

The Evaluation of the Technology Implementation Plan of Polk County, Florida
Assignment 3: Statement of the Problem

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Methods of Inquiry

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The Topic

The International Society for Technology in Education “strongly believes that the effective use of technology can drive academic success and help prepare all learners to be model citizens. Properly integrating modern digital tools and content into the learning environment by trained administrators and teachers will lead to high-achieving citizens equipped to succeed in our evolving global society” (2006). However, most current educators are the digital immigrants attempting to provide an education to the digital natives of our society. In order to provide a quality educational experience that is immersed in technology, districts must devise and implement effective technology plans.

The Research Problem

Polk County School District is experiencing the pains of implementing technology. Evaluation of the District’s IT plan is of a reflective nature made by those in charge of carrying out the implementation plan. More information from stakeholders is necessary for the evaluation of the IT plan to be truly effective.

Background/justification

School districts have failed to use technology appropriately. Scrogan (1995) has noted, “Educational leaders must begin to rethink the ways many schools use, organize, and focus technology resources.” In order to make informed decisions about effective allocation of resources for technology implementation, districts must continually evaluate their IT plans. Kpangbai (2002) finds in an evaluation of Rhode Islands Public Schools IT Plan that there were no state mandates requiring evaluation of IT plans. While some sort of evaluation is required for attainment of federal funding of technology, the evaluations are by no means uniform.

Deficiencies in the Evidence

Sanders (1994) finds that most school districts do not have the resources or personnel to conduct program evaluations. “The result of not having any coordinated effort to collect data on the implementation of IT plans remains a problem” (Kpangbai, 2002).

Audience

School districts should be accountable to their school boards, policy makers, parents, students, and the general public, to show how IT plans are working. With the current crisis in educational funding, every dollar must count. Effective evaluation of IT plans will allow for better allocation of funding. Effective evaluation will more importantly improve the educational experience for students.

References

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