Assignment #2: Technology in Education

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In the education field, there are many things that are very important for educational leaders to understand. One of the things that needs to be understood is something that has shaped the education field tremendously: technology. The use of technology within the education setting is one of the major things that has helped shape education into what it is today. It is important to understand the role and value of technology in the education field. School leadership and educators must have a clear understanding of how to use technology within the classroom setting. This understanding can allow both school leadership and teachers to better plan how to teach students in the best manner possible within the classroom setting.

**The Role and Value of Technology in Education**

Educators and school leadership need to have a good understanding of the overall role and value of technology within the education field. Technology has become very popular within the education setting over the past ten years (Tondeur, Van Braak, Ertmer, & Ottenbreit-Leftwich, 2017). With that said, it is important to understand the current role of technology. The current role that technology plays within the education setting is that of being a resource that can be used to help teachers teach their class or use the technology to carry out an activity (Tondeur, Van Braak, Ertmer, & Ottenbreit-Leftwich, 2017). There are many different types of technology that can be used within the classroom setting. One of the newest forms of technology that is being used in the classroom setting is virtual reality goggles (Martín-Gutiérrez, Mora, Añorbe-Díaz, & González-Marrero, 2017). Virtual reality goggles can be used to allow students to take virtual field trips, such as to a battle within the American Revolution, and better see the events that have taken place within history. Virtual reality goggles can also be used to help teach science or even to help students with projects such as welding activities (Martín-Gutiérrez, Mora, Añorbe-Díaz, & González-Marrero, 2017). In other words, these types of items can help students feel like they are able to touch the material that is being taught to them or see it firsthand. As a result, technology can be used as a resource to better help students understand what is being taught to them in the classroom setting (Tondeur, Van Braak, Ertmer, & Ottenbreit-Leftwich, 2017). It is also important for educators to understand that technology in the classroom setting should only be used as a resource and not be used to replace the basics in the class such as handwriting and verbal communication amongst students and even the teacher. It is possible that if an educator puts too much reliance on technology within the education field, it could result in soft skills such as basic handwriting and proper communication skills diminishing and not being properly taught to students in the classroom setting (Solórzano, Rojas, Vargas, Rueda, & Palma, 2018). It is important for educators and school leadership to ensure that there is a good balance between the use of technology and other methods in the classroom setting. That way students can be set up for success after they have finished their high school education.

**The Role of Educators and Leadership**

Both educators and leadership need to understand the role of technology within the education field. School leadership has to also understand what can be done to better assist educators who might struggle with the use of technology within the classroom setting. The role that an educator plays in using technology in the education field is that of using the best methods possible. Educators need to know what current technology is available and figure out if it can be used and if so how it can be incorporated within the classroom setting to better assist students (Foulger, Graziano, Schmidt-Crawford, & Slykhuis, 2017). When an educator understands how to use technology, it can open up the possibility for technology to be used as a resource for every single student. An educator who uses technology as a resource will understand that it can also be used as a method to differentiate instruction to students (Foulger, Graziano, Schmidt-Crawford, & Slykhuis, 2017). For example, a student who has a learning disability and has to have a test read to them can use a computer and headphones with a program that will read to students (Foulger, Graziano, Schmidt-Crawford, & Slykhuis, 2017). Another advantage to using technology as a resource is that it can help a teacher carry out activities that might not be possible due to funding or other sorts of limitations. In the past in order for an educator to teach a lesson on the anatomy of a frog, students would have to dissect an actual frog. However, with the advancement of technology an educator could have students dissect a frog with a computer program. Although dissecting a frog on a computer might not be as exciting for some students, it can help save the cost of having to purchase over one hundred frogs. A history teacher can use technology as a resource by having a class of students take a virtual field trip to a battle in the Civil War and get to see a better representation of what it was like back in those time periods and allow students to be more engaged during this type of lesson. In other words, the role that an educator has in regards to technology is having a good understanding and keeping up with technology so that it can be used within the classroom setting as a true resource to better teach material to students (Foulger, Graziano, Schmidt-Crawford, & Slykhuis, 2017).

When looking at school leadership it is important to understand how school leadership would respond to teachers who struggle with or who try to avoid using technology in their classroom. The majority of the time that a teacher struggles with using technology is due to the fact that they do not really understand how to use it (Hughes, Boklage, & Ok, 2016). If a teacher does not really know how to use something, then they will not want to use it. The first step for any school leadership when technology is being implemented and pushed is making sure that the educators know how to properly use it (Hughes, Boklage, & Ok, 2016). This can be completed by school leadership providing proper training with educators on the use of technology that is being implemented and being used (Hughes, Boklage, & Ok, 2016). Doing this would reduce the possibility of teachers struggling with technology or trying to avoid it completely. The second thing that school leadership can do if there is just a teacher completely avoiding the use of technology is meeting with them individually and explaining the importance of the use of technology in the classroom setting (Hughes, Boklage, & Ok, 2016). Providing proper training and meeting with teachers who might just try to avoid the use of technology would more than likely help teachers buy into using technology in the classroom setting.

**How Technology Will Influence the Future of Education**

It is important that educators and educational leaders understand how technology will influence the future of education. The use of technology will grow in use within the education setting with the emergence of new technology and current technology being implemented in the classroom setting (Goldin, & Katz, 2018). The reason why the use of technology will influence education is due to the fact that many companies now require that students who finish school come out knowing how to use technology (Hollister, Spears, Mardis, Lee, McClure, & Liebman, 2017). In other words, society will require that students know how to use technology in order to be prepared in the world in which we live today (Hollister, Spears, Mardis, Lee, McClure, & Liebman, 2017). Another reason why technology will continue to influence education is because technology can actually lead to more engaged students, help accelerate the rate of learning and also help reduce the cost of carrying out activities when the technology is being used (Goldin, & Katz, 2018). As a result of all of these factors, more and more teachers will embrace technology and incorporate it into their classroom settings. An educational leader can use a couple of different strategies to help pay for the increase in technology. First, the educational leader can seek out grants from local community organizations, state and federal government to help pay for more technology within the classroom setting (Chacon, & Hale, 2018). There are many grants that can be used to help pay for the implementation and then the use of technology and training of educators to use in the classroom setting (Chacon, & Hale, 2018). A second strategy that can be used by educational leaders is to divert money that is being saved by using technology. For example, when schools go one-to-one with a Chromebook then it does not require students to have a textbook because the textbooks can be used electronically. As a result of this, the money that is being saved to not purchase textbooks for every student can be used to pay for technology to be used in the classroom setting. When money is found to be saved from the use of technology then it can be put towards other technology use.

**Conclusion**

Within the education field there are many things that are important and need to be understood. One of the most important things that needs to be understood is the use of technology. Understanding technology can allow for educators and educational leaders to know how it can be incorporated in the classroom setting to best benefit students. Knowing how technology can be used will allow educators to know the role that educators must take in order to be successful in regards to using it within the classroom setting. Technology is only going to grow within the future in regards to growth in the classroom setting. Having educators and educational leaders who understand the importance of technology will only benefit the students who are in the education setting. It is important for educators and the leaders to know how to use technology in order for students to be prepared for life after their education is complete.

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