

Decision Education and Media Literacy

We're passionate about ensuring that Decision Education is a part of every student's learning experience. Decision Education equips students with a variety of real-world skills—several of which align with media literacy.

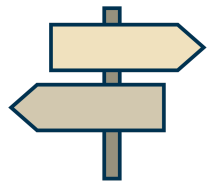
What is Media Literacy?

- Media literacy, as defined by the National Association for Media Literacy Education (NAMLE), is “The ability to access, analyze, evaluate, create, and act using all forms of communication.” In other words, media literacy helps us receive, interpret, understand, and communicate about information and messages that we come across in our daily lives through the media.



What is Decision Education?

- Decision Education is the teaching and learning of skillful decision-making. Through Decision Education, students learn how to think probabilistically, resist cognitive biases, use a decision framework, and practice open-mindedness, self-awareness, and problem-solving abilities.



How Does Media Literacy Support Decision Education?

- Decision Education helps students develop several real-world skills emphasized in media literacy. These include evaluating information and sources, considering multiple perspectives, and recognizing cognitive biases such as confirmation bias. Both fields empower students to think critically about information, and Decision Education teaches students the applied skills and dispositions to make better decisions.
- For example, as a middle schooler decides on a stance related to a social issue for an upcoming debate or a high schooler considers who to vote for in their first local election, they need to navigate the information they're gathering from a variety of sources in order to make decisions aligned with their goals and values. They can ask themselves, “Is this a fact, opinion, or something else? Are my emotions influencing my interpretation of this information? Am I only looking for information that confirms my current thinking?” From there, they can deploy a skillful decision-making process to help them act on this information for example, they could seek disconfirming information, ask trusted sources for their input, think through alternative options, and use decision-making tools to help them decide.



Why are Media Literacy and Decision Education so important?

- In this era of misinformation and an unprecedented volume of messaging from media and other sources, it is vital for our students to think critically about this information and understand how to use it to make better decisions.

