

Are Computers Worth the Investment

A **claim** about the effectiveness of computers in the classroom is discussed and analyzed by Cuban (2001) as he looks into the funding and benefits of educational technology. Technology advances and innovations appropriated with public funds should be analyzed how to increase and drive learning in the classroom. Simply putting these new resources in the hands of teachers and students does not transform the landscape of education. Technology is not the “magic link” to learning.

Support for overspending of technology is confirmed when policy-makers and administrators believe providing more tools for teachers in the classroom will transform education into a world full of bliss and 100% student engagement. Policy-makers and administrators need to propose and execute proper planning before deploying new resources to teachers. Having new technology in the hands of an educator does not transform the user into a champion of technology. Teachers should participate in the planning sessions on how these new resources can extend learning and reach a wide array of students. Before purchasing new resources, administrators should ask teachers what do they need to assist them with delivering content to actively engage learners in student-centered activities.

Cuban (2001) mentions having technology in the classroom will change how students learn and the fact teachers will organize classrooms to diverge from the way they have always taught. Teachers will systematically become champions of technology if they are provided high-tech resources. One thing is certain, teachers are experts in content and are not experts at merging high-tech resources into lessons.

I leave with some **questions** to reflect upon with the intrinsic values of computers in the classroom. Why are schools judged upon the technology they house within their walls? Are you a good school if are the best equipped with technology? Is technology usage in the classroom the de facto reason students from schools with high test scores and those going college learn better? Does being a champion of technology make you a better teacher?

References:

Cuban, L. (2001). *Oversold and underused: Computers in the classroom*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press.