Using Technology to Transform Learning: Tell ISTE What Students Need to Know for the Future

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The International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) publishes the internationally recognized ISTE Standards, which are the premier standards to guide the use of technology for learning. ISTE is updating the standards, beginning with the ISTE Standards for Students and they are seeking the input of thousands of educators and other stakeholders during the process. Participants will be able to provide feedback on a draft of the updated standards, giving key insight during a crucial phase of the refresh process.

Introduction

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Standards

Standards have become an integral part of the educational landscape and they spell out what students should be learning in each grade and subject. Educational standards were initially developed following frustration in the late 1990s as the public school system was fragmented (Cooper, & Fusarelli, 2009). Different expectations were set for different students and only a select few were given high standards to achieve. Standards provide a clear and consistent benchmark that can be used to support best practice and a goal to measure student progression. Standards are created to ensure *all* students have a chance to learn skills and understandings to prepare them for college and work life.

Aligned to the International Society for Technology in Education's (ISTE) commitment to promote appropriate uses of technology in education, ISTE provided us with a set of standards of excellence and best practices in learning, teaching, and leading with technology in education. These standards were formally known as the National Educational Technology Standards (NETS): However these standards have gone beyond *national* use to become recognized

throughout the world as well-defined, robust ***international*** technology standards. The name change reflected this international use.

The ISTE Standards family is made up of

- [ISTE Standards for Students](#) (ISTE Standards•S),

- [ISTE Standards for Teachers](#) (ISTE Standards•T),

- [ISTE Standards for Administrators](#)(ISTE Standards•A),

- [ISTE Standards for Coaches](#) (ISTE Standards•C), and

- [ISTE Standards for Computer Science Teachers](#) (ISTE Standards•CSE).

The ISTE Standards are designed to connect with different roles and responsibilities in an educational environment. If you wanted to observe the principal of your school you would use the ISTE Standards for Administrators, or to investigate how the students in your class are using technology, the ISTE Standards for Students would be appropriate.

ISTE Standards Revision

ISTE is updating the standards, beginning with the ISTE Standards for Students and they are seeking the input of thousands of educators and other stakeholders during the process. More specifically, the insight of teacher educators is particularly valuable and unique as their work guides the practice of classroom teachers and, in turn, ISTE intends that the standards are and will continue to be a useful framework for teacher educators as they prepare teachers for the future of education.

The focus of this session will be on revising the ISTE Standards for Students. During this highly-interactive session attendees will be guided by the fundamental question: what do students need to know and be able to do to be successful in the future? After providing a brief contextual overview, the session chair (and ISTE faculty member) will share a draft copy of the updated Standards with attendees. She/I will then guide them in a series of activities to gather detailed insight into the draft's details as well as high level feedback into the overall narrative conveyed by the draft standards. Last, attendees will be invited to give their individual perspective on the draft and on what ISTE should consider as they move forward to finalizing the ISTE Standards for Students, including a general overview, the needs of teacher educators, suggestions for support resources that could be developed, and more.

Attendees are encouraged to bring laptops or other devices upon which to type. While the session will include an overview from the speaker, the format is designed to be interactive, practical, and data-gathering, while also serving as a unique professional learning opportunity for SITE attendees.

References

Cooper, B. S., Fusarelli, B. C. (2009). Setting the stage: Where state power and education meet.

In B. S. Fusarelli, & B. S. Cooper (Ed.). The rising State: How state power is transforming our nation's schools (pp. 1-8). Albany, NY: SUNY Press.