

Teacher Quality Standard III

Teachers plan and deliver effective instruction and create an environment that facilitates learning for their students.

Study after study shows the single most important factor determining the quality of the education a child receives is the quality of the teacher. Quality teachers have knowledge of content, curriculum, and standards. They are able to plan and implement instructional strategies in an effective and purposeful manner that enhances student learning and independence. Research shows that when implemented effectively and purposefully, the professional practices referenced in Standard III can result in an environment in which all students can learn and succeed.

Element D

Teachers thoughtfully integrate and utilize appropriate available technology in their instruction to maximize student learning.

Technology at its best involves students and teachers in meaningful activities.

—R. Routman

Professional practices referenced under each element of the Rubric for Evaluating Colorado Teachers are cumulative. Therefore, for teachers to be proficient in the application of the practices referenced under Element D, teachers must first identify technology that is available and appropriate for instructional use based on content and student skills. This may include software, hardware, and processes that enable students to improve their access to a high-quality education through the use of Internet access devices, easy-to-use digital authoring tools, and the Web to access information and multimedia. A teacher's next steps are the creation of strategies and procedures to ensure students have equitable access to technology and that their use is effectively monitored. For technology to be used as a purposeful instructional resource, it must enhance student learning by developing students' knowledge and skills, both creative and innovative, and engaging and motivating students in learning experiences.

PROFICIENT RATING LEVEL

PROFESSIONAL PRACTICES: THE TEACHER:

Uses available technology to:

- Enhance student learning.***



[Click here to go back to the table of contents and view the resource guide in its entirety.](#)

Students of today may be digitally savvy, but that doesn't necessarily mean they know how to effectively use technology for the purpose of learning. Technology can be a vehicle for increasing student engagement and learning but only if the technologies are used in combination with proficient instructional practices.

For students to interact with technology in a meaningful way, teachers and students should utilize technology for the purpose of enhancing student learning. There is no value in just having access to technology or using technology for the sake of "technology." What is important is the purposefulness with which it is used. Technology can be a valuable instructional tool to meet students' various learning styles and academic and language needs.

Refer to this internal resource for additional information:

- Examples for How to Use Technology to Enhance Instruction (connections to other professional practices)
Document provides examples for how the use of technology connects to other elements referenced in Standard III.

- ***Develop students' knowledge and skills.***

The traditional definition of **literacy** is the ability to read and write. With the rapid development of new technologies, the nature of literacy is rapidly changing. Thus in addition to reading and writing, the current definition of literacy also includes the ability to learn, comprehend, and interact with technology in a meaningful way (Coiro, 2003).

Technology tools impact students' development of knowledge and skills in a variety of ways. Students have the opportunity to strengthen basic skills when technology is used as a tutorial, such as games that are used to increase students' basic skills and fluency and provide feedback on accuracy of students' responses. Students can obtain knowledge when accessing the Internet for information. Communication skills and knowledge can be developed when students use technology to communicate with others, such as "content experts" or individuals living in a different culture and environment. Technology has made students' access to an undefined number of resources much easier.



[Click here to go back to the table of contents and view the resource guide in its entirety.](#)

- ***Enhance creative and innovative skills.***

Developing creativity is an ongoing process in which new ideas are formed based on older ideas or ideas from a different perspective. Technology can provide students opportunities to experience other cultures, perspectives, and places in a way that is engaging and motivating.

For students to be successful in the 21st Century, teachers need to implement strategies that foster **creative skills** and **innovation skills**. The benefit of utilizing technology is not its potential to replicate the existing educational practice but its ability to combine ideas and product technologies in order to engage students in developing these skills.

- ***Provide engaging and motivating learning experiences.***

Refer to this external resource for additional information:

- Article: “Using the Technology of Today, in the Classroom Today The Instructional Power of Digital Games, Social Networking, Simulations, and How Teachers Can Leverage Them” from Education Arcade http://education.mit.edu/papers/GamesSimsSocNets_EdArcade.pdf

Article provides information on the use of games, social networking, and simulations in the classroom.



[Click here to go back to the table of contents and view the resource guide in its entirety.](#)