

# Why Participate in Future Problem Solving Program International (FPSP)?

## What is the Future Problem Solving Program?

The Future Problem Solving Program International (FPSP) is a nonprofit educational corporation administering creative problem solving and critical thinking activities for students in grades K-12. The Georgia Future Problem Solving Program is one of over thirty FPS affiliate programs in the United States, Australia, Korea, New Zealand, Portugal, Singapore, and Turkey. Annually, over 250,000 students participate in FPS activities.

The **FPS six-step model** serves as the foundation to building dynamic, creative thinking processes and includes:

1. Identify Challenges Related 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. Evaluate Solution Ideas to Determine the Best Solution
6. Develop the Action Plan for Implementing the Best Solution



## Who can participate in Georgia?

Georgia FPSP is open to all students in grades K-12 or equivalent school year levels. Students or teams participate in one of four divisions: **primary division** – grades K-3, **junior division** – grades 4-6, **middle division** – grades 7-9, and **senior division** – grades 10-12. A school affiliation is not required to participate. A parent can be the coach. Georgia FPSP provides virtual training with flexible scheduling to the adult who will train the students.

## What kind of problem solving activities does GA FPSP offer?

### **Global Issues Problem Solving**

Four-member teams, or individuals, research and apply the six-step FPS process to at least three different topics annually. A future scene – an imagined future based on the selected topic – prompts students to tackle social, scientific, political, economic, or technological issues. Under the guidance of a trained coach, students master the FPSP six-step model. Topics have included Entertainment, Terrorism/Security, Agriculture of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, Depletion of Oceanic Species, Freedom of Speech, Cyber Conflict, Space Junk, etc.

### **Community Problem Solving (CmPS)**

CmPS focuses on real community problems. Teams or individuals explore local, national, or international issues and select a CmPS project from environmental concerns, human services, civic/cultural issues, health, or education concerns. “Books and Bears” was a project for one team of middle grade students in Georgia. After Hurricane Katrina, they learned of a school in Mississippi whose library had been flooded. They sent over 1,000 books (including some they had written themselves) to the school and added their own personal touch to the project by sending over 300 stuffed animals to the youngest students in the school.

### **Scenario Writing and Scenario Performance**

Encouraging creativity through written or oral expression, scenario writing and scenario performance allow an individual writer or storyteller to create a futuristic short story based on one of the annual FPSP topics. Written scenarios are limited to 1500 words. Performances are limited to 4 – 5 minutes in length. Both must be set at least 20 years in the future.

### **Action-based/Novice Problem Solving**

These non-competitive components allows teams of any size and any grade level to learn the creative problem solving process as part of the curriculum and apply it to at least two different topics annually. While it targets younger students specifically, it is open to all grade levels.

## So – Why participate in Future Problem Solving?

### **From Students**

- Make friends
- Learn how to solve real life problems
- Get the skills to make a difference in the world
- Help my community through CmPS
- Build confidence in myself
- Stand out when applying to college
- Work with others who have the same interests as me
- Win awards at annual competitions
- Learn about the future
- Think for myself

### **From Parents**

- Increase chances for college admission
- Receive recognition (state, national)
- Participate in challenging thought process
- Learn how to research
- Increase self confidence
- Build teamwork skills
- Become a better student, thinker, citizen
- Become more aware of contemporary issues
- Interact with students with similar interests
- Transition more smoothly to the rigors of college
- Enhance employability with skills employers want

## For more information:

Georgia FPSP  
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