the area's largest employer, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Engineering Research and Development Center.

To even better prepare students for gainful employment, the district has partnered with the Army Corps of Engineers to provide mentorship and hands-on opportunities for students, as well as to implement the Vivian Burey Marshall Academy STEM Pilot Initiative, which provides out-of-school activities and support for increasing STEM related competencies and interests for students in underrepresented and/or disadvantaged populations.



2019 21ST CENTURY LEARNING EXEMPLARS

Each of the following earned this year's award for its outstanding practices in equipping students with the necessary skills and knowledge for success in college, career, and life:

Early Learning

The Goddard School Located in Broadview Heights
(Broadview, OH)

The Goddard School Located in Simpsonville
(Simpsonville, SC)

K-12 Schools

Canyon Crest Elementary School (Fontana, CA)

Elon Elementary School (Elon, NC)

EVSC New Tech Institute (Evansville, IN)

Henry Ford Academy: Alameda School for Art + Design
(San Antonio, TX)

Kairos Public School Vacaville Academy (Vacaville, CA)

Kensington Elementary School (Waxhaw, NC)

Moreno Valley High School (Moreno Valley, CA)

Saint Ambrose School (Brunswick, OH)

Santiago Charter Middle School (Orange, CA)

Valley View High School (Moreno Valley, CA)

Vineyard STEM Magnet (Ontario, CA)

Vista Heights Middle School (Moreno Valley, CA)

Wolf Springs Elementary School (Overland Park, KS)

Districts

Lennox School District (Lennox, CA)

Vicksburg Warren School District (Vicksburg, MS)

Beyond School Programs

Camp Champions (Marble Falls, TX)

[Learn more](#) about the 21st Century Learning
Exemplars at: bfk.me/p21 [ExemplarProgram](#)