

# The Power of Play and Esports

## STEAMing It Up Conference - NIU

### 1-16-20

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Zack Gilbert



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# My Expertise

- Playful Learning
- Game Clubs
- Esports - University High School - Normal
- Illinois State University
- IHSA - Emerging Sport Status

# What is Esports?

Competitive digital gaming with teams or as individuals.

Our Game | League of Legends - Riot Games

How esports changed the game: From media laughingstock to media craze - A history of esports from theScore esports

# What Games Are Played? (at University High School)

- League of Legends
  - Rocket League
  - Super Smash Bros.
- 

- Overwatch?
- Fortnite?
- Minecraft?



NASEF

# It's Okay That Your Student Enjoys Video Games!



esportsfed.org



NASEFedu



Esports Federation



NASEFgg



North America Scholastic

***MEETING  
KIDS  
WHERE  
THEY ARE***





# RESEARCH





# Video games and learning



Improve **visual acuity & attention**  
(Green & Bevelier).



Increase **problem solving skills**  
(Adachi & Willoughby).



Foster **scientific reasoning** (Clark;  
Steinkuehler & Duncan; NRC).



Associated with **higher math achievement** (Bowers & Berland).



Accelerate **language learning**  
(Young et. al.).



Strongly associated with **technology fluency** (Hayes).



Improve digital and print **literacy**  
(Gee; Leander; Steinkuehler).



# Sports and learning



Associated with **higher GPA** for HS students (Fox et. al.).



Fosters **personal growth** (Richard & Ares).



Increases **satisfaction with school** (Astin).



Associated with higher **degree completion** (Ryan).



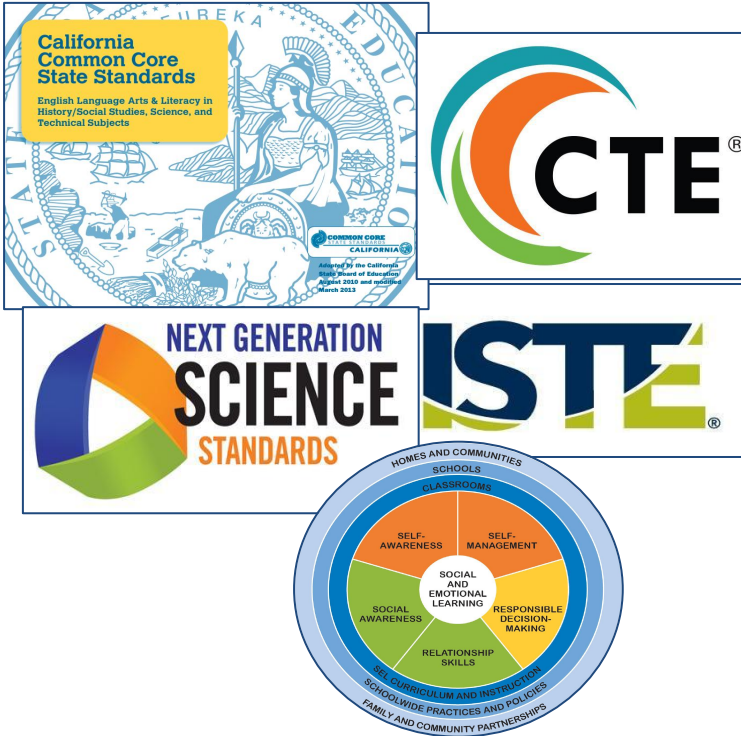
Cultivates **persistence** - specifically, gains in “internal locus of attribution” (Pascarella et. al.).



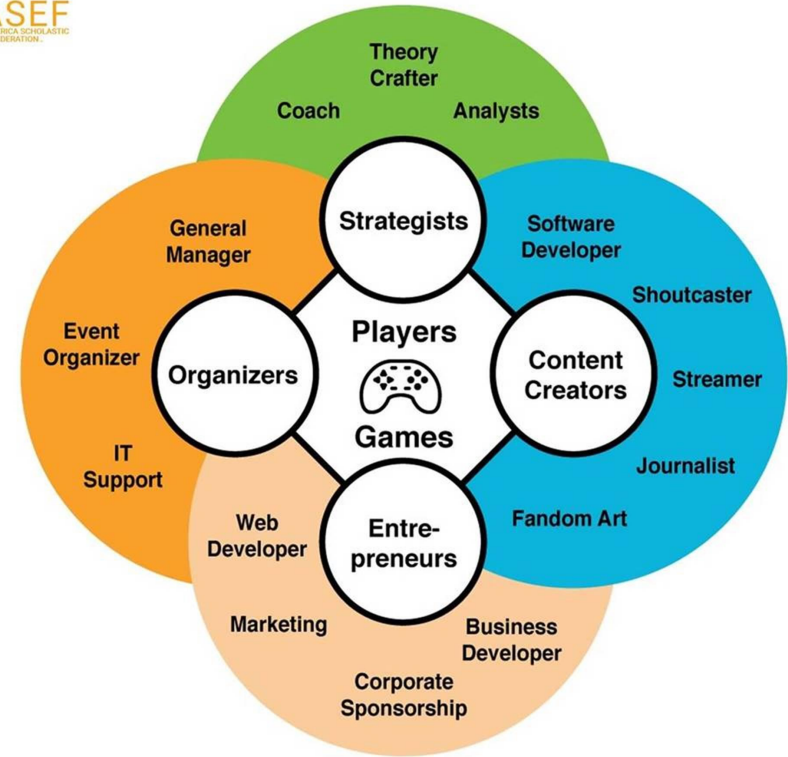


# CURRICULUM





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# Curriculum Overview

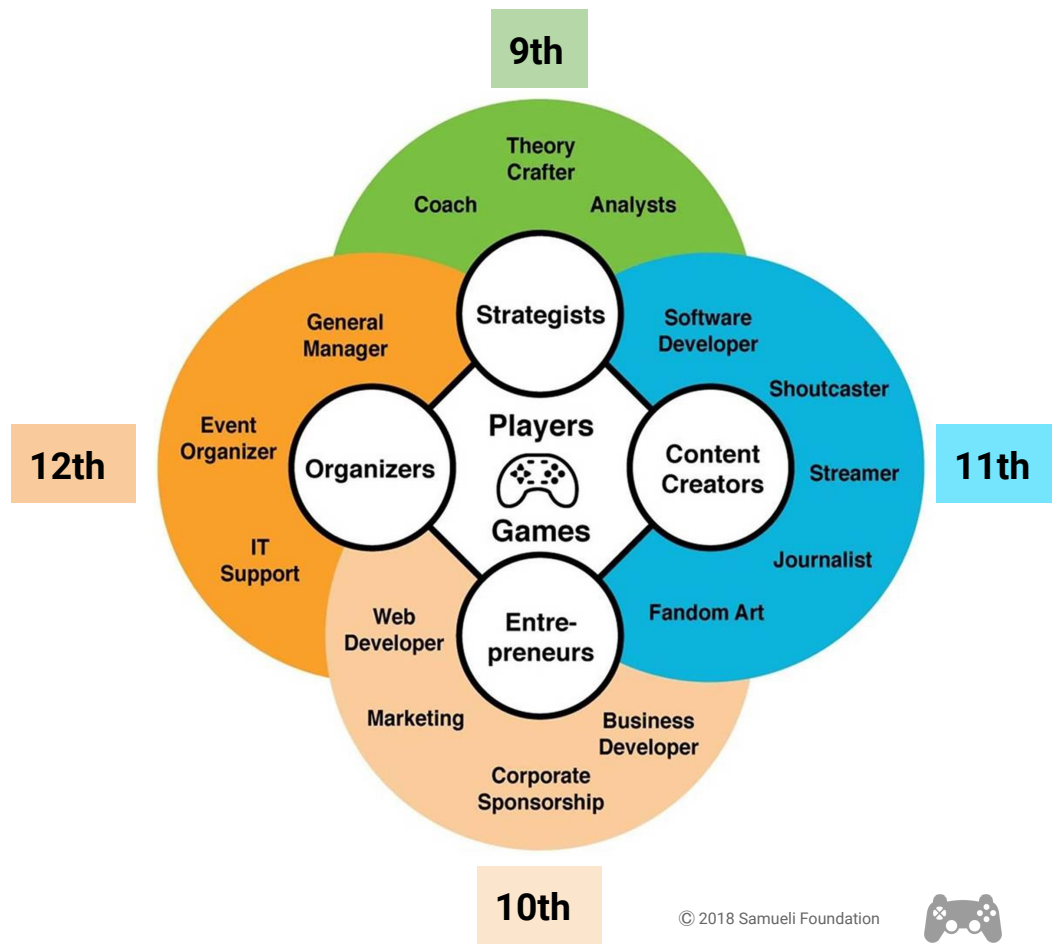
## University of California-Approved Four Year **ELA-based** Curriculum

- English 9 + Games & Simulations
- English 10 + Entrepreneurship
- English 11 + Marketing
- English 12 + Hospitality/Tourism

## Flexibility with Implementation

- Pilot Unit modules, weeks or semesters
- Adopt Full Curriculum

Available **free** on the NASEF [website](#).



# Positives From Esports

Stanford Report, April 28, 1999 - Garry Kasparov

<https://news.stanford.edu/news/1999/april28/kasparov-428.html>

- Kasparov on sports: 'Human actions in extreme conditions' at Stanford
- *“By working out in the gym, swimming and rowing, Kasparov said, he tries to keep himself in peak shape.”*



# CLUBS



# Mission and Values-based, just like your schools

## Learning

- **Online clinics**, hosted by coaches, aligned with topics on improving their game play
- **Online and in-person workshops**, hosted by UCI, aligned with roles in the esports ecosystem

## Opportunity

- **Live events**, where gamers can fill necessary roles (casters, analysts, volunteers)
- **Network** of industry and higher education professionals

## Community

- Supporting **Clubs** at high schools and community organizations, leaving students to develop their own community

## Diversity

- Expanding **game selection** to cater to a larger audience of students
- **Camps** for underrepresented populations in esports

## Respect

- **Code of conduct** for participation that prioritizes teamwork and inclusivity





# Your Partner in Scholastic Esports

We are the **only** organization that closely ties scholastics with video game play for high schools, middle schools and community-based organizations at no cost across the United States, U.S. Territories, Canada and Mexico.

## What does this mean for you?

With our various partners, we offer free support, services and resources in the following areas:



**CLUBS**



**CURRICULUM**



**CAREERS**



**COACHING**



**COMPETITION**



# Keeping your students safe!

## Concerns

- **“Addiction”**
- **Chat Access**
- **Internet Safety**
- **Toxic Language**
- **Violence Factor**
- **Game Rating**

## Remedies

- Club Membership Requirements
- YouTube Gaming / Discord
- Game Designer access assistance
- General Manager / Coach + Google Hangouts
- Robust deliberation of game choices; OCDE buy-in
- Board of Directors and CommonSenseMedia.org

## Security / Management

- Weekly Club Meetings
- GM-based control
- District IT techs offered a prescriptive way to allow for gaming without the chances of viruses, hacks, trolls, etc.
- GM-based monitoring on a closed loop (club only) communication platform
- Game-neutral deliberation and vetting; Club ALWAYS has final say
- Schools / CBOs may choose ANY game they feel is optimal



# How do I know what games are “good” to play?



The Entertainment Software Ratings Board provides **standardized ratings for video games**, recognized by Congress



Common Sense Media is a non-profit organization that provides education and advocacy to families to **promote safe technology and media** for children.



**NASEF**  
NORTH AMERICA SCHOLASTIC  
ESPORTS FEDERATION™  
*Game. Grow. Learn. Lead.™*

The North America Scholastic Esports Federation works to ensure that **ALL** students possess the knowledge and skills needed to be society's game changers: **educated, productive, and empathetic individuals.**

Our affiliated game titles are **approved by an advisory board** with leadership from the Orange County Department of Education, UC Irvine, CSU Fullerton, Chapman University, and more.



Sixty Six Games Expo

January 17-19, 2020



# Why Should You Care About Esports?

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**Give students a safe place to play!  
(Esports or a game club)**



# NASEF

NORTH AMERICA SCHOLASTIC  
ESPORTS FEDERATION™

*Game. Grow. Learn. Lead.™*

## Thank you!

For more information, contact us at [info@esportsfed.org](mailto:info@esportsfed.org).

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# Esports Resources and Contact Information

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- [edgamer.net](http://edgamer.net)
- Twitter
  - @EdGamer
  - @NASEFedu
  - #Esportsedu
  - @mr\_isaacs