What it is: ACCESS AfterSchool aligns with **Battelle for Kids' Partnership for 21st Century Learning (P21) Framework**, emphasizing the skills needed to succeed in a technology-driven, globally connected world. This framework integrates **information literacy, media literacy, and ICT (Information, Communications, and Technology) literacy** to help students:

1. Access and evaluate information efficiently

2. Analyze and create media that communicates effectively

3. Use technology tools for collaboration, organization, and contribution at a global scale

Why it's important: In today's media-rich, technology-driven environment, individuals must navigate vast amounts of information, adapt to rapidly evolving technology, and collaborate globally.

• **Information literacy** helps students critically assess and use reliable information.

• **Media literacy** empowers them to understand and create impactful media while addressing ethical considerations.

• **ICT literacy** ensures that students can effectively use modern technologies to solve problems, communicate, and work collaboratively.

By aligning with the P21 framework, ACCESS AfterSchool prepares students with the essential skills to succeed in the 21st-century workforce and as informed, responsible citizens.
Strategies to implement Information, Media, and Technology Skills in ACCESS AfterSchool:

• Incorporate **project-based learning** that encourages students to research and solve real-world problems using digital tools and media.

• Foster **critical thinking** by having students analyze various sources of information, evaluating their credibility, bias, and relevance.

• Create opportunities for students to produce media content (such as blogs, videos, or podcasts) that addresses ethical issues and promotes social responsibility.

• Use **collaborative technology platforms** (like Google Workspace or Microsoft Teams) for group projects, where students must manage information, communicate, and complete tasks together.

• Encourage **peer feedback** in media projects to build skills in analyzing messages, understanding diverse perspectives, and improving communication strategies.

Applications/Examples:

• **STEM Programs**: Students work in small groups using online research tools and digital simulations to solve scientific challenges, presenting findings through multimedia presentations.

• **Social Studies Classes**: Students evaluate various online news articles, identifying bias and discussing how media can shape public opinion on current events.

- **Language Arts**: Students create podcasts discussing themes from literature, practicing media creation while learning about different storytelling techniques.

- **Art and Design**: Students collaborate on a digital mural, where each team designs one element using graphic design software, creating a cohesive final product.

- **Community Engagement**: Students produce short videos or social media campaigns on environmental or social issues, learning to communicate effectively and ethically using media platforms.