

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:



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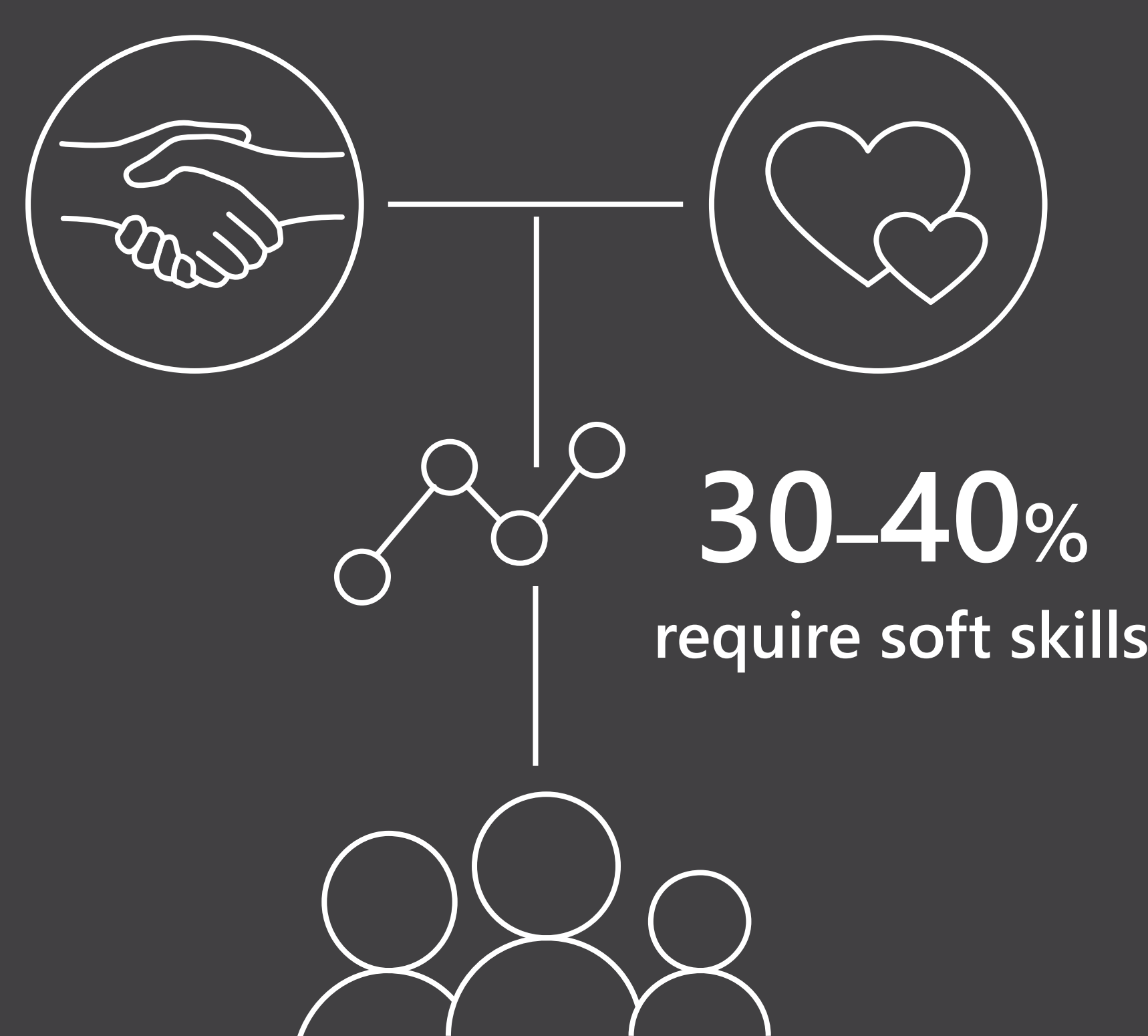
The future of learning will be profoundly social, personalized, and supported by teachers and technology

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:

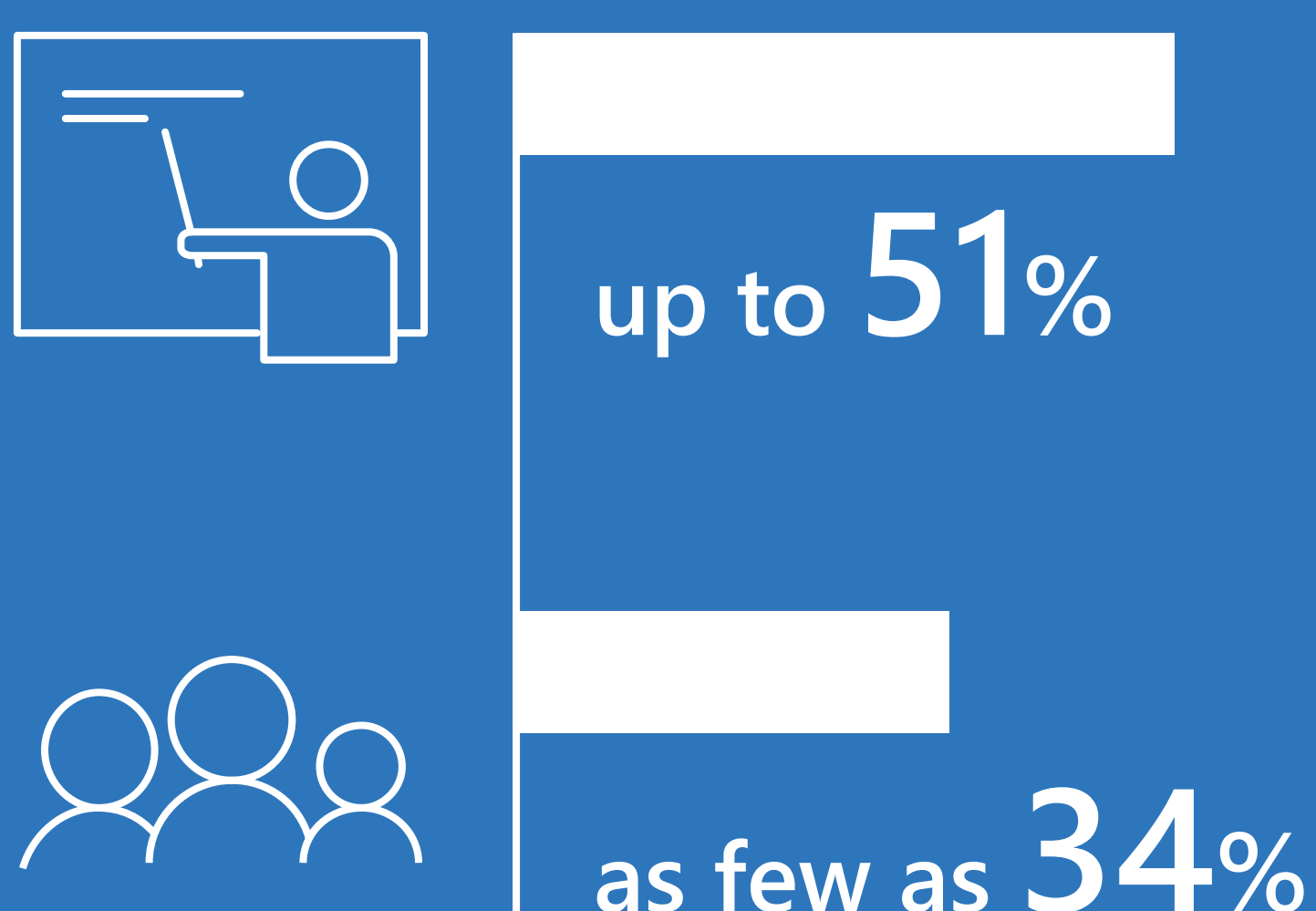
Students who receive personalized instruction perform **better than 98%** of traditionally taught students.

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:

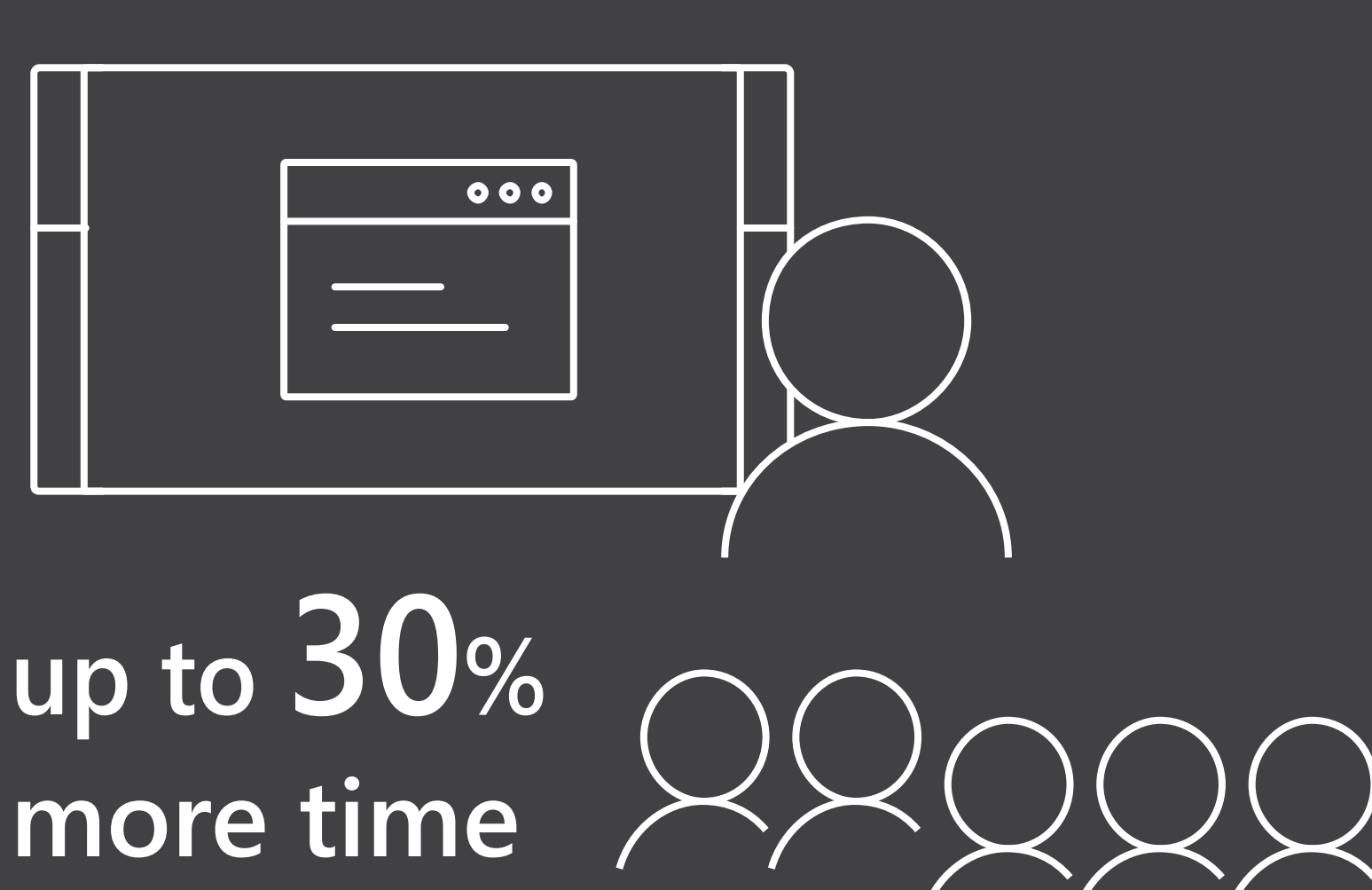
Up to 51% of surveyed teachers said they have strong, individual relationships with their students, but **as few as 34% of students** agreed

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



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

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

Unlock Limitless Learning