



# Technology In the Classroom

Is technology failing in our schools?

# Social Trends and Issues shaping the use of Technology in Education

- The Economic conditions – Down turn in the economy means decreased funding for equipment and maintenance
- Anti-technology positions – teaching learning benefits has not been clearly established, computers poses potential health hazards, interferes with privacy, technology is not as important as other programmes

# Social Trends and Issues

- Impact on No Child left behind – establishing a sound rationale for technology use and justify technology expenses and potential risks to student users.

# Current educational trends and issues shaping the use of technology in education

- Move towards international standards  
ISTE – movement towards the use of technology to meet skills standards now required by students
- Reliance on the Internet for distance education – increased access to high quality courses (requires special skills which not all students have and hence dropout rates are higher)

# Cultural and Equity Issues Shaping Current technology use

- Digital Divide – access to technology resources among socio economic groups. Single greatest factor determining access in economic status however race and gender also play a role depending on the type of technology.
- Racial and gender equality – Technology remains dominated by males and certain ethnic groups.

# Cultural and Equity Issues Shaping Current technology use

- Special needs -. Devices and methods are available to help students compensate for their physical and mental deficits and allow them equal access to technology and to learning opportunities.

# Legal and Ethical Issues Shaping Current technology uses

- Viruses/ Hacking – to combat these problems schools are forced to install firewalls and virus protection (added expense)
- Plagiarism (Students using materials they have found online as their own)
- Privacy/Safety – personal information online

# Legal and Ethical Issues Shaping Current technology uses

- Copyright – Online availability of full-text publications is increasing, and distance courses are posting more materials in online course management systems. Making sure that schools and teachers are aware of policies.
- Illegal downloads/software piracy – download software and other media without paying



# The Clutch

- Has critical thinking gone out the door?
  - Students are too quick to turn to the internet for answers “google it”
  - Students copy and paste their knowledge
  - Spelling is no longer tested – everything is autocorrect and spell checked

# The Crash

- The dog ate my homework has been replaced by “My computer crashed”
  - “It was all done before it was erased”
  - Cloud storage technology

# The Old-timer

- I have been teaching for years and my students are passing their exams, I don't need to use technology

# The Facebook

- Twitter, Instagram, Pinterest, YouTube etc.
  - Putting a computer in front a high school student and expecting them NOT to go on Facebook or any other distracting non-school related site is kind of a joke.
  - Keeping the student excited and focused on the lesson is one of the hardest task faced by a teacher and requires some skill

# The Band-Aid

- Technology is not the solution for every ailment.
- Technology needs to be planned out into schools in a very precise manner in order for it to be effective. Otherwise, technology used as a Band-Aid can aggravate the issue.

# References

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