

# CONTENTS

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## **1 INTEGRATING COMPUTERS: HOW DO COMPUTERS HELP EDUCATORS? 1**

- Computers in the Classroom 1
- What Is Educational Technology? 2
- A Short History of Computers in Education 2
- How Should We Use These Machines in Education? 5
- What Do Computers Do Well? 5
- Computers as Tools for Teachers 6
- Computers as Tools for Students 6
- Guidelines for Computer Usage in Education 7

## **2 ELECTRONIC PORTFOLIOS 11**

- Introduction 11
- Electronic Portfolios 12
- Pre-Service Teacher Portfolios 12
- Portfolio Software 16
- Portfolio Use in Student Assessment 17
- Limitations of Portfolios 17
- Use Portfolios Wisely 18

## **3 RESEARCH AND THEORY: DO COMPUTERS HELP EDUCATION? 21**

- The Effect of Technology on School Administration 22
- The Effect of Technology on Student Achievement 22
- Implication of the Research on Educational Technology 24
- How Do Children Learn? 24
- Computers in the Schools 25
- Authentic Assessment (Rubrics) 27

## **4 TECHNOLOGY IN THE SCHOOLS: WHERE ARE WE NOW? 33**

- Computers and Connectivity 33
- Teacher Attitudes and Training 34
- Student Technology Usage 34
- Teacher Technology Usage 35
- The Impact of Demographic Factors 35

## **5 USING TECHNOLOGY TOOLS IN EDUCATION: AN OVERVIEW OF HARDWARE 39**

- Computers in the Classroom 40
- Input Devices 41
- Output Devices 42
- Data Access 43
- Storage Solutions 44
- Availability Solutions 56

## **6 SOFTWARE 51**

- Introduction 51
- Productivity Software 51
  - Word Processing Software* 51
  - Spreadsheet Software* 53
  - Other Productivity Software* 56
  - Presentation Software* 56
- Educational Software 58
  - Educational Software for Teachers* 58
  - Academic Software* 59
  - Drill-and-Practice Software* 59
  - Learning Games* 60
  - Integrated Learning Systems* 60
  - Reference Software* 61
  - Other Academic Software* 61

## **7 FINDING INFORMATION ON THE INTERNET 65**

- Introduction 65
- Finding What You Need—Fast 65
- Searching the Internet 66
- First, Define What You Are Looking For 66
- Keywords 66
- Individual Search Engines 67
- Boolean Searching 69
- Searching in the Classroom 69

## **8 DISTANCE LEARNING 75**

## **9 INTEGRATING EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY: BEST PRACTICES 77**

What is Available?	77
Sample Lessons	78
Language Arts/English	78
Social Studies/History	79
Science	79
Art	80
Physical Education	80
Music/Band	80
Foreign Languages	81
Math	81

## **10 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT 85**

Technology Professional Development as a Preservice Teacher	86
Inservice Teachers	90
State and National Standards in Teacher Technology	90

## **11 GETTING THE NEEDED RESOURCES: OVERCOMING BARRIERS TO EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY USE 97**

Affecting Change in Local Districts	98
Alternative Local Sources	99
Alternative State Sources	100
Alternative Federal Funding Sources	100
Grants	102
Successful Grant Writing	102

## **12 ISSUES 107**

Introduction	107
Copyright and Fair Use	108
Legal Issues	108
Copyright and Computer Software	110
File Sharing	111
Internet Filters	111
Ethical Issues	112
Privacy	112

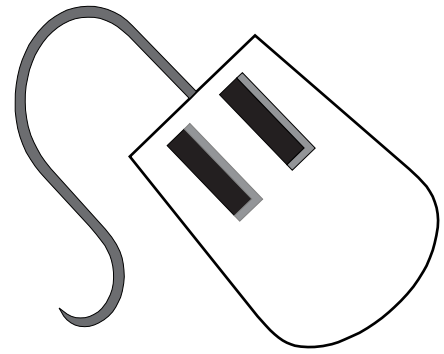
Plagiarism	112
Spam	113
Social Issues	113
Other Current Issues	144
Security	114

## **APPENDIX A: COMPUTER BASICS 119**

## **APPENDIX B: INTERNET BASICS 123**

## **APPENDIX C: INSTRUCTIONAL THEORY: HOW KIDS LEARN 129**

Author:  
List headings under  
appendix title?



# PREFACE

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Educational Technology is the practice of using technology to enhance the teaching and learning experience. This important field of study is often reduced to learning only hardware and software. The focus is on the technology, not the education. This textbook has been developed with education in mind. Teachers will find this text a valuable asset as they pursue their studies focusing on integrating technology into the classroom.

The authors of this book have been teaching educational technology courses at the college level for many years. Two of the authors hold full time positions at the college level, while two others work daily in the public schools. Consequently, the authors bring a variety of experiences to this text. While they see the educational portion of this text as the most important, they recognize the importance of training in the use of the technology itself.

The text is closely aligned to national technology standards and utilizes real world examples in the form of case studies to illustrate the importance of educational technology. The first four chapters discuss national trends in educational technology. Chapter one includes a definition and history of educational technology. Chapter two examines electronic portfolios as a tool for student assessment and teacher growth. Chapter three reviews the current research concerning the benefits of computers in the schools. Finally, chapter four discusses national trends in technology availability and usage in the schools.

The second portion of the text deals with the actual implementation of computers in the classroom. Chapter five focuses on hardware that can be utilized in the schools. Chapter six explores the uses of productivity and educational software. Chapter seven explains how students and teachers can find information on the Internet. Chapter eight gives an overview of distance learning. Finally, chapter nine pulls it all together with examples of technology integration across the curriculum.

The third portion of the text extends its scope beyond the classroom. Chapter ten discusses the importance of professional development and the many online resources available to teachers. Chapter eleven identifies barriers to technology integration and describes methods for working toward their elimination. Finally, chapter twelve explores ethical and security issues that arise when using educational technology.

The fourth and final portion of this text consists of three appendices for those students who may need more information about the topics covered. Appendix A explains the basics of computers, including the components and how they work. Appendix B describes the Internet and includes definition of many Internet-related terms. Finally, Appendix C discusses the theory behind learning with an emphasis on behaviorism, constructivism, and brain theory.

This text was written to be comprehensive and to stand alone, but the authors have also developed a companion web site (<http://www.integratetech.net>). This web site includes extension activities, discussion boards, additional information and supplemental web links to aid in advanced study. This approach is unique in that the web site allows for quicker and easier adaptability to the rapid changes inherent in studying technology. With access to the website, students will have access to more timely information.

Again, the authors stress that this text is about using technology to become a better teacher and to help students become better learners. Through this project they hope to offer the opportunity for teachers to develop the skills and confidence with technology necessary to make sound educational choices about how and when to use technology with their students.