Chapter 19
Technology and Traditional Teaching

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Despite recent online learning inroads in schools, many professional educators and administrators remain hesitant, reluctant, and even resistant to teaching with technology. The cause of resistance to technology is often misinterpreted. Teachers do not resist the technology itself. Teachers resist what the technology may represent - change, confusion, loss of control, and impersonalization. As long as these concerns remain unaddressed, technology adoption in any organization will be an uphill battle.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The world is changing so rapidly that it should be expected the state of education will change with it. Technology is quickly becoming an integral component of the curriculum and a very important tool in the educational advancement of students today. Research shows the benefits of using technology in the classroom includes motivating and exciting young minds. The days of using paper and pencil to instruct our children are long gone. There is no longer a question of whether or not technology should be used in the classroom but *how* it should be used. The interactive whiteboard, document camera, and Internet are just a few items of a growing list of technological advances that provide students a new way to collect, analyze, and

learn new information. It is imperative that educators be able to meet the diverse learning styles of all students. Most teachers are making changes in their instruction according to the technological advances of the new generation, but there is a resistance among some faculty to keep up with the evolving times.

Preparing a person to become a future teacher is an enormous task. There are many required courses and components of the education degree that are vital for the success of future teachers. Nowadays, students who enroll in a teaching certification program are required to take a technology course to complete the program due to the important role that it plays in the classroom today. Some twenty years ago the programs were not as strict about taking courses in technology because technology played a smaller role in education. In the evolution of technology it has required that educators become equipped with knowledge and the understanding to make good use of the available tools for effective teaching.

There can be resistance among teachers to incorporate technology for a variety of reasons; bad experiences before, feel "too old" to learn new things, not enough time to master, lack confidence to ask for help. Technology trainings and experiences are key to helping build the connection between the new generation of students and society. The educator having proficient skills in technology alone does not mean that they can skillfully prepare a lesson plan which integrates the components of technology. Such skill requires a learning process.

THE CASE

Mountain View School District's (MVSD) Technology Department sent a survey to all teachers asking about technology use in the classroom. Through the survey, over 45 percent of the teachers admitted they did not use computers as part of instruction. MVSD was looking towards setting up required workshops for all teachers to go through a computer training and implementation program. The program was designed by grade levels to help teachers structure a plan to ensure students were getting ample experience with computers and other equipment. Positive school experiences help students foster a lifelong love of learning and technology use. In the urban schools at MVSD, they found that though the students may lack the resources at home for exposure, it is important they receive it at school.

The push for classroom technology has generated a mixed feeling of excitement and fear among teachers. Most educators are able to identify with the relevance and application of technology within the classroom, but there's still a sense of resistance among the remaining teachers. This resistance may be due to the rapid changes and advancements that have occurred within the field of technology. These rapid changes have lead to a lack of confidence and knowledge awareness.

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