

Technology & Resource Teachers' Focus Group Questions

Intro:

- Thank them in advance for their participation
- Tell them who you are
- Tell them why you're here (evaluation project, committee, etc.)
- *Tell them they can get more info on the evaluation from _____ in their bldg (this is the committee member(s) who represent this level on the committee.*
- This info will all be confidential. Individual responses will not be shared with anyone outside of this group.
- Composite data will go into district-wide...which will be shared with everyone when the plan is completed in January.

Student Access and Use Questions

1. **On a scale from 1 to 5, with 5 being "best", please rate the *students' use of technology as a tool for learning (specifically, NOT as a subject in and of itself, but rather, as a tool)* Write your answer on a piece of paper, and hold off sharing your response until I ask you for it.**

OK, now that you have done this, share your response, and tell me *why* you gave this rating

2. **Please describe *your* role in relation to student use of technology.**

(We're trying to find out if they actually TEACH classes of students or do they support students, or do they support teachers who in turn teach students, or what)

3. **Considering your own interaction with students and technology, what is the most common use of technology in your school?**

(Because this will probably vary by level, ask by level)

Elementary:

MS:

HS:

- 4. We're interested in your impressions of how information technology has impacted student learning. Overall, how have students been impacted by the use of technology in your school?**

more motivated?

more engaged?

better cooperative learners?

more effective "reward" for completing work

more distracted

- 5. In what ways do you see technology in your school being used to support differentiated instruction and/or individualize learning?**

Teacher Fluency Questions

- 6. On a scale from 1 to 5, with 5 being "best", please rate your *teachers* in their *fluency* in using technology for productivity (e.g., word processing assignments, gradebooks, using email to communicate). Write your answer on a piece of paper, and hold off sharing your response until I ask you for it.**

OK, now that you have done this, share your response, and tell me *why* you gave this rating

- 7. Now, on the same scale (1 = worst and 5 = best), give your rating of your *teachers* in their fluency in using technology as a *tool for learning* (i.e., infusing/integrating technology within the curriculum). As before, write down you answer and we'll share them together.**

- 8. Please describe how teachers in your schools *most frequently* make use of their school computers. We don't want to know all of what they do...just what you see them doing the most often.**

(probe for uses directly related to instruction, administrative uses/record keeping, personal productivity, etc.)

9. How accessible are the classroom or lab computers to teachers throughout the day?

(if necessary, break down by level)

available all day

available only during off-hours

available with sign up

10. In your opinion, what, if any, impact has the use of information technology had on teachers?

(probe for the following list w/o reading it)

more efficient

easier record keeping

more collaboration with peers/reduced isolation

more fun teaching?

changed role from expert to facilitator?

more creative/adventurous with curriculum

more individualized instruction?

access to better resources

more

better parent contact?

Other _____

11. OK, this question is about YOUR use of technology. What barriers have you encountered in trying to use technology in the classroom and with teachers in your school?

too little time to learn

inadequate professional development

periods too short

finding software

Other _____

Vision/Strategy Questions

12. How do you get your ideas for integrating technology in the classroom?

13. What is the most interesting or intriguing use of technology in education that you have ever heard about? It doesn't matter to us whether you can actually DO this yet...we just want to know what you find interesting.

Support, Access, and Professional Development Questions

- 14. What if any *incentives* exist for motivating teachers to integrate technology into their curriculum and other classroom learning activities?**
- 15. Define the term "technical support."**
- 16. What changes would you like to see made in your school with regard to technology policies and/or how technology is allocated or structured?**

(Note that they may comment on both physical infrastructure as well as support issues)
- 17. What type of expectations do teacher, students, and administrators have of you/your role?**
- 18. How often is technology staff development offered at your school and/or in the district...and who is responsible for conducting this training?**
- 19. What barriers do you perceive in terms of getting *or providing* the technology training you believe is needed in your school?**
- 20. What has been the most useful technology workshop you have attended, and why?**
- 21. Is there anything else you would like to share with us?**

Thank you for your time and effort!