**Sample District Schools**

***Teacher Focus Group Questions***

This focus group is part of Sample District’s technology program review. The point of this review is to take a snapshot of how instructional technology is typically used to support teaching and learning in the district. Sun Associates, the organization I represent, has been tasked with conducting this evaluation. In addition to this focus group, we are running online surveys of teachers and parents and over the course of this month will be visiting all classrooms in the school. We are also interviewing principals and parents. Ultimately, all of this data will go – in aggregate - into a report that will be reviewed by the district later in the spring. What they’ll be doing is looking at this aggregate data against a set of descriptive indicators that a team of district stakeholders (teachers such as yourself, administrators, etc.) have created.

Your responses in this focus group will be confidential. Details of today’s conversation will not be reported to the district. We will never report any individual response in a way that attributes it to a specific person. So feel free to be frank and to speak your mind here. Further, it is not necessary for each person to answer each question. Rather, the questions are conversation starters. Respond as you wish, and I will prompt the group to provide more detail and/or to move on as necessary. We will complete this activity within an hour as promised.

Any questions? OK, let’s go!

1. How are the 4Cs (Communication, Collaboration, Critical Thinking, Creativity) developed in your classroom? How are they assessed? (*look for anything they have to say about differentiation*)

(*If they talk about technology, probe for why they think that technology was a particularly effective way of developing these student skills*)

2. What does it mean to you for a student to “take ownership over their own learning”?

How does technology support a student “taking ownership”?

What’s your opinion on the degree to which Sample District students are using technology to take ownership over their own learning?

3. How skilled do you feel your students are at evaluating information resources online?

What would improve this?

4. Could you give me an example of how your practice has changed through the use and integration of technology? (*If they’re confused by “practice” probe for instructional design…we want to know how they’ve changed the way they teach and create student experiences*)

5. What opportunities do you have to develop your own fluency in technology skills and practices? (*we’re looking for info on how they use planning time, collaborate with other teachers, etc.*)

6. What’s your understanding of the district’s plan or vision for technology integration?

(*if this doesn’t come up naturally*) Is there anything that you could suggest that would improve the district’s ability to implement or articulate this plan?

7. (*this has probably already come up, so just ask this question to get them to summarize*) What barriers exist to your ability to integrate technology in your classroom?

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8. Is there anything else that you would like to tell me that has not yet come up in this discussion? Do you have any additional questions for me or anything that you want to be sure I get for the report?