

Elem/MS/HS Teacher Focus Group Questions

(Be sure to note that when actually administered, we will do elementary, middle, and high school people in SEPARATE groups)

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 your *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. **Describe how your students typically use lab or classroom computers (specify lab or classroom).**

writing
drawing
reading
e-mail/communication
skill reinforcement
programs related to curriculum (simulations, topical "adventures")
research (CD-ROM, Internet, other)
presentation

3. Do you prefer that your students use more skill-oriented (i.e. Math Blaster, Reader Rabbit) or open-ended (i.e. Time Liner, WebQuests) software... and why?

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

5. We're interested in your impressions of how information technology has impacted your students' 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?

6. In general, who suggests the use of technology in a particular learning activity? You, or your students? Please provide some examples.

prompt for "I give the assignment to use tech" or...

"They come up with these ideas mostly on their own and I just support" or...

something else in between

7. What changes could be made to technology in your school, which would allow *your students* to benefit more from technology?

Hardware

Placement

Software

Support

Policies

other...

Teacher Fluency Questions

8. On a scale from 1 to 5, with 5 being "best", please rate *yourself* in your *fluency* in using technology for productivity (e.g., word processing assignments, grade books, 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.

9. Now, on the same scale (1 = worst and 5 = best), give your rating of *yourself* in your 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.
10. Please describe how you *most frequently* make use of school computers. We don't want to know all of what you do...just what you most often do.
11. OK, that's what you most frequently do. Now tell us some of the other things...even if you've only tried it once or a few times.
12. In your school, how accessible are lab computers to teachers throughout the day?

available all day
available only during off-hours
available with sign up
seldom available as the lab is always scheduled

13. What, if any, impact has the use of information technology had on your teaching?

more creative/adventuresome with curriculum
more individualized instruction?
access to better resources
more
better parent contact?
Other _____

14. 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.

Teacher Access and Professional Development Questions

15. Please define the term "technical support."

16. Now describe for us the type of technology support you receive from your school/district.

17. What barriers have you encountered in trying to use technology with your students in your school?

insufficient support
too little time to learn
inadequate professional development
periods too short
finding software
Other _____

18. What if any *incentives* exist for motivating you to integrate technology into your curriculum and other classroom learning activities?

19. 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)

20. What kind (subject and format) of training do you think would most benefit you...and has this been offered? If not, why not?

21. Is there anything else you would like to share with us?

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND EFFORT!