

## **Understanding Your School's Technology Culture**

### **I. Technological Capacity and Capabilities**

1. What kind of technology is available to you?
2. What internet capability is available?
3. How is computer and internet access provided? Dispersed computers? 1 to 1? Labs? Can students use their own equipment?
4. What kinds of filters are in place, and how do they restrict what you might want to do?
5. If resources like social media are blocked, are there "intranet" options? Are there ways to get special permission to use blocked resources?
6. Who has the specialty gear (cameras, scanners, etc.) and can you use it?
7. What is your best sense of the technology that your students have at home? To what extent can you expect them to have access to technology and internet access outside school to work on school projects?

### **II. Leadership and Policies**

8. Does your school have a mission statement and an educational technology plan? If so, when were they last updated? Attach them or provide a link to them from your blog.
9. Are missions and plans used and generally valued at school? Do you use them?
10. Do the missions and plans address the issues of digital citizenship, or of developing a balanced view of technology adoption?

11. Is technology well-funded at your school? Do you see signs of technology rotation, professional development and on-going maintenance of existing equipment?
12. Does your school have Internet use and parent permission policies? When were they last updated? Attach them or provide a link to them from your blog.
13. Has your school adopted or established competencies for students? When were they last updated? Attach them or provide a link to them from your blog.
14. Who are the ed tech leaders within your school? Does your school have an ed tech committee? Is it active? What are its responsibilities?
15. Who are the student leaders in technology? Are there programs that allow them to use their expertise to help teachers and other students? Are there special programs that allow them to pursue their interests?
16. Are community members involved in regards to using technology in your school?
17. If something breaks, who fixes it? How do you contact them? Are corrective and on-going maintenance well supported?

### **Reflection**

In a few paragraphs, summarize your assessment of your school as a technology culture by addressing the following points:

- What is the current status of your school as a technology culture?
- What is the overall attitude about and level of support concerning the use of technology at your school?
- What areas are doing well?
- Which need improvement?
- How can you become involved?
- If you had a budget and authority, what would you do to improve your school's technology culture?