

ISTE unveils new tech standards for teachers

Revised framework focuses on what teachers should know to help students become productive digital learners, citizens

From eSchool News staff reports

[ISTE, Measuring 21st-century skills, Top News](#)

Schools looking for a framework to help guide their teachers' use of technology in the classroom have a new resource at their disposal: The International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) has issued new technology standards for teachers.

Unveiled June 30 at the National Educational Computing Conference (NECC) in San Antonio, ISTE's revised National Educational Technology Standards (NETS) for Teachers mark a significant overhaul of the group's original teacher technology standards, which ISTE introduced in 2000.

Those first standards focused on what teachers should know about, and be able to do with, technology. The new standards expand this focus to include what teachers should know and be able to do "to promote students' abilities to learn effectively and live productively in an increasingly digital world."

"We've got to have teachers prepared to prepare today's students for the challenges of a new digital world," explained ISTE Chief Executive Officer Don Knezek at the launch of the new framework.

The original teacher standards included categories such as "technology operations and concepts." For the revised standards, "we began with the assumption this time that every teacher recognizes the importance of technology and how it can transform teaching and learning," said Lajeane Thomas, chair of ISTE's standards committee and director of the NETS project.

The "NETS for Teachers, Second Edition" includes five categories, each with its own set of performance indicators: (1) Facilitate and inspire student learning and creativity, (2) Design and develop digital-age learning experiences and assessments, (3) Model digital-age work and learning, (4) Promote and model digital citizenship and responsibility, and (5) Engage in professional growth and leadership.

Under the category "facilitate and inspire student learning and creativity," for example, there are four performance indicators: (1) Promote, support, and model creative and innovative thinking, (2) Engage students in exploring real-world issues and solving authentic problems using [digital tools](#) [1] and resources, (3) promote student reflection using collaborative tools, and (4) model collaborative knowledge construction by engaging in learning with students.

For every performance indicator within each category, ISTE has included a rubric that describes what meeting the standard would look like at four levels of proficiency: beginning, developing, proficient, and transformative.

The "transformative" proficiency level is new to the revised standards, and it's indicative of ISTE's more recently articulated focus on really transforming education through the use of technology, not just layering technology over traditional educational practices, Knezek said. This notion of transforming education with the help of technology is also the theme of this year's NECC (see "[NECC attendees urged to become 'change agents'](#)" [2]).

The new NETS for Teachers mark the culmination of a year-long process in which ISTE solicited feedback from ed-tech stakeholders worldwide. The group held at least 25 face-to-face forums with more than 600 participants, and another 1,000 people took part in online surveys and two virtual forums.

The revised teacher standards represent the second step in ISTE's effort to update all of its ed-tech standards. At last year's NECC, ISTE unveiled new NETS for students, and the group kicked off an effort at this year's conference to revise its NETS for administrators, which will be released at NECC 2009.

Kim Vidoni, educational technology coordinator for the Nevada Department of Education, said her state is in the process of revising its ed-tech plan and technology standards, "and we'll be looking to these new NETS for teachers as we do this."

Link:

[International Society for Technology in Education](#) [3]

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[1] digital tools: http://www.eschoolnews.com/?p=41521/?utm_source=website&utm_medium=shorturl&utm_campaign=InteractiveLearningintheConnectedClassroom0710_0611

[2] NECC attendees urged to become 'change agents': <http://www.eschoolnews.com/conference-info/necc/highlights/?i=54348>

[3] International Society for Technology in Education: <http://www.iste.org>