

Our Mission

To develop the ability of young people globally to design and promote positive futures using critical, creative thinking.



Future Problem Solving Program International is a nonprofit, tax-exempt educational organization. Founded in 1974 by creativity pioneer, Dr. E. Paul Torrance, the program's goal is to inspire creativity in students and encourage them to develop a positive vision for the future.

Future Problem Solving Program International empowers students to solve global challenges.



Welcome Parents!

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Future Problem Solving Program International

The Basics

WHO – Parents! You!

WHAT – Help students learn and apply the skills of creative problem solving to:

- Problems in your own community
- Significant global issues
- Write futuristic scenarios
- Classroom/curricular settings

WHERE – Worldwide

- FPSPI has over 40 Affiliate Programs globally.
- Mentoring is available for new programs.

WHEN – Current school year

- Northern and Southern hemispheres have different school year schedules.
- You can start at any time.

HOW – We'd love your help:

- Coach a team or an individual
- Train to become an evaluator
- Volunteer at your Affiliate Bowl
- Sponsor a team to the International Conference
- Host a fundraiser for your local teams
- Start an FPS parent advocacy group

Other ideas?

The possibilities are endless.

FPSPI Components

Action-based Problem Solving (AbPS)

*Divisions:

- Primary – grades K-3
- Junior – grades 3-6
- Middle – grades 6-9

AbPS, the non-competitive classroom component, explores authentic concerns in the local community and prepares students to take action.

Competitive Components

*Divisions:

- Junior – grades 4-6
- Middle – grades 7-9
- Senior – grades 10-12
- Adult

Global Issues Problem Solving (GIPS)

Teams or individuals research up to five different topic issues annually. They apply the 6-step problem-solving model to Future Scenes.

Community Problem Solving (CmPS)

Teams or individuals explore local, regional, or global issues to design and implement a CmPS project relating to environmental, human services, civic/cultural, health, or education concerns.

Scenario Writing

Students develop and polish their creative writing skills as they create a futuristic 1500 word scenario based on one of the current FPSPI topics.

*Division based upon US grades 4-12

FPSPI Goals

- Increase global awareness and interest in the future.
- Explore and problem solve complex, societal issues.
- Develop, utilize, and improve research techniques.
- Learn and apply problem solving strategies.
- Develop and enhance creative and critical thinking skills.
- Engage in real-life problem solving.
- Develop teamwork skills
- Improve oral and written communication.

**Ask to see the results of our FPSPI Program Evaluation*

Our Six-Step Problem Solving Model

1. Identify Challenges to the topic or Future Scene.
2. Select an Underlying Problem.
3. Produce Solution Ideas to the Underlying Problem.
4. Generate and Select Criteria to Evaluate Solution Ideas.
5. Apply Criteria to Solution Ideas.
6. Develop an Action Plan.

“I began participating in FPS for my kids but I have stayed with it because of what I get from it.”

-- An FPS Parent