

Tech Principles

As technology continues to reshape education, educators must intentionally and strategically integrate digital tools into learning environments. Below are five key principles to guide technology use in education, ensuring that it enhances, not replaces, authentic learning experiences.

1 Purpose-Driven Integration

- Technology should enhance learning, not distract or replace meaningful instruction.
- Educators must align tech tools with clear learning objectives to support inquiry, creativity, and critical thinking.
- Prioritize student-centered applications that foster engagement, collaboration, and deeper learning over passive consumption.

How to Achieve This

Set learning goals first, then choose a tech tool that aligns with the goal (e.g., Desmos for math exploration).

Use tools like Pear Deck, Figma and FigJam, Miro, Nearpod, or Canva Whiteboards for interactive, inquiry-based learning.

Regularly assess impact by reflecting on whether technology enhances learning.



Ask Yourself: How does this tool amplify learning outcomes rather than just digitize traditional methods?



2 Equitable Access & Inclusive Design

- Digital tools must be accessible to all students, regardless of ability, background, or resources.
- Leverage Universal Design for Learning (UDL) principles to ensure that technology supports multiple learning styles.
- Address the digital divide by providing alternatives for students with limited connectivity or device access.

How to Achieve This

- Use Immersive Reader, Read&Write, or Google's Live Captioning to support diverse learners.
- Offer offline learning options via Google Docs offline mode or downloading key resources.
- Encourage collaborative digital work through platforms like Padlet, Mote (voice notes), or Google Docs with commenting features or Q&A.



Ask Yourself: Does this technology accommodate diverse learners and provide multiple pathways for success?

3 Digital Fluency & Critical Thinking

- Equip students with media literacy skills to critically evaluate information, recognize bias, and navigate misinformation.
- Foster ethical and responsible digital citizenship, ensuring students understand privacy, data ethics, and online safety.
- Teach students how to use AI and automation tools responsibly, balancing efficiency with critical engagement.



How to Achieve This

- To evaluate digital sources, incorporate lessons using fact-checking tools (Snopes, NewsGuard, or Allsides).

- Teach students to pause and reflect before sharing content online.
- Have students compare human and AI-generated responses to analyze and develop an awareness of algorithmic bias and credibility (e.g., using ChatGPT, Claude AI, Gemini, or Perplexity).



Ask Yourself: Are students developing the skills to analyze, create, and communicate effectively in a digital world?

4

Authentic & Meaningful Learning Experiences

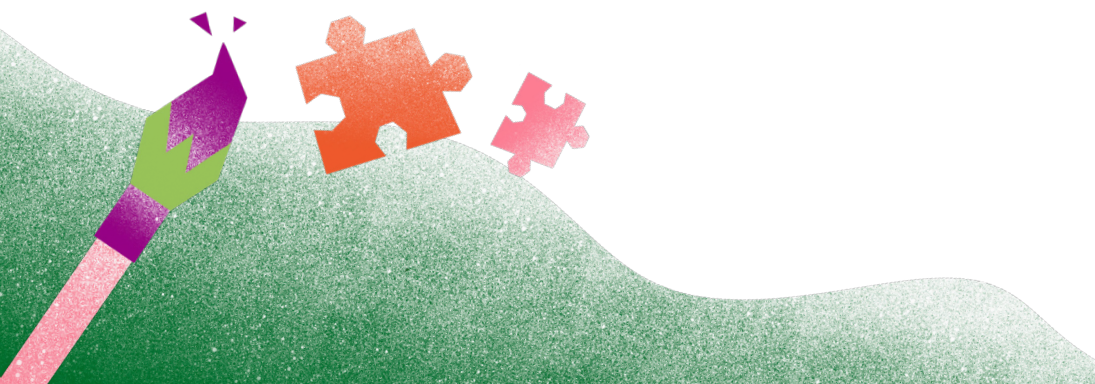
- Technology should bridge classroom learning with real-world application, fostering creativity, problem-solving, and innovation.
- Encourage student agency by allowing them to explore, experiment, and create with digital tools.
- Support project-based, inquiry-driven, and interdisciplinary learning through technology-enhanced experiences.

How to Achieve This

- Use tools like Canva, Adobe Express, or Wix to help students create digital portfolios and storytelling projects.
- Implement virtual field trips using Google Expeditions (now part of Arts & Culture VR), National Geographic VR, or Museum Live Streams.
- Design challenge-based learning projects that incorporate coding (Scratch, Tynker), robotics (Sphero, LEGO Mindstorms), or AI chatbots.



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5 Balance, Well-Being & Ethical Use

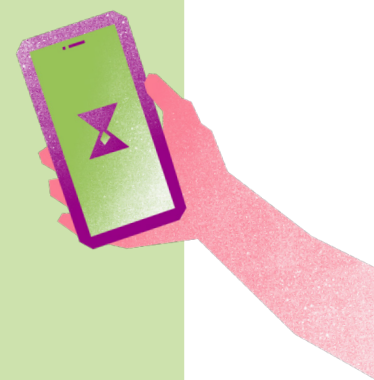
- Promote healthy technology habits by encouraging mindfulness, focus, and responsible screen time.
- Model ethical and respectful use of AI, social media, and digital platforms for students.
- Establish tech-free zones and digital wellness strategies to help students develop a balanced relationship with technology.

How to Achieve This

- Encourage guided technology breaks using Pomodoro timers or Forest App to help students manage focus.
- Use tools like Apple Screen Time, Google Family Link, or Qustodio to monitor and encourage self-regulation.
- Discuss digital identity and reputation, ensuring students understand how online behavior shapes their future.



Ask Yourself: Does this technology promote well-being, balance, and ethical engagement in digital spaces?



The Role of Educators in a Tech-Driven World

Technology is a powerful amplifier of learning when used intentionally and equitably. Educators are not just facilitators of knowledge but curators of digital experiences, ensuring that students engage with technology in ways that empower them, foster critical thinking, and prepare them for the future.



Explore the full toolkit!

More tools, strategies, and insights to create a healthier tech-life balance.

