



## Navigating a Global Future: Charting Inclusive Paths and Digital Multiliteracies with DIGICOMPASS

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### Abstract

*DIGICOMPASS is an innovative educational framework designed to navigate the complexities of global language education, preparing students to thrive in an interconnected world. This curriculum integrates core principles such as Digital Literacy, Inclusive Practices, Intercultural Competence, and Awareness of Social Strategies. It emphasizes a holistic approach to learning that incorporates digital multiliteracies, plurilingualism, and social responsibility, aiming to cultivate global citizens equipped with the skills to engage ethically and effectively across diverse cultural and digital landscapes. Through the strategic use of adaptive learning technologies, immersive digital tools, and a curriculum that promotes ethical global engagement, DIGICOMPASS sets a new standard in education. It prepares students not just to adapt to the globalized world, but to shape it, encouraging active participation and thoughtful leadership in addressing global challenges. This comprehensive educational model stands as a beacon for future educational practices, highlighting the importance of integrating digital proficiency with a deep understanding of cultural and social dynamics.*

**Keywords:** Digital Literacy, Global Citizenship, Intercultural Competence, Multiliteracies, Plurilingualism

### 1. Introduction

Centered around a GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE, represented by the globe at its heart, DIGICOMPASS directs learning through four cardinal points, each symbolizing a core principle essential for nurturing globally aware and socially responsible individuals.

Fig. 1: DIGICOMPASS Core Principles



- ❖ **DIGITAL LITERACY (NORTH):** Serving as our guiding star, it equips students with the skills to safely navigate and contribute to the digital world.
- ❖ **INCLUSIVE PRACTICES (EAST):** Reflecting the dawn's light, it ensures education is accessible to all, promoting equality and a brighter future for every learner.
- ❖ **INTERCULTURAL COMPETENCE (SOUTH):** Celebrating the diversity of cultures, it fosters understanding and appreciation for the rich tapestry of human experience.
- ❖ **AWARENESS OF SOCIAL STRATEGIES (WEST):** Encouraging reflection on societal impacts, it emphasizes the importance of ethical engagement and community growth.



## 2. DIGICOMPASS Core Principles

At its core, DIGICOMPASS integrates five foundational elements: Digital Literacy, Inclusive Practices, Global Perspective, Intercultural Competence, and Awareness of Social Strategies. This comprehensive framework equips students with digital proficiency and a broad cultural understanding essential for global citizenship. Drawing on Jenkins et al. (2006) [15], the framework emphasizes a participatory digital literacy where learners become active contributors to the digital landscape and cultural narrative.

DIGICOMPASS encourages digital storytelling as a medium for creative expression and a means to embody various literacies. By promoting content creation and sharing, students become narrators of their digital stories, gaining a deeper understanding of media messages, developing technical skills, and navigating the digital world ethically and creatively. Additionally, the framework integrates digital literacy within a broader educational context, acknowledging the role of social media in reshaping learning, creating inventive educational experiences beyond traditional classrooms (Greenhow and Lewin, 2016) [12].

DIGICOMPASS values inclusive practices by creating personalized learning experiences that recognize students' diverse backgrounds and abilities. Grounded in research-informed strategies like differentiated instruction (Tomlinson & Imbeau, 2020) [29] and adaptive learning technologies (Walkington and Bernacki, 2020) [31], it ensures equitable access to education. The framework integrates multicultural education (Banks 2008) [2] and translanguaging (García and Wei, 2014) [9] to harness linguistic and cultural diversity.

Bridging inclusive practices and global interconnectedness, DIGICOMPASS emphasizes the importance of understanding individual identities in the global context. Drawing on Suarez-Orozco and Qin-Hilliard (2004) [27], the curriculum explores how globalization influences societal dynamics. Reimers (2020) [24] provides insight into equipping students to navigate sustainability and inequality challenges. The OECD's (2018) [22] global competence framework stresses the importance of addressing international issues with a nuanced perspective.

DIGICOMPASS recognizes intercultural competence as a core component of global citizenship, building on Byram's (1997) [3] foundational work and expanding with contemporary research by Jackson (2014) [14], Deardorff (2009) [6], Gee (2015) [11], and Gay (2018) [10], *inter alia*. It aligns with the updated CEFR (2018) [5], which outlines essential language competencies for intercultural communication. By fostering cross-cultural communication and social strategies, DIGICOMPASS encourages ethical and responsible global participation, in line with Shulman's (2005) [26] advocacy for education that promotes social responsibility.

DIGICOMPASS's plurilingual approach substantially advances intercultural competence. Grounded in Byram's (1997) [3] principles, it enables students to cross cultural boundaries with sensitivity, understanding that effective intercultural communication requires awareness and appreciation of linguistic nuances. Kramsch's (1993) [18] work emphasizes that language competence is closely linked to the cultural context, which is deeply integrated into the curriculum. Jackson's (2020) insights on implementing intercultural understanding, along with Deardorff's (2009) [6] framework, emphasize the importance of reflective and adaptive capacities.

Ott and Michailova's (2018) [23] research on interactive, immersive experiences informs the curriculum's design, providing students with practical activities that build intercultural competence. By creating immersive learning projects, DIGICOMPASS empowers students to navigate intercultural differences and communicate effectively and appropriately.

The DIGICOMPASS curriculum is rooted in the holistic literacy framework proposed by the New London Group in 1996 [21], which underscores a comprehensive approach integrating linguistic skills, cultural awareness, and digital proficiency, with a particular focus on multimodal communication. This curriculum employs a broad spectrum of digital technologies to enhance educational content and pedagogical delivery, as well as facilitate a robust digital citizenship education that encompasses online privacy, cyberbullying prevention, and the critical assessment of information. Anchored by contemporary research, such as Tangül and Soykan's (2021) [28] study on digital citizenship, DIGICOMPASS promotes responsible online behavior and ethical engagement. This strategic integration of various digital tools ensures that students not only develop proficiency in navigating digital environments but also approach these spaces with a thoughtful and well-informed mindset, reflecting the curriculum's dedication to fostering ethical and literate digital interaction.



Table 1: Integrating Digital Technologies and Multiliteracies

LITERACY	APPLICATION	TECHNOLOGIES
<b>Technology Literacy</b> [7]	Tech Tool Workshops	Software suites (e.g., Microsoft Office, Adobe Creative Cloud), hardware training
<b>Information Literacy</b> [1]	Digital Storytelling Projects	Digital storytelling tools (e.g., StoryMapJS, Adobe Spark)
<b>Cyber Safety and Security Literacy</b> [8]	Cybersecurity modules	Security software tutorials (e.g., CyberPatriot competition software), privacy settings training (e.g., Common Sense Education)
<b>Communication Literacy</b> [17]	Collaborative online platforms	Collaboration tools (e.g., Slack, Microsoft Teams, Google Workspace)
<b>Modal Literacy</b> [19]	Multimodal presentations	Presentation software (e.g., Prezi, Keynote), video editing tools (e.g., Final Cut Pro)
<b>Cultural and Intercultural Literacy</b> [3]	Cultural exchange projects	Virtual exchange platforms (e.g., Zoom, Skype), cultural immersion software
<b>Plurilingual Literacy</b> [4]	Language practice apps	Language learning apps (e.g., Duolingo, Babbel, Mango Languages)
<b>Ethical Literacy</b> [25]	Ethics in technology modules	Ethical decision-making simulations (e.g., iThrive Sim) digital citizenship platforms (e.g., Common Sense Education)
<b>Media Literacy</b> [13]	Interactive media analysis	Media analysis tools (e.g., Media Bias/Fact Check), critical viewing software (e.g., NVivo)
<b>Critical Literacy</b> [16]	Critical media literacy workshops	Critical thinking software (e.g., Rationale, ThinkCERCA), discussion forums (e.g., Piazza)
<b>Design Literacy</b> [20]	Creative content creation	Graphic design tools (e.g., Adobe Creative Cloud)
<b>Global Awareness Literacy</b> [24]	Model United Nations simulations	Simulation software, global connectivity tools (e.g., Google Earth)

DIGICOMPASS integrates global citizenship and social responsibility at its foundation. This approach motivates students to leverage their language skills and digital literacies for advocacy, ethical engagement, and societal impact, cultivating proactive, well-informed global citizens equipped to address the complexities of an interconnected world. Banks (2008) [2] supports this educational model, emphasizing its role in promoting diversity and global citizenship to prepare students for a diverse global environment. DIGICOMPASS also aligns with multiple United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (2015) [30], detailed in the accompanying table.

Table 2: SDGs and DIGICOMPASS Alignment

SDG	GOAL DESCRIPTION	DIGICOMPASS ALIGNMENT
SDG 4	Quality Education	Promotes inclusive, equitable, and high-quality education by ensuring education is accessible to all learners.
SDG 10	Reduced Inequalities	Supports the goal of reducing inequality by promoting inclusive practices and ensuring education is accessible to diverse learners.
SDG 11	Sustainable Cities and Communities	Contributes to creating inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable communities through its focus on social responsibility.
SDG 16	Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions	Fosters a curriculum that emphasizes ethical engagement, supporting the development of peaceful and inclusive societies.
SDG 17	Partnerships for the Goals	Strengthens global partnerships by fostering global citizenship and encouraging international collaboration in education.





### 3. Conclusion

DIGICOMPASS offers an innovative educational framework designed to prepare students for the challenges of a globally interconnected world. By integrating key principles like Digital Literacy, Inclusive Practices, Intercultural Competence, and Awareness of Social Strategies, it sets a new standard for global language education. This framework not only fosters technical and cultural proficiencies but also instills a strong sense of global citizenship and social responsibility. As a navigational tool for modern education, DIGICOMPASS equips students to become proactive, informed participants in the global community, ready to use their skills to drive positive change and shape a better future. Through its comprehensive approach, DIGICOMPASS embodies the transformative power of education, making it an essential guide for students navigating the complexities of our global society.

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