

# Preparing the Class of 2030

New research offers insight on the future of learning

Today's kindergartners will graduate better prepared for their futures if they have a **strong social and emotional foundation that is developed in a personalized learning environment**, according to new Microsoft research conducted in collaboration with McKinsey & Company's Education Practice. The study revealed new insights into the knowledge and experiences students will need to be "life-ready" and not simply "work-ready."

**The study incorporated:**

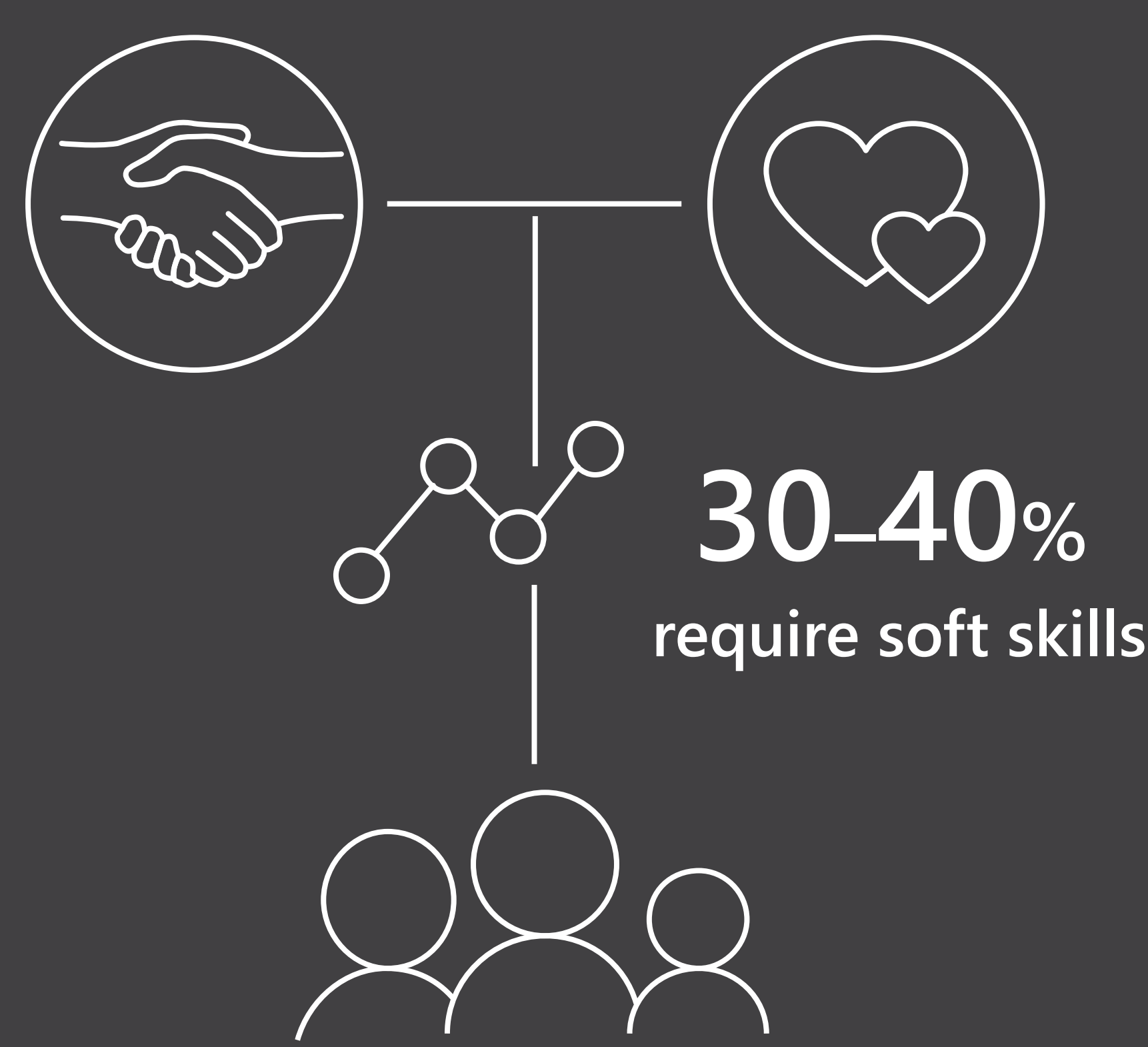


Learn more about the Class of 2030 [→](#)

The future of learning will be profoundly social, personalized, and supported by teachers and technology

## Soft skills come into sharp focus

One of the strongest themes in the research was the **significance of developing and applying social and emotional skills in learning**. Results showed that these skills are **twice as predictive of a student's academic achievement** as home environment and demographics.



**Impact on career success:**

**30-40%** of jobs in growth industries require soft skills



## Students want personalization not automation

Personalization is among the most effective means for accelerating academic and cognitive growth. Students want to be creative and **believe they learn more when they have greater voice and choice and receive personalized feedback**.

**Impact on academic performance:**

Students who receive personalized instruction perform **better than 98%** of traditionally taught students.

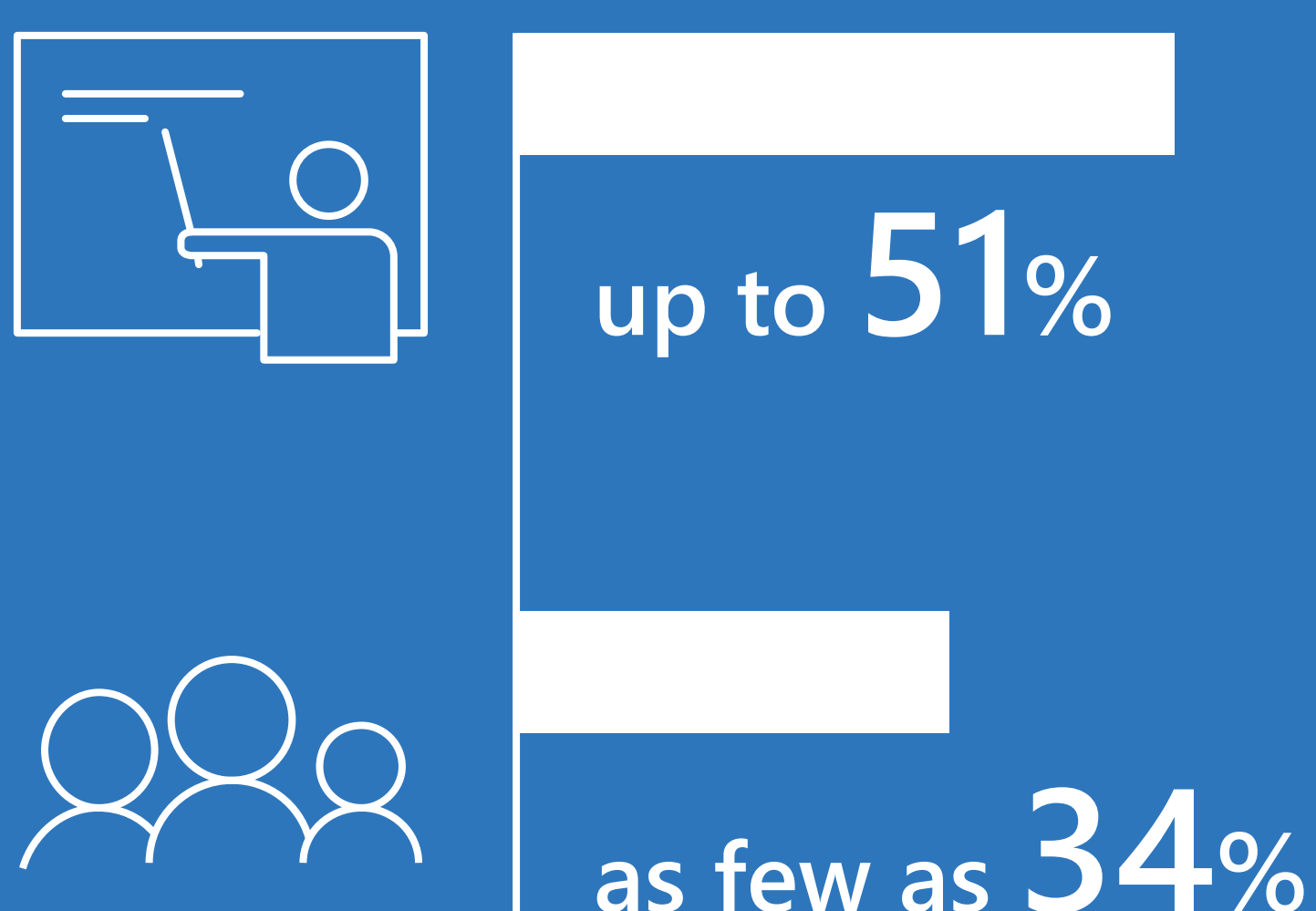
## Moving beyond 21st century learning

Students place a greater emphasis on the importance of **creative, social, emotional, and technology skills** than teachers do. The jobs of the future will also place a premium on these capabilities.



**Impact on job readiness:**

**Only 42% of employers** believe new graduates are adequately prepared for the workforce, especially with social and emotional skills



## The role of teachers is amplified

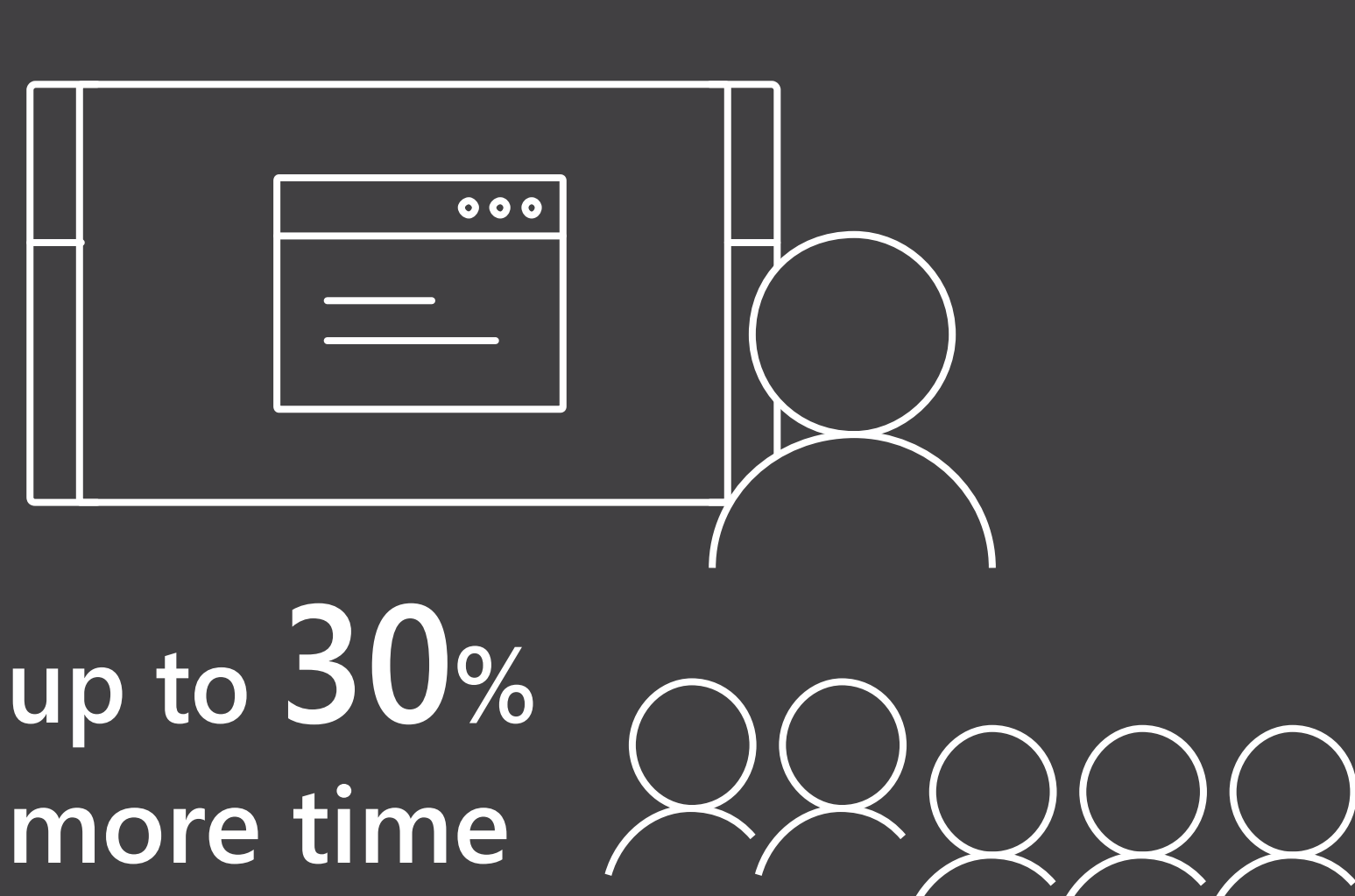
Students in this study want skilled, trusted teachers who know them personally. **Teaching as a profession is one of the least likely to be automated in the future**, so maintaining strong teacher-student connections remains more important than ever.

**Impact on teaching:**

**Up to 51% of surveyed teachers** said they have strong, individual relationships with their students, but **as few as 34% of students** agreed

## Technology creates opportunity

Personalized, inclusive, and immersive learning experiences fostered by technology create **opportunities to develop emotional and cognitive skills in conjunction with academic learning**.



**Impact on time:**

Teachers get up to **30% more time back** with the right technology

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"I never knew I could learn how to be creative."

**Unlock Limitless Learning**