

Considerations on Educational Technology Integration

Education is finally coming to the consensus, technology integrated into the classroom does not transform the learning environment into a constructivist environment. Educational technology integration has been **connected** to the idea of how computers are metal boxes with a peripheral device displaying text and images without proper research and implementation. The goal of technology is to improve student achievement through engaging activities in which students are constructing and solving problems. We need to train students to be 21st century learners and teachers to be 21st century educators.

I **challenge** the thought in which technology has had a positive effect on education. Educators are always looking for the “magical” resource to help students learn. I agree technology is a powerful resource that can benefit our students if teachers are trained effectively and can learn how to discretely embed technology in the the instruction. Could the amount of money spent on technology have been used more effectively to support teachers and their students? I believe the cost savings for education would be tremendous if we simply learned how to teach with technology before it is deployed. The private sector must be practical and competitive with research and development funds. I see so much under-utilized, unused, and outdated technology as a result of purchasing without a technology integration plan.

The renewed proposal and reform is a **concept** worth investigating. Corporate leaders and educators need to collaborate on how new technology will deepen and expand student knowledge of content in cost-effective solutions. Feedback from teachers should be welcomed and encouraged to determine what they need to reform the way they teach. Collaborations between decision-makers, administrators, and teachers before the allocation of funds will help to insure educational resources are practical and beneficial in the delivery of knowledge. The philosophy of embedding technology in the learning process (as opposed to the classroom) is the first step to education reform.

One **change** needed in education is the goal of preparing new and existing teachers to be 21st century educators. Teachers need commitment and support from administrators and policy-makers to transform our classrooms from the learning centers of old. Classrooms of the future need to be engaging and real-world domains providing opportunities to construct knowledge and allow for student collaborations. The static classroom of

today will need to be dynamic and captivate students' desire for learning in the 21st century.

References:

Schrum, L. (2011). *Considerations on educational technology integration: The best of JRTE*. United States: International Society for Technology in Education.