

Sample Questions Pertaining to Student Uses of Technology

Focus Group Questions for Teachers

1. Please describe the connection between technology and your curriculum
2. Describe how your students typically use lab or classroom computers
3. How frequently and for what purposes do your students use technology in the course of their school day?
4. Please describe the technology tools that are available for use by your students. (probe for functionality and accessibility)
5. Please describe your students' technology skills in relation to standards that you are aware of
6. What are your impressions about how technology has impacted your students' learning?
7. How do you evaluate your students in their use of technology?
8. What changes could be made in your school which would allow your students to benefit more from technology?

Focus Group/Interview Questions for Administrators

1. Please describe the connection between technology and your curriculum
2. How do students typically use technology in the course of their day/week?
3. What technology tools and resources are available to your students? (probe for accessibility and functionality)
4. How, if at all, has technology impacted student learning in your school?
5. How has technology impacted your school's relationship with the parent community?
6. What are the most significant barriers to technology having a greater impact on learning in your school/district?

Focus Group Questions for Parents

1. In what ways does your child use instructional technology in school ?
2. How might your students use technology more effectively to support their learning?
3. Please comment on your students' technology skills in relation to any standards/benchmarks that you are aware of or any expectations that you may have.

Sample Questions Pertaining to Teacher uses of Technology

Focus Group Questions for Teachers

1. Please describe how you most frequently use technology at school
(probe for uses directly related to instruction **and** for administrative/communication uses)
2. Please describe any efforts your school has made to map technology use to the curriculum
3. What, if any, impact has the use of information technology had on your teaching?
4. In what ways do you feel that your professional practice has changed through the use of technology?
5. What barriers have you encountered in trying to use technology in the classroom?
6. What is your general impression about the functionality and accessibility of equipment and technology infrastructure in your school?
7. Where do you obtain most of your ideas for how to use technology in your teaching?
8. Please comment on the availability and applicability of integration support at your school.

Focus Group/Interview Questions for Administrators

1. Please describe how teachers in your building /district typically use technology for learning activities and/or classroom instruction
2. Where do your teachers obtain most of their ideas related to technology integration?
3. What is the role of technology in teachers' professional/administrative activities?
4. How is technology used among your school's parent community?
5. What do you feel has been the greatest catalyst for the use of technology in your building?
6. What are the most significant barriers to the successful and meaningful integration of technology in your school/district?
7. What is your general impression about the functionality and accessibility of equipment and technology infrastructure in your school?
8. Are there things you would like to see changed in terms district policies, support, training, or equipment?

Focus Group Questions for Parents

1. What is your understanding of how teachers use technology for instruction at your child's school?
2. What role does technology play in your communication with your child's school?
3. In your opinion, are there ways that your child could benefit better from his/her use of technology at school?
4. What connections does your child's school or district maintain with the community?
5. Do you feel that your child's school has adequate safeguards in place to protect students using information technology (specifically the WWW and other communication technologies) at school? If not, what might be improved?

Sample Questions about Professional Development

Focus Group Questions for Teachers and Administrators

1. How often is technology staff development offered at your school and/or in the district?
2. Please comment on the quality and applicability/focus of the technology professional development offered by the district/school?
3. What has been the most useful/helpful/eye opening professional development you have participated in?
4. To what extent have you been able to make use of the skills learned through your professional development experience?
5. What barriers have you encountered in getting the technology training and support that you want/need?
6. What changes would you like to see made with regard to how technology training is allocated, focused, structured or compensated?

Sample Questions about Infrastructure

Focus Group/Interview Questions for Teachers and Administrators

1. What technology tools and resources are available for your use throughout the day?
2. Please comment on the functionality, availability and security of the school/district infrastructure
3. Please comment on the availability of technical support in your building/district
4. What partnerships or community connections exist to help support infrastructure development in your district?