

Challenges Of Integrating Technology

Activity Instructions

Teachers face many challenges as they attempt to integrate technology into their classrooms. It is important that technology coaches are aware of those challenges, understand the implications of those challenges, and are able to generate answers to the challenges. What are some of the challenges that may face teachers as they attempt to integrate technology into their classrooms?

Notes for Trainers

1. Have the teachers turn to the "Challenges" page in their notebook.
2. State the question for the teachers.
3. Give them 30 seconds "thinking time".
4. Divide the group into teams of 3-4.
5. Ask the teams to spend some time brainstorming the challenges that teachers in Iowa may face as they attempt to integrate technology into their classrooms.
6. Ask each team to share their ideas with the entire group.
7. Ask questions of the teams; clarify the ideas; expand on the ideas. Keep in mind the teachers may be faced with these challenges as they individually try to integrate technology into their schools or the teachers they work with may be giving them these "excuses" as their challenges. Help them generate answers to the challenges.
8. Record the ideas and send them to Doreen Hayek at UNI for inclusion in an overall idea-sharing document that will be sent to all participating teachers.

Possible Challenges

- Fear of technology.
- Fear of the unknowns with new technologies.
- Scared to experiment with new technologies.
- Think they have to learn it all at once.
- Think that a technology coach must have all answers.
- Some schools have technology, but it remains unused.
- Lack of training opportunities.
- Lack of technology support.
- Lack of time to attend training to learn new technologies
- Lack of time to practice with new technologies.
- Lack of time to create lesson plans that incorporate technology.
- Some teachers practice a "learned helplessness" - it's easier to ask questions than to try to figure things out for themselves.
- Inability to allow students to know more than the teacher.
- Some teachers think they must have the newest technologies in order to effectively do their jobs. They don't understand that older technologies are just as effective for many tasks.

Additional Challenges

- Something more for teachers to add to their already busy day.
- Lack of technology in the school.
- Kids will know more than me.
- Learning they must operate the equipment rather than asking the media specialist to do it.
- No staff development time.
- No support from administrators.
- One PC in the school.
- Too much to learn so they just don't even start.
- No technology coordinator in the school.
- Local implications - technology will negatively impact students.
- Fundamental opposition to technology.
- Religious opposition to technology.
- Burnout.
- "This too will pass" attitude. Many things come and go. The teachers may decide this will also.
- Easy way out is to keep the "status quo."
- Have to learn to teach differently with technology.
- Can not train everyone at once - how decide who gets training first in the school?
- Change is difficult!
- Unrealistic expectations for the technology.
- Unrealistic expectations for the amount of time it will take to learn a new technology.