

Lab 1

1. a) The goal of this framework is to provide Alberta educators with guidelines on how to implement technology into their classrooms to not only aid students in their learning but also allow them to discover new ways to be innovative. For example, today students can easily access information on the internet helping them gain knowledge in numerous areas. Helping students understand how they can use technology as a tool will aid in their success in the future. This framework also guides educators across the province to follow policies that promote the use of effective technology for students in all K-12 institutions.

b) The five policy directions include:

1. Student-Centered Learning
2. Research and Innovation
3. Professional Learning
4. Leadership
5. Access, Infrastructure, and Digital Learning Environments.

c) **Student-Centered Learning** describes how students can use technology to enhance the spread of information and discover new ways to solve problems and think critically. Technology is student-centered and allows students to demonstrate communication and cooperation skills.

Purpose: Education and decisions around learning are centered around the students to create personalized learning.

Outcomes: When education is personalized and meaningful, students are motivated to ask questions, make personalized connections, and expand their knowledge outside the classroom.

Research and Innovation guides educators to stay up to date with the changing technology and integrate it into their teaching. Technology and decisions made around technology are supported by research to promote student-centered learning.

Purpose: For teachers, parents, and students to have access to students' progress so that it can be monitored. To create online learning environments that encourage student-centered learning.

Outcomes: Teachers are making decisions about the technology used based on informed research that benefits the students and guides their progress.

Professional Learning describes that when educators are confident using technology it results in the innovative and effective use of technology that is based on the student.

Purpose: Recognize the benefits technology has within the classroom and work to promote technology within your student's lives. Stay current on the new technology as it is constantly evolving.

Outcomes: Teachers are informed and confident on current technology meeting the needs of students learning.

Leadership outlines how all educators establish a system of policies to follow which results in all students gaining the experience of innovative technology. Policies are updated regularly as technology continues to progress.

Purpose: To create a standard clear set of guidelines all educators follow to promote innovation in students learning.

Outcomes: Educators and the government agree on technology uses within the school and how they can work together to achieve their goals.

The fifth policy, **Access, Infrastructure, and Digital Learning Environments**, outlines that all teachers and students must have access to the appropriate technologies that will enable them to succeed.

Purpose: To have digital learning systems that allow students to have access to files, notes, and readings online in addition to paper copies

Outcomes: Ensures safe networks for learning and equal access to devices for students.

Scenario 1: Math Class

- a) This scenario does not meet the 5 policies set out by the Alberta government. The teacher is discouraging the use of technology in the classroom instead of accepting it as an effective tool in students' current and future lives. Students are discouraged from communicating with their peers inhibiting the spread of knowledge and understanding between students. The teacher is meeting policy 1 by having quizzes

scheduled weekly and having homework checks. This way both the teacher and the students can gauge their understanding of the material efficiently.

- b) One recommendation I make is to allow students to use technology within the classroom. Technological devices should be made readily available for the students in the class to use (policy 5). I believe that the teacher should educate themselves on the advantages of technology in the classroom instead of ignoring and avoiding it (policy 2 and 3).

Scenario 2: Science Class

- a) This teacher is doing a better job of allowing technology use within the classroom which meets policy 2. However, the technology is not being used to foster the learning of the students. I believe the teacher needs to develop a better set of policies to guide students' use of technology. Policy 5 states that students need to have equal access to technology. From the scenario given, one can assume that there are not enough computers in the classroom for all students to have access to. The environment of the classroom does not seem to be very student-centered as it is evident that the students don't understand the purpose of the assignment and how technology is helping them in their learning.
- b) To bring this scenario closer to the policy directions I would tell the students that they are being graded on their use of class time. Monitoring the student's use of technology to ensure they are using the computer for educational purposes rather than entertainment purposes would limit the distraction that the technology is creating within the classroom and would encourage students to be more focused on the assignment. This would help meet policies 1, 3, and 4. Having more computers available would help meet policy 5.

Scenario 3: English

- a) I think this teacher is doing a good job of meeting the goals of the Learning and Policy directions. The teacher appears to be confident and knowledgeable about the uses of technology and how students can integrate that into their learning, covering policies 2 and 3. Technology is actively being used within the classroom, and the teacher has a secure network setup that gives students access to documents and reading on D2L (policy 1 and 5).
- b) I believe this teacher is excelling in the use of technology. One thing that I would change to meet policy 4 is to define the use of cell phones in the classroom. In this scenario, many students are sitting with their heads down on the desk, not engaged in what the teacher is saying. This could be because they are distracted from their cell phones. Declaring that there is a time and a place for technology within the classroom will prevent the misuse of technological devices.

Scenario 4: Social Studies

- a) This teacher is incorporating technology into students' studies and is allowing them to use it in creative ways covering policies 2 and 4. Students are being pushed to explore the various viewpoints on the internet to expand their knowledge. They are also being challenged to connect audio and visuals to portray their ideas (policy 3). Students are working in a computer lab, meaning that they have access to technology, meeting policy 5.

b) One thing I might change in this scenario is having the option for a written assignment.

Students all have different learning styles and should have the option to portray their thoughts and ideas through that preferred style. This would follow policy 1 based on student-centered learning.