

Needs Assessment

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ITEC 7460 Professional Learning and Technology Innovation

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According to Easton (2008), “all stakeholders’ voices must be represented when discussing how to improve educational practice” (p. 53). I choose to assess the stakeholders at my school by adapting the TAGLIT Teacher Assessment. TAGLIT stands for Taking a Good Look at Instructional Technology and it is an online tool for assessing technology use in schools (<http://www.testkids.com/taglit/index.htm>). The purpose of this assessment is to collect and, ultimately, analyze data that determines technology use and integration within the classroom. I adapted the survey by focusing on the technology resources within my school. I created the survey using Google Documents. The survey contains 25 multiple choice questions and one open response questions. The survey focuses in on the following specific areas: technology skill, technology use in teaching and learning, technology use in the classroom, technology resources, technology professional development, and the school technology plan. Generally, an individual should be able to complete the survey within 10 minutes.

There were a total of 18 survey responses collected. A majority of the responses were from teachers who work with multiple grade levels. Third and fifth grade had few responses. To gain additional information about these grade levels, I may have to reassess these grade levels or have one-on-one conversations with teachers from those grade levels.

As indicted in the survey results, Austell Intermediate teachers had an average score of 3.14 on a four point score in Technology Skills. This section of survey was represented by items 2 to 10. A score 3.14 indicates that a majority of teachers feel that, when it comes to technology skill, they can do most things independently. 17 out of 18 teachers shared that they are comfortable enough with word processor software and presentation software to it to teach others. Teachers also feel comfortable using a scanner to get images into a computer. The areas that teachers feel the least comfortable with (in regards to their own technology skills) are using

iRespond systems to assess students (with a score of 2.39) and using a spreadsheet to create graphs (with a score of 2.72). Generally, a majority of teachers felt they could do the following things independently: use a spreadsheet to enter and calculate numbers, use a document camera, and create and maintain a blog. The results that I gathered through these survey questions are that teachers are most comfortable with software such as Microsoft Word and Microsoft PowerPoint, but teachers are less comfortable with Microsoft Excel and iRespond.

Technology use in teaching and learning represents items 11 to 14. These questions focused on using technology with students. I surveyed teachers about the following tools: Basic Tools (Word, Excel), Presentations, Smart Software, and iRespond. Overall, the score of this section was 2.94 out of a four point scale; therefore, teachers range from beginning to experiment using the tool with students to making an effort to include the tool in teaching and learning and integrating into lesson plans. Presentations Software such as PowerPoint and Smart Software for notebook files are being used on a regular basis within teaching and learning in the classroom. Teachers feel they make an effort to include Basic Tools and iRespond within lesson plans, but these tools may not be used on a daily basis.

For items 15 to 18, the survey focused on Technology and the Way Your Classroom Works. These questions were about using technology to engage and support higher level learning. Teachers had to answer with No, Somewhat, or Yes. The overall score for the section was 2.76 on a three point scale. Generally, teachers feel that, as a result of technology use, they are practicing higher order thinking skills, interacting with the outside world, engaging students, and finding time to work with students who need extra help.

Item 19 reviewed the teacher's feelings in regards to the adequacy of the technology resources within the school. On a four point scale, teachers scored 3.83. This indicates that

teachers feel that the technology resources are close to excellent within the school. In addition to Item 19, one teacher comments, “I love the technology we have at this school...especially SmartBoards and Elmo!”

Technology Professional Development was addressed in items 20 to 22. According to item 20, 50 percent of teachers have participated in at least 15 hours of technology-related professional learning; therefore, 50 percent of the staff may need training beyond a beginner’s level. For this section, teachers also determined what they thought were their weakest and strongest areas in the following technology: Basic Tools, Presentation Software, SmartBoards, iRespond, and Blogging. Forty-four percent of teachers feel that SmartBoards are their strongest area followed by presentation software with 33 percent. With a majority of 61 percent, teachers feel weakest in using the iRespond Response System followed by blogging with 28 percent.

Items 23 to 25 asked yes or no questions about the school technology plan. A majority of teachers have reviewed the plan and support the plan. Seventy-two percent of the teachers indicated that their comments or suggestions were elicited for the technology plan.

The final survey item allowed teachers to share any additional thoughts or comments related to technology in their own words. One teacher commented that tools, such as Word and Excel, are often used for planning and teacher productivity, but not often with students.

In summary, it appears that teachers are on board with technology use within the school. They feel that the school has excellent access to resources. Also, many teachers have already donated a lot of time to learning more about technology through professional development and teachers are supportive of the school technology plan. Many teachers feel they have the most skill in using Word and PowerPoint. Teachers feel especially comfortable using PowerPoint Presentations with students. Across the board, teachers need more skill in using iRespond as a

majority chose that as their weakest area. It is important to note here that, this school year, there is already an initiative to improve the teachers' technology skills within iRespond . Training sessions are also differentiated. Due to these already planned training, it may be more beneficial to focus on a different area that teachers are receiving less training on right now. As indicated by the data, teachers could also use professional development in blogging for the classroom as well as using excel beyond entering and calculating numbers.

Digital Survey Tool

This survey tool was adapted from the TAGLIT (Taking a Good Look at Instructional Technology) Assessment Tool. The live form for this survey can be found at the following link:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/viewform?hl=en_US&rm=full&formkey=dE5abms1TVU2N3pNZGNfZHZZU2R4MEE6MQ#gid=0.

Technology Use and Integration

Teacher Information

What grade level students do you work with the most?

- 2nd Grade
- 3rd Grade
- 4th Grade
- 5th Grade
- I work with multiple grade levels.

Your Technology Skill

How far along are you in learning to...

use a word processor to create documents?

- I don't know how to do this
- I can do this, but I sometimes need help
- I can do this independently
- I can teach others how to do this

use a spreadsheet to enter and calculate numbers?

- I don't know how to do this
- I can do this, but I sometimes need help
- I can do this independently
- I can teach others how to do this

use a spreadsheet to create graphs?

- I don't know how to do this
- I can do this, but I sometimes need help
- I can do this independently
- I can teach others how to do this

use a scanner to get images into a computer?

- I don't know how to do this
- I can do this, but I sometimes need help
- I can do this independently

- I can teach others how to do this

use software (PowerPoint, etc.) to create a presentation?

- I don't know how to do this
- I can do this, but I sometimes need help
- I can do this independently
- I can teach others how to do this

use SMART software to create interactive notebook files?

- I don't know how to do this
- I can do this, but I sometimes need help
- I can do this independently
- I can teach others how to do this

use iRespond to assess students?

- I don't know how to do this
- I can do this, but I sometimes need help
- I can do this independently
- I can teach others how to do this

use a document camera to visually present information?

- I don't know how to do this
- I can do this, but I sometimes need help
- I can do this independently
- I can teach others how to do this

create and maintain a blog using Typepad, Blogspot, or another blogging software?

- I don't know how to do this
- I can do this, but I sometimes need help
- I can do this independently
- I can teach others how to do this

Your Technology Use in Teaching and Learning

How far are you in enhancing teaching and learning using...

Basic Tools (Word, Excel)

- I do not use it in teaching and learning.
- I am beginning to experiment using it with students.
- I make an effort to include it in teaching and learning and integrate it into my lessons.
- I always include it in my teaching and learning and use it in powerful ways.

Presentations (PowerPoint)

- I do not use it in teaching and learning.
- I am beginning to experiment using it with students.

- I make an effort to include it in teaching and learning and integrate it into my lessons.
- I always include it in my teaching and learning and use it in powerful ways.

Smart Software (Notebook Files)

- I do not use it in teaching and learning.
- I am beginning to experiment using it with students.
- I make an effort to include it in teaching and learning and integrate it into my lessons.
- I always include it in my teaching and learning and use it in powerful ways.

iRespond

- I do not use it in teaching and learning.
- I am beginning to experiment using it with students.
- I make an effort to include it in teaching and learning and integrate it into my lessons.
- I always include it in my teaching and learning and use it in powerful ways.

Technology and the Way Your Classroom Works

As a result of your use of technology in teaching and learning, are you more inclined to...

involve students in activities that require higher level thinking skills?

- No
- Somewhat
- Yes

involve students in interactions with the world outside of school?

- No
- Somewhat
- Yes

involve students in activities that they find engaging?

- No
- Somewhat
- Yes

find the time to work with students who need extra help?

- No
- Somewhat
- Yes

Your School's Technology Resources

How would you rate your school's overall access to technology?

- Inadequate
- Somewhat Adequate

- Adequate
- Excellent

Your Technology Professional Development

Approximately how many hours of technology-related professional development have you participated in? (Consider all types of development activities – workshops, local school, district, college, etc.)

- 5 Hours or Less
- 6 to 10 Hours
- 11 to 15 Hours
- 15 to 20 Hours

Identify the area you feel the strongest in from the list below.

Basic Tools (Word, Excel), Presentation Software (PowerPoint),
SmartBoards/Smart Board Software, iRespond Student Response Systems,
Classroom Blogging

Identify the area you feel the weakest in from the list below.

Basic Tools (Word, Excel), Presentation Software (PowerPoint),
SmartBoards/Smart Board Software, iRespond Student Response Systems,
Classroom Blogging

Your School's Technology Plan

Have you reviewed the school technology plan within the School Strategic Plan?

- Yes
- No

Do you support the technology plan?

- Yes
- No

Are your comments or suggestions elicited for the technology plan?

- Yes
- No

In Your Own Words

Do you have any further comments about technology use and integration at your school?
If so, please write them below.

Survey Results

Item 1 – What grade level do you work with the most?

2 nd Grade	4
3 rd Grade	1
4 th Grade	5
5 th Grade	2
I work with multiple grade levels.	6
Total	18

Item 2 to 10 – Your Technology Skills

SCALE	1: I don't know how to do this.	2: I can this but I sometimes need help.	3: I can do this independently.	4: I can teach others how to do this.		
How far along are you in learning to...	n	1	2	3	4	Score
use a word processor to create documents	18	0	0	1	17	3.94
use a spreadsheet to enter and calculate numbers	18	1	4	7	6	3.00
use a spreadsheet to create graphs	18	1	6	8	3	2.72
use a scanner to get images into a computer	18	0	1	3	13	3.50
use software to create a presentation	18	0	0	1	17	3.94
use SMART software to create interactive notebook files	18	2	3	5	8	3.06
use iRespond to assess students	18	3	4	8	2	2.39
use a document camera to visually present information	18	2	5	5	6	2.83
create and maintain a blog	18	1	5	7	5	2.89
Section Average Score						3.14

Item 11 to 14 – Your Technology Use in Teaching and Learning

SCALE	1: I do not use it in teaching and learning	2: I am beginning to experiment using it with students.	3: I make an effort to include it in teaching and learning and integrate it into my lessons.	4: I always include it in my teaching and learning and use it in powerful ways.		
How far along are you in enhancing teaching and learning using...	n	1	2	3	4	Score
Basic Tools (Word, Excel)	18	2	3	9	4	2.83
Presentations (PowerPoint)	18	1	0	10	7	3.28
Smart Software (Notebook Files)	18	2	1	6	9	3.22
iRespond	18	4	3	10	1	2.44
Section Average Score						2.94

Item 15 to 18 – Technology and the Way Your Classroom Works

SCALE	1: No	2: Somewhat	3: Yes			
As a result of your technology use in teaching and learning, are you more inclined to...	n	1	2	3	Score	
involve students in activities that require higher level thinking skills?	18	0	4	14	2.78	
involve students in interactions with the world outside of school?	18	1	5	12	2.61	
involve students in interactions that they find engaging?	18	0	1	17	2.94	
find the time to work with students who need extra help?	18	0	5	13	2.72	
Section Average Score					2.76	

Item 19 – Your School’s Technology Resources

SCALE	1: Inadequate	2: Somewhat Adequate	3: Adequate	4: Excellent			
How would you rate your school’s overall access to technology resources?	n	1	2	3	4	Score	
	18	0	0	3	15	3.83	

Item 20 – Your Technology Professional Development

SCALE	1: 5 Hours or Less	2: 6 to 10 Hours	3: 11 to 15 Hours	4: 15 to 20 Hours			
Approximately how many hours of technology-related professional development have you participated in?	n	1	2	3	4	Score	
	18	1	6	2	9	3.06	

Item 21 & 22 – Your Technology Professional Development

	Basic Tools	Presentation Software	SmartBoards	iRespond	Blogging
Strongest Area	3 - 17 %	6 - 33 %	8 - 44 %	0 - 0 %	1 - 6 %
Weakest Area	0 - 0 %	0 - 0 %	2 - 11 %	11 - 61 %	5 - 28 %

Item 23 to 25 – Your School’s Technology Plan

Totals	Yes	No	n
Have you reviewed the school technology plan?	13	5	18
Do you support the technology plan?	17	1	18
Are your comments or suggestions elicited for the technology plan?	13	5	18
Percentage	Yes	No	
Have you reviewed the school technology plan?	72 %	28 %	
Do you support the technology plan?	94 %	6 %	

Are your comments or suggestions elicited for the technology plan?	72 %	28 %
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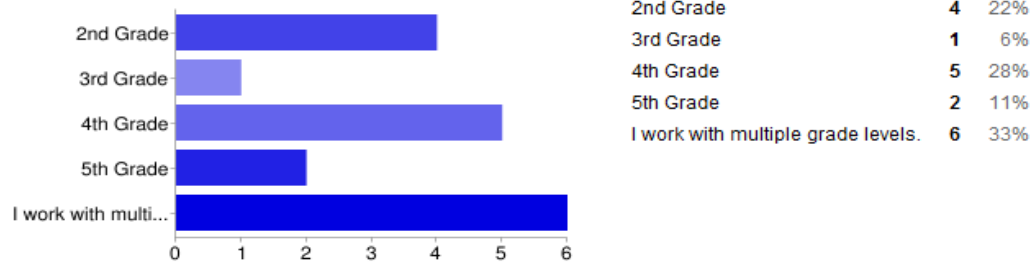
Item 26 – In Your Own Words

Comment 1	2 nd Grade	I love the technology we have at this school...especially Smart Boards and Elmo!
Comment 2	5 th Grade	I frequently use Microsoft Word and Excel in teacher planning, but do not often incorporate them into student lessons. However, we always use Smartboard software for these purposes.

Summary of Results (from Google Docs)

Teacher Information

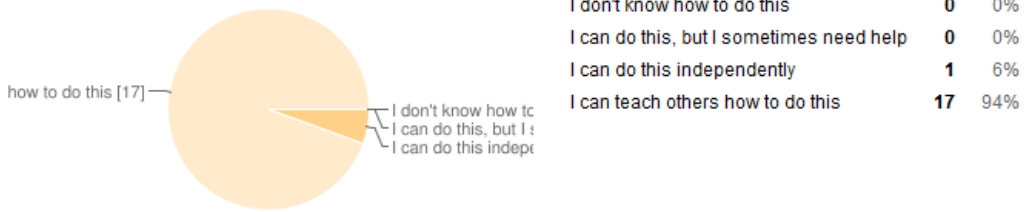
What grade level students do you work with the most?



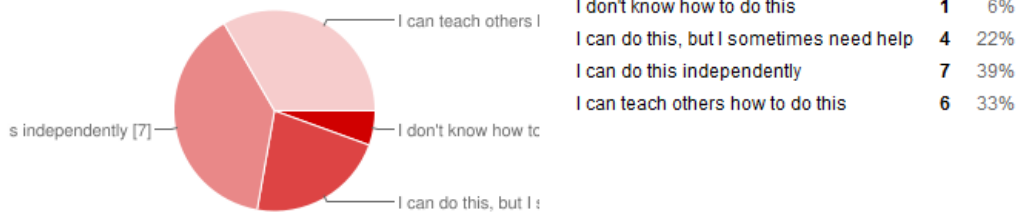
Your Technology Skill

How far along are you in learning to...

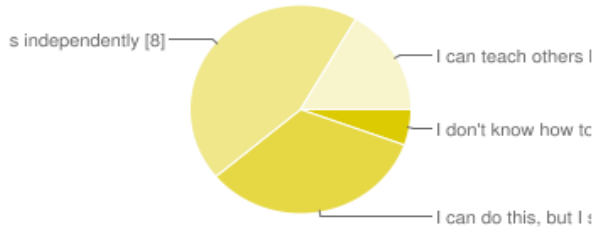
use a word processor to create documents?



use a spreadsheet to enter and calculate numbers?

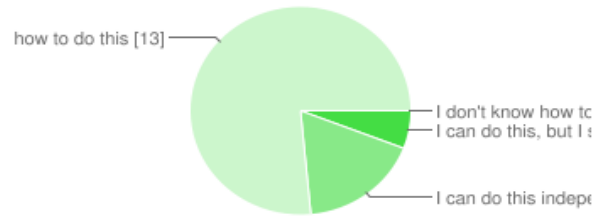


use a spreadsheet to create graphs?



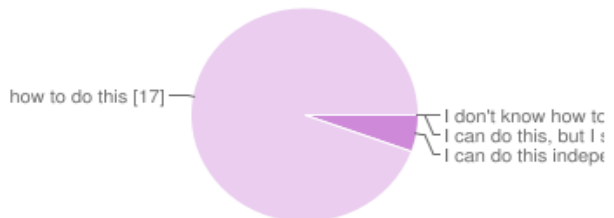
I don't know how to do this	1	6%
I can do this, but I sometimes need help	6	33%
I can do this independently	8	44%
I can teach others how to do this	3	17%

use a scanner to get images into a computer?



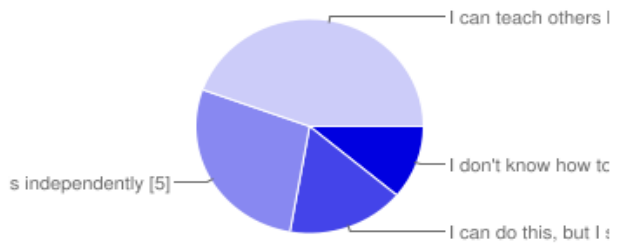
I don't know how to do this	0	0%
I can do this, but I sometimes need help	1	6%
I can do this independently	3	17%
I can teach others how to do this	13	72%

use software (PowerPoint, etc.) to create a presentation?



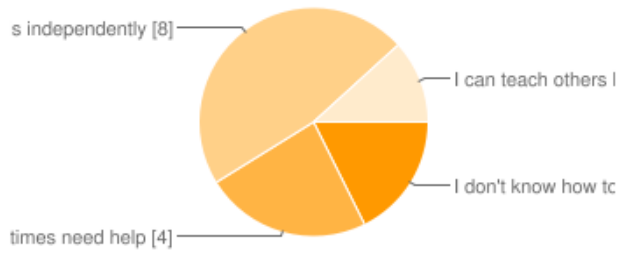
I don't know how to do this	0	0%
I can do this, but I sometimes need help	0	0%
I can do this independently	1	6%
I can teach others how to do this	17	94%

use SMART software to create interactive notebook files?



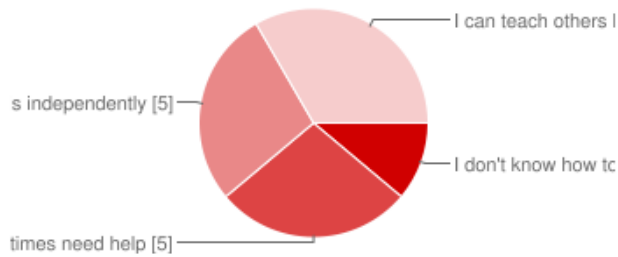
I don't know how to do this	2	11%
I can do this, but I sometimes need help	3	17%
I can do this independently	5	28%
I can teach others how to do this	8	44%

use iRespond to assess students?



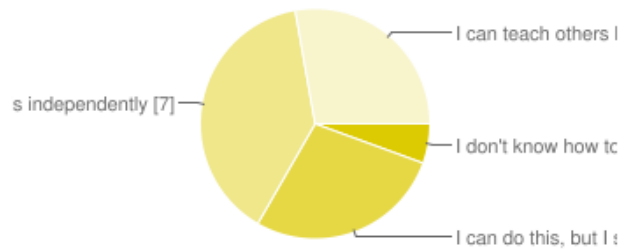
I don't know how to do this	3	17%
I can do this, but I sometimes need help	4	22%
I can do this independently	8	44%
I can teach others how to do this	2	11%

use a document camera to visually present information?



I don't know how to do this	2	11%
I can do this, but I sometimes need help	5	28%
I can do this independently	5	28%
I can teach others how to do this	6	33%

create and maintain a blog using Typepad, Blogspot, or another blogging software?

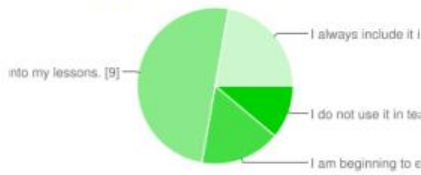


I don't know how to do this	1	6%
I can do this, but I sometimes need help	5	28%
I can do this independently	7	39%
I can teach others how to do this	5	28%

Your Technology Use in Teaching and Learning

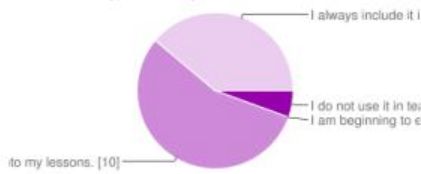
How far are you in enhancing teaching and learning using...

Basic Tools (Word, Excel)



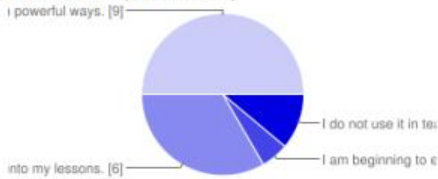
I do not use it in teaching and learning.	2	11%
I am beginning to experiment using it with students.	3	17%
I make an effort to include it in teaching and learning and integrate it into my lessons.	9	50%
I always include it in my teaching and learning and use it in powerful ways.	4	22%

Presentations (PowerPoint)



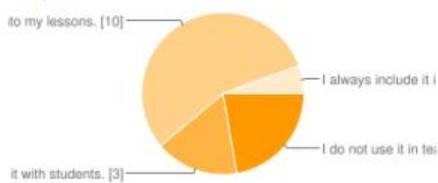
I do not use it in teaching and learning.	1	6%
I am beginning to experiment using it with students.	0	0%
I make an effort to include it in teaching and learning and integrate it into my lessons.	10	56%
I always include it in my teaching and learning and use it in powerful ways.	7	39%

Smart Software (Notebook Files)



I do not use it in teaching and learning.	2	11%
I am beginning to experiment using it with students.	1	6%
I make an effort to include it in teaching and learning and integrate it into my lessons.	6	33%
I always include it in my teaching and learning and use it in powerful ways.	9	50%

iRespond

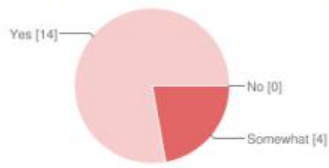


I do not use it in teaching and learning.	4	22%
I am beginning to experiment using it with students.	3	17%
I make an effort to include it in teaching and learning and integrate it into my lessons.	10	56%
I always include it in my teaching and learning and use it in powerful ways.	1	6%

Technology and the Way Your Classroom Works

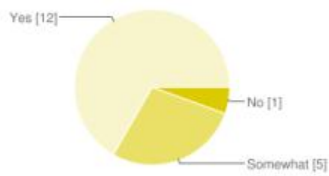
As a result of your use of technology in teaching and learning, are you more inclined to...

involve students in activities that require higher level thinking skills?



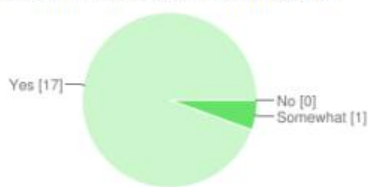
No	0	0%
Somewhat	4	22%
Yes	14	78%

involve students in interactions with the world outside of school?



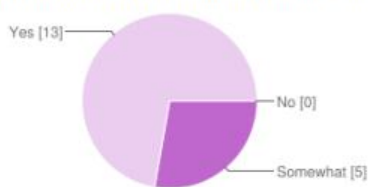
No	1	6%
Somewhat	5	28%
Yes	12	67%

involve students in activities that they find engaging?



No	0	0%
Somewhat	1	6%
Yes	17	94%

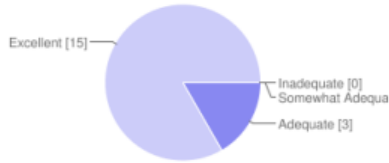
find the time to work with students who need extra help?



No	0	0%
Somewhat	5	28%
Yes	13	72%

Your School's Technology Resources

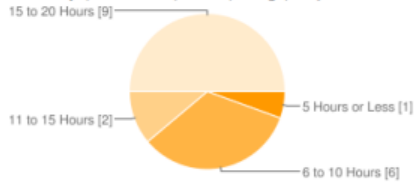
How would you rate your school's overall access to technology resources?



Inadequate	0	0%
Somewhat Adequate	0	0%
Adequate	3	17%
Excellent	15	83%

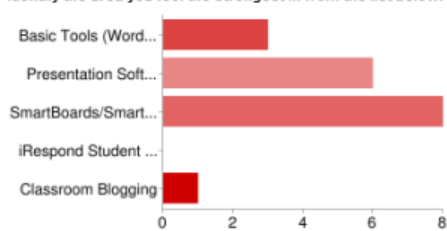
Your Technology Professional Development

Approximately how many hours of technology-related professional development have you participated in? (Consider all types of development activities - workshops, local school, district, college, etc.)



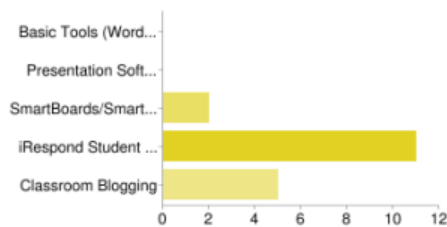
5 Hours or Less	1	6%
6 to 10 Hours	6	33%
11 to 15 Hours	2	11%
15 to 20 Hours	9	50%

Identify the area you feel the strongest in from the list below.



Basic Tools (Word, Excel)	3	17%
Presentation Software (PowerPoint)	6	33%
SmartBoards/SmartBoard Software	8	44%
iRespond Student Response Systems	0	0%
Classroom Blogging	1	6%

Identify the area you feel the weakest in from the list below.



Basic Tools (Word, Excel)	0	0%
Presentation Software (PowerPoint)	0	0%
SmartBoards/SmartBoard Software	2	11%
iRespond Student Response Systems	11	61%
Classroom Blogging	5	28%

Your School's Technology Plan

Have you reviewed the school technology plan within the School Strategic Plan?



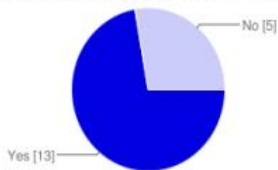
Response	Count	Percentage
Yes	13	72%
No	5	28%

Do you support the technology plan?



Response	Count	Percentage
Yes	17	94%
No	1	6%

Are your comments or suggestions elicited for the technology plan?

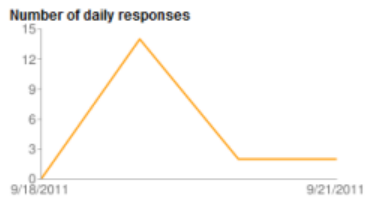


Response	Count	Percentage
Yes	13	72%
No	5	28%

In Your Own Words

Do you have any further comments about technology use and integration at your school? If so, please write them below.

I love the technology we have at this school...especially Smart Boards and Elmo! I frequently use Microsoft Word and Excel in teacher planning, but do not often incorporate them into student lessons. However, we always use Smartboard software for these purposes.



References

Easton, Lois Brown. Powerful Designs for Professional Learning. Oxford, OH: National Staff Development Council, 2004.

Technology use and intergration survey. (n. d.). Retrieved from

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/viewform?hl=en_US&rm=full&formkey=dE5abms1TVU2N3pNZGNfZHZZU2R4MEE6MQ#gid=0.