

Problem Primer

As mentioned earlier, your role during the workshop is to tackle the issue of integrating technology into the classroom. Outlined below are some challenges to begin to understand some of the challenges that teachers face.

Resistance to Change

Many teachers are unwilling to change their practices and incorporate technological practices in their workplace. Teachers believe that experimenting with technological methods falls out of their purview and is an unnecessary responsibility. Studies find ease of setup, ease of use, and visible impact on student learning were the most important factors in influencing faculty to adopt new technologies.

Abundance of Options but Lack of Clarity on Effective Choice

A hot topic of discussion within K-12 schools are new models of education that are providing fierce competition to traditional schools. Examples include flipped lectures, massive open online courses, increasing individualized assessments, etc. The challenge entails identifying the right piece of technology that can deliver the highest impact. In one instance, for the sake of increasing technology use, a high school decided to purchase multiple devices such as smart boards, iClickers, and even a laptop cart. However, the teachers were so overwhelmed by these options that they rarely utilized the resources that were available to them.

Teacher Training

Incorporating technology into the classroom not only requires the necessary resources, but also requires additional training and development of the teachers to effectively utilize these resources. Without support from the administration, these programs often never come to fruition or are unsustainable. Furthermore, according to a study, a teacher's fear of failure in using technology, especially in front of his/her students, is a major barrier to technological adoption.

Expanding Pedagogical Teachings/Practices

In addition to learning how to use the technological product, another challenge teachers face is to adapt their teaching methodologies. For instance, one of the strengths of many technological programs is increased individualized performance tracking of students. However, studies found that the increased visibility of students' works may lead to too frequent interventions in the students' learning curve. The challenge lies not only in understanding the respective technologies, but also in how to use the information gathered to best assess and develop the students.