

Getting Up to Date with Classroom Technology

Promising Practices 8

Program Puzzler

Your program has several up-to-date computers, but you have little in the way of educational software. You know you should make better use of computers in the classroom particularly since you have several younger students who are comfortable with technology. How should you and your program staff proceed to learn more about how to best integrate technology in the Aspire classroom?

Peer Perspective

Professional Development

- Attend professional development sessions where software suitable for use in adult education is discussed. Schedule time to share information you obtain with your staff members.
- Contact a software sales representative to present to your program. Often sales representatives will come to your location and demonstrate their products.
- Contact the State Aspire Office to learn more about distance education opportunities for Aspire program.
- Have staff members take the online survey AdultEdonline.org to determine the level of their technology knowledge and to generate a professional development plan.
- Explore a variety of technology options before designing a computer-enhanced curriculum.
 - o Software suggestions include:
 - ◆ WorkKeys
 - ◆ SAMS (Contemporary)
 - ◆ Skills Tutor
 - ◆ Access (Steck-Vaughn pre-GED)
 - ◆ Mavis Beacon typing
 - ◆ Math Problem Solver
 - o Online suggestions include:
 - ◆ Virtual Learning (University of Utah)
 - ◆ Online curriculum (Ohio Resource Center math modules)
 - o Presentation equipment suggestions include
 - ◆ Overhead projectors
 - ◆ Smart boards
 - ◆ LCD projectors

Timely Tips

Pair with a neighboring program to organize a technology day where multiple vendors come to demonstrate their products.

Regularly expose students to available technology. For example, have students read a local or national newspaper online.

Create a blog for student reflections on current events or to post assignments.

Added Insights

A wealth of technology resources are available as professional development for teachers as well as samples to be used in the classroom. For example, teachers can access web-delivered curriculum products, interactive online reading materials, and online interactive lessons with an immediate online answer-check features. Examples of technology resources and projects are available at: <http://www.ncsall.net/?id=309>.