

Ensure that the purpose for using technology is aligned to lesson targets

Integrating technology into lessons should enhance student interaction and understanding of the content within learning goals. The use of technological tools should not distract students from learning course material. Additionally, be mindful that when incorporating technology into the lesson, the use of technology does not change the intent of the standard being taught.

When forming a lesson for students, a teacher first decides the target skill of instruction. The teacher can then find activities that will best help students reach that goal. At this point, the tool of delivery can be chosen that will enhance the lesson in a way that engages students, enhances the lesson, or extends the lesson. Use the questions below to help determine the purpose behind the selected technology:

TO ENGAGE:

- Does the technology tool allow students to focus on the task of the assignment or activity with less distraction (i.e., time on task)?
- Does the technology tool motivate students to start the learning process?
- Does the technology tool cause a shift in the behavior of the students, where they move from passive to active social learners?

TO ENHANCE LESSON:

- Does the technology tool aid students in developing or demonstrating a more sophisticated understanding of the content (i.e., creates opportunities for creation/production over consumption)?
- Does the technology tool create scaffolds to make it easier to understand concepts or ideas?
- Does the technology tool create paths for students to demonstrate their understanding of the learning goals in a way that they could not do with traditional tools?



TO EXTEND LESSON:

- Does the technology create opportunities for students to learn outside of their typical school day?
- Does the technology create a bridge between school learning and everyday life experiences?
- Does the technology allow students to build skills, that they can use in their everyday lives?

SUMMARY

Technology tools should assist students in focusing their attention on the learning goals and the activity at hand rather than distracting from them.

- Begin technology integration by addressing gaps in lessons where more resources are needed
- Use technology tools to scaffold instruction
- Add technology tools to vetted lessons to enhance student learning

Why it matters



It is important to ensure the technology is not an extra add on in the lesson. “Technology should always support and reinforce the learning that is taking place, never precede it” (Marcinek, 2014). Alignment to the Mississippi College- and Career-Readiness Standards should be the primary focus of activities incorporated into the classroom. “When you’re integrating technology, you want to make sure that it aligns with the learning goals and ultimately helps students reach those goals” (Marcinek, 2014).

What it looks like in practice



PRINCIPALS SEE

Technology engaging students, enhancing student learning, or extending the learning

Technology supporting the learning targets and keeping the intent of the standard

Teachers explaining connections between digital tool and the content

TEACHERS SEE

Digital tools allowing students to engage with the content in meaningful ways

Digital tool helping students master the learning targets

Digital tool assisting in assessing student mastery

FAMILIES SEE

Students engaged in active learning and not passively sitting

The lesson activities using technology that holds the attention of the student



What you can try

- >> Verify the intent of the standard(s) by accessing the Mississippi Department of Education's Instructional Planning Guides, Scaffolding Documents, Family Guides for Student Success, or the Mississippi College- and Career-Readiness Standards for your content area, before selecting a digital tool to support the lesson (<https://www.mdek12.org/OAE/college-and-career-readiness-standards>).
- >> Contact a Mississippi Department of Education content specialist to better understand Mississippi College- and Career-Readiness Standards for your content area (<https://www.mdek12.org/ESE/Home>).
- >> Use the **Digital Learning Lesson Plan: Guiding Questions for Teachers** to determine the purpose of the technology tool (i.e., engage students, enhance the lesson, or extend the lesson).

REFERENCES

Marcinek, A. (2014, September 10). Classroom Management in the Tech-Equipped Classroom. *Edutopia*. <https://www.edutopia.org/blog/classroom-management-tech-equipped-classroom-andrew-marcinek>

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Aligning Technology with Curriculum Requirements Five ways to align technology with curriculum requirements.
<https://www.showbie.com/aligning-technology-with-curriculum-requirements/>

Engage, Enhance, Extend A framework for educators to measure how well technology tools integrated into lessons are helping students engage in, enhance and extend learning goals.
<https://www.tripleeframework.com/>

ISTE Standards The ISTE Standards provide competencies for learning, teaching and leading in the digital age, providing a comprehensive roadmap for the effective use of technology in schools worldwide.
<https://www.iste.org/iste-standards>

There's No App for Good Teaching Effective technology integration must begin with the learning goals.
<https://ideas.ted.com/theres-no-app-for-good-teaching/>