



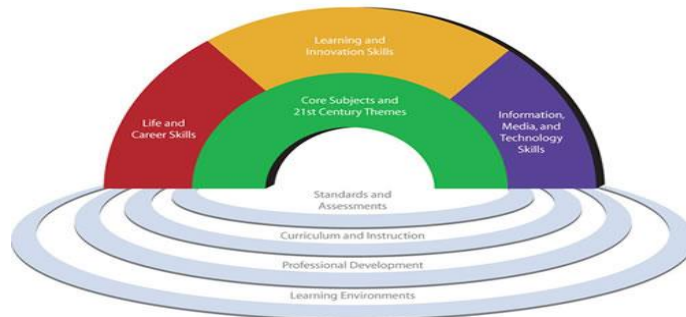
Introducing the Connecticut Invention Convention

Purpose, Process, and Implementation

The Connecticut Invention Convention (CIC) is a nearly 30 year-old voluntary program in over 100 schools in Connecticut which builds standards-based inquiry skills in children by introducing and leading them through the creation of their own invention, to solve a problem of their own choosing.

Invention is . . .

- *Standards Based* – A proven educational unit which “covers the standards” effortlessly and naturally.
- *STEM Integrated* – Linked with science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, as well as English, economics, sociology, presentation skills, information technology, art, marketing, and much more.
- *Differentiated Education* - Accommodates different student needs and learning styles – no child will be left behind.
- *Founded on higher order thinking skills* - Problem-defining and problem-solving techniques are taught and utilized.
- *21st Century Skills Related* – An age appropriate way to link personal growth, learning paths, and global issues



How Does Invention Fit Into my School or Program?

- A flexible and expandable program which fits many time frames and instructional situations, before, during, and after school.
- Easy to begin small. Invent with a single class, an after school club, a scout troop, etc.
- Medium sized program can involve a whole grade level, a middle school team, an entire science roster.
- Large programs are multiple grade levels, school wide or even town wide.

Benefits to School/Program

- Standards based instruction
- The program may be offered K-8.
- Inexpensive program – an original “Green” Initiative

- Community involvement is integral
- Recognition at the local and state level for a different set of skills
- Flexible program design
 - School wide
 - Level wide
 - Elementary or Secondary
 - After-school Program
 - Home school

Benefits to Students

- Student generated process - students identify and solve a problem
- Opportunity for original creativity and innovativeness
- Chance to be recognized for their engineering talent and most get to use hand tools
- Opportunity for personal growth and building of self-esteem
- Enhanced communication and research skills
- Real life opportunity to achieve something for the good of all

The Details

- The program typically takes between 6-10 weeks in the winter and spring, culminating with a "local invention convention" of student participants.
- The school program may then send the top 10-15% of the local participants to the CT Invention Convention "finals" event at Gampel Pavilion, UConn, Storrs in May.
- Schools can also participate in a free, "CIC Day at the Capitol" in April where students exhibit their inventions to state legislators.
- A full curriculum is available to teachers complete with
 - 5 essential lesson plans,
 - a clear delineation of national and Connecticut standards,
 - a "how to" road map for planning and executing a local invention convention
- CIC offers yearly new teacher training workshops, full day, for 20 or more participants including hands-on training, for minimal cost, lunch included.
- NEW: "CIC in a Box" with tools and materials to start any size program is now available.

Planning Guidelines

Staff	1-2 staff and some paraprofessional or parent support
Time	5 Essential Lessons take 5-7 sessions in total (this can vary) Inventing Workshops (on site or at home) - 2-3 weeks Preparation for your convention - 1-2 weeks
Resources Needed	Collected "junk" and discarded small appliances for students to "investigate" Donated tools or inexpensive tool sets Media Center and Internet access for student research and interactive sites Materials for backboard displays and logbooks
Cost	\$125 per site for program registration (no matter how many participate) \$25 per student for Student State Event registration (if student attends the CIC state convention at UConn, Storrs) Bus to UConn (optional)