Critical Thinking and Problem-Solving

Critical thinking and problem-solving involves addressing complex issues and problems by acquiring, processing, analyzing, and interpreting information to make informed judgments and decisions. The capacity to engage in cognitive processes to understand and resolve problems includes the willingness to achieve one's potential as a constructive and reflective citizen. Learning is deepened when situated in meaningful real-world experiences.

Indicators	Exemplar "I" Statements
Learners engage in an inquiry process to solve problems, as well as acquire, process, interpret, synthesize, and critically analyze information to make informed decisions.	• I use an inquiry process to question and investigate problems. • I use criteria to organize and classify information. • I evaluate evidence for relevance and accuracy. • I use evidence to inform decisions.
Learners select strategies, resources, and tools to support their learning, thinking, and problem-solving and evaluate the effectiveness of their choices.	• I select resources for learning, thinking, and problem-solving that best suit my strengths and needs. • I use strategies that work for me when learning and problem-solving. • I evaluate the effectiveness of the resources and strategies I use for learning and problem-solving.
Learners see patterns, make connections, and transfer their learning from one situation to another, including real-world applications.	• I use prior knowledge to recognize situational patterns and make connections to different situations. • I transfer knowledge from one situation to another.
Learners analyze the functions and interconnections of social, ecological, and economic systems.	• I understand the interconnectedness of social, ecological, and economic systems. • I weigh the impacts of the social, political, cultural or environmental systems on each other.
Learners construct, relate and apply knowledge to all domains of life, such as school, home, work, friends, and community.	• I bring together relevant information and perspectives to inform thoughts, actions or beliefs. • I assess how selected solutions impact relationships or quality of life.
Learners solve complex problems by taking concrete steps to design and manage solutions.	• I identify problems that are meaningful and relevant to my life. • I break problems into smaller parts. • I develop options for solving problems or challenges. • I adjust problem-solving plans to address changing circumstances.
Learners formulate and express questions to further their understanding, thinking, and problem-solving.	• I ask questions to better understand and think about situations and problems.