

Selecting the Right Tech Solutions for Your Classroom

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides tools and guidance for selecting and implementing the right educational technology for your context. You will learn approaches for assessing your technology needs, identifying a technology that aligns with those needs, understanding available evidence on potential technologies, and developing an implementation plan for how to actually start using the technology in your classroom(s). Throughout the course, you will engage in online content, develop materials specific to your context, and receive feedback from evaluation experts. The course culminates in a capstone project consisting of a “Roadmap for Selection and Implementation” that can be used to communicate with stakeholders about your selected technology, your rationale for choosing it, and how you will implement it. Assignments completed throughout the course will contribute to the capstone project.

COURSE STRUCTURE

This self-paced 15-hour course is designed to be completed over 5 weeks, with about 5 hours of online content and 10 hours dedicated to completing course assignments and activities. The course is divided into 5 topical modules, each containing hands-on activities, engaging content, and opportunities to reflect and collaborate. The modules are designed to be completed weekly. Due dates for assignment will be provided in the modules to maximize opportunities for peer engagement.

COURSE GOALS AND OUTCOMES

By the end of this course you will be able to:

- Complete a self-assessment to determine your technology needs (and wants)
- Search for and find educational technologies
- Understand the basics of evidence and how to assess the quality of evidence available for potential educational technologies
- Develop an implementation plan
- Create a pitch to get stakeholder buy-in

ISTE STANDARDS AND COMPETENCIES

The following standards for educators are addressed in this course.

Standard 1. Learner - Educators continually improve their practice by learning from and with others and exploring proven and promising practices that leverage technology to improve student learning.

Standard 4. Collaborator - Educators dedicate time to collaborate with both colleagues and students to improve practice, discover and share resources and ideas, and solve problems.

Standard 7. Analyst - Educators understand and use data to drive their instruction and support students in achieving their learning goals.

COURSE FACULTY

Instructors	Facilitators
Dr. Megan Shoji , Researcher, Mathematica Policy Research	Kate Place , Researcher, Mathematica Policy Research
	Mikia Manley , Research Analyst, Mathematica Policy Research
Steve Bates , Data Analytics Lead, Mathematica Policy Research	Emily Rosen , Research Analyst, Mathematica Policy Research

Course faculty will be available to coach participants and support them with understanding course content and completing assignments. Faculty will respond to comments on the discussion board, hold online office hours, review student progress throughout the course, and be accessible by email. Faculty may provide general feedback to the class, as well as specific feedback to individuals on assignments, knowledge checks, and quick polls.

COURSE SCHEDULE AND MODULE DESCRIPTIONS

WEEK 1	
Module 0: OVERVIEW – CHOOSING THE RIGHT EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY	
Learning objective: Understand the purpose of the course	
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion board post - Introduce yourself • Discussion board post - What factors or features do you consider when thinking about using technology in your classroom or school? • Complete Getting to Know You Survey
Target length	0.5 hours
Module 1: INTENTION – WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO ACCOMPLISH?	
Learning objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn how a self-assessment helps you select the right technology for your context • Learn the steps for planning a self-assessment • Conduct your own self-assessment 	
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion board post - Describe a time when you used a technology that did or did not meet your expectations. How confident were you before you used the technology that it would meet your expectations? • Quick polls (3)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge checks (2) • Review reading materials • Complete self-assessment • Discussion board post - Summarize self-assessment • Complete Module 1 Survey
Target length	3 hours

WEEK 2

Module 2: DISCOVERY – HOW DO YOU FIND GOOD CANDIDATES?

Learning objectives:

- Learn the first step of a systematic approach to finding good technology candidates
- Learn about two resources to search for technology
- Narrow the field of candidates using information from your self-assessment

Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review technology selection resources • Fill out technology options worksheet for 3-10 technologies • Complete Module 2 Survey
Target length	2.25 hours

WEEK 3

Module 3: EVIDENCE – HOW CAN YOU BE AN INFORMED CONSUMER?

Learning objectives:

- Learn how to assess evidence about the effectiveness of technologies
- Learn about two resources that compile evidence of technology effectiveness

Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion board post - How confident are you that a technology will lead to the outcomes you want to see? What makes you confident or not? • Quick poll • Knowledge checks (1) • Discussion board post - Submit a discussion board post about reasons why you would want to implement an "evidence-based" technology. • Complete Understanding Evidence Worksheet • Find examples of each type of evidence on the internet, post to discussion board • Review Assessing the Evidence • Complete Technology Evidence Review Worksheet • Complete Decision Criteria for Technology Selection • Select a technology to implement • Complete survey 3
Target length	4 hours

WEEK 4

Module 4: STRATEGY – HOW DO YOU PLAN FOR A STRONG IMPLEMENTATION?

Learning objectives:

- Understand contextual factors that could affect implementation
- Identify constraints and opportunities to ed tech implementation in your context
- Create an implementation plan

Activities

- Quick poll
- Complete Implementation Brainstorm worksheet
- Barriers and facilitators activity for example
- Discussion board post - Barriers and facilitators for your technology
- Complete Implementation Plan worksheet
- Complete survey 4

Target length

2.5 hours

WEEK 5

Module 5: PULLING IT ALL TOGETHER – WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS?

Learning objectives:

- Create a comprehensive document and pitch to be shared with stakeholders

Activities

- Complete capstone project (written and video submissions)
- Complete survey 5

Target length

2.75 hours

COMPLETION CRITERIA

We estimate an average individual workload of 15 hours to successfully complete this 5-week course (about 3 hours per week). To receive a certificate of completion, participants must submit all course assignments and complete the “Roadmap for Selection and Implementation” Capstone project. Feedback will be provided on final projects within two weeks of the course end date.



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