Intro

The definition of empowered educators has undergone significant changes over the past decade. Collaboration and a student-centred approach have driven this change away from the traditional method in which teachers were the sole source of knowledge and control. Nowadays, learners are encouraged to take an active role in their learning. Consequently, there has been an increased emphasis on teacher professional development, specifically developing 21st-century skills, such as collaboration, critical thinking, and problem-solving. The use of digital tools and resources in education has played a significant role in this shift. As a result, an empowered educator should be capable of utilizing technology to enhance students' learning and engagement.

A teacher is considered empowered when they possess the knowledge, skills, and confidence to make informed decisions regarding their teaching practices, curriculum, and classroom management. It is also imperative that they actively seek out opportunities for professional development and growth. These educators are responsible for engaging their students in meaningful and relevant learning experiences while establishing a positive and inclusive classroom environment for all students. Moreover, they should be able to collaborate effectively with colleagues and communicate effectively with parents and other stakeholders to support student success.

As someone who has mentored programmers and served as an instructional designer, I believe the same values that apply to developers' work/lifestyles also apply to educators. Providing professional development and growth opportunities is critical to helping individuals stay current with the latest tools and technologies. Various workshops, conferences, and online courses could be offered to cater to the needs and interests of educators.

Collaboration is another crucial component of both programming and education. Working together and sharing expertise is an effective way for educators to learn from one another and improve their abilities. Educators can collaboratively develop lesson planning and instructional strategies.

The ability to innovate and be creative is also essential in both fields. Also, they can be provided with access to cutting-edge technologies and tools, so they can develop their skills and experiment with creative ideas. As educators, we can explore our interests and ideas, thus fostering a lifelong love of learning.

It is essential to recognize and celebrate achievements in both fields. Feedback and recognition for educators' dedication and hard work can be extremely motivating. This may include celebrating successfully creating personal development plans, and annual objectives or recognition could be given to educators who excel in specific areas.

Finally, supporting a work-life balance is crucial for both programming and education. Educators need support and resources to manage stress and maintain a healthy work-life balance. It may be necessary to offer educators mental health resources and time for self-care, mindfulness, or yoga classes.

These principles should be considered when guiding teachers and other educators toward success in their fields. By providing growth opportunities, encouraging collaboration and innovation, recognizing achievements, and supporting work-life balance, we can empower our educators to achieve their full potential.

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### Standard 3. A

Empower educators to exercise professional agency, build teacher leadership skills and pursue personalized professional learning.

#### Old School/new school project

What is the importance of the UbD framework in curriculum design?

Understanding the UbD (Understanding by Design) framework means appreciating the essential components of curriculum design that emphasize critical thinking, collaboration, and problem-solving skills. It provides a practical and effective way to design learning experiences that engage students and prepare them for success in the real world. By re-designing traditional units with a focus on standards and key concepts, essential questions, required knowledge and skills, performance tasks and assessments, and differentiated instructional strategies, the UbD framework helps educators to create student-centered learning experiences that meet the diverse needs of all students.

So what does this mean for professional practice?

For educators, the UbD framework is a valuable tool that helps to make curriculum design more efficient and effective. As a result, it can lead to improved learning outcomes and increased student engagement. The UbD framework can also empower educators to exercise their professional agency, build teacher leadership skills, and pursue personalized professional learning. Incorporating technology in the curriculum design process is also critical in supporting student learning. It enables educators to create engaging learning experiences that cater to diverse learning styles and promote active knowledge construction, problem-solving, and the creation of linguistic and non-linguistic representations of education.

Now what can educators do to demonstrate the application of the UbD framework in their practice?

To demonstrate the application of the UbD framework in practice, educators can use it to design and implement effective learning experiences for their students. By applying the UbD framework, educators can design curriculum projects or Unit Plans of Study that are aligned with standards, are focused on key concepts, pose essential questions, and incorporate differentiated instructional strategies. Educators can also incorporate technology into their curriculum design process to create engaging and interactive learning experiences. By providing opportunities for students to collaborate, problem-solve, and construct their knowledge actively, educators can create learning environments that meet the diverse learning needs of all students. Additionally, educators can use the UbD framework to evaluate the effectiveness of their curriculum design and refine it based on student learning outcomes. By reflecting on the success of their curriculum design, educators can continuously improve their practice and provide better learning experiences for their students.

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### Standard 3. B

Build the confidence and competency of educators to put the ISTE Standards for Students and Educators into practice.

**What is the importance of encouraging educators to review and present the concepts of renowned educators?**

The importance of encouraging educators to review and present the concepts of renowned educators lies in the opportunity it provides for professional growth and development. When educators engage in this activity, they are exposed to new and innovative ideas that can enhance their teaching practice. By reviewing the work of renowned educators, educators can gain a deeper understanding of important concepts and ideas that are relevant to their work, and this can help them to improve the quality of instruction they provide to their students. Moreover, the activity encourages educators to exercise professional autonomy and pursue individualized professional development. By selecting an educator that aligns with their personal interests and professional goals, educators have the freedom to choose the concepts they want to focus on and tailor the presentation to their individual needs. This helps educators to take ownership of their professional development and become more effective in their role as teachers and leaders.

**What does this activity mean for your professional practice as an educational leader?**

As an educational leader, this activity highlights the importance of creating a culture of continuous learning and improvement within the school community. By encouraging educators to review and present the concepts of renowned educators, I can support their professional growth and development and foster a sense of community and collaboration among them. This can help to build a positive and supportive school culture that values innovation and continuous improvement.

Moreover, this activity aligns with the ISTE standards and can help to build the confidence and competency of educators to put the ISTE standards into practice. By engaging in this activity, educators can gain a deeper understanding of the ISTE standards and learn how to apply them to their teaching practice. As an educational leader, I can use this activity to support the implementation of the ISTE standards and promote the use of technology to enhance teaching and learning.

How can you best demonstrate the application of this activity in your practice as an educational leader?

As an educational leader, I can demonstrate the application of this activity in my practice by providing opportunities for educators to engage in this activity. This can be done by creating a professional development program that includes this activity as a component or by incorporating it into existing professional development opportunities. Additionally, I can encourage educators to share their presentations with each other and provide opportunities for them to discuss the ideas presented. Furthermore, I can use this activity to promote the use of technology in teaching and learning by encouraging educators to use digital tools to create their presentations. This can help educators to develop their digital literacy skills and learn how to use technology to enhance their teaching practice. Finally, I can use this activity to build a positive and supportive school culture by recognizing and celebrating the work of educators who engage in this activity and by providing ongoing support and encouragement for professional growth and development.

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### Standard 3. C

Inspire a culture of innovation and collaboration that allows the time and space to explore and experiment with digital tools.

#### Universal Design for Learning

**What is your understanding of the element?**

The UDL (Universal Design for Learning) lesson plans use digital tools to make learning accessible and engaging for all learners, regardless of their abilities or backgrounds. It aims to foster a culture of innovation and collaboration in education. Designing UDL lesson plans requires collaboration and experimentation on the part of educators, allowing them to explore and experiment with new digital tools and technologies and share their experiences with colleagues. UDL is an approach to teaching and learning that provides multiple means of representation, expression, and engagement, giving learners varied ways to access information, demonstrate their understanding, and engage with the content. By designing UDL lesson plans that incorporate digital tools, educators can provide a more personalized learning experience for students, promoting inclusivity and equity in education. The use of digital tools can also help students develop essential 21st-century skills such as critical thinking, collaboration, and creativity.

**So What? What does it mean to your professional practice?**

For educational leaders, designing UDL lesson plans using digital tools means embracing innovative practices that promote inclusivity and equity in education. It requires them to be knowledgeable about the diverse needs and abilities of their students, and to be flexible and adaptable in their teaching approaches. This approach also requires educators to collaborate and share their experiences with colleagues, creating a culture of innovation and collaboration in education.

Designing UDL lesson plans using digital tools can be challenging, but it also provides opportunities for educators to experiment with new technologies and pedagogical approaches, keeping them current and relevant in a rapidly evolving digital world. It also allows them to be more creative in their teaching approaches, leading to more engaged and motivated learners.

**Now What? How can you best demonstrate application in your practice?**

For educational leaders, there are several ways to demonstrate application in their practice. Firstly, educators can attend professional development courses or workshops on UDL and digital tools to enhance their knowledge and skills in this area. They can also collaborate with colleagues and share their experiences and ideas, creating a culture of innovation and collaboration in education.

Secondly, educators can experiment with different digital tools and technologies to create UDL lesson plans that cater to the diverse needs of their students. By doing so, they can personalize learning experiences, promote inclusivity and equity in education, and develop essential 21st-century skills in their students.

Finally, educators can reflect on their practice and evaluate the effectiveness of their UDL lesson plans using digital tools. They can collect feedback from students and colleagues and use it to improve their practice continually. By demonstrating application in their practice, educators can create a culture of innovation and collaboration in education and provide more meaningful and engaging learning experiences for their students.

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### Standard 3. D

Support educators in using technology to advance learning that meets the diverse learning, cultural, and social-emotional needs of individual students.

#### Digital Storytelling

**What: Understanding of the element**

This article explores the concept of multiliteracy and how it can be applied in the classroom to provide a more effective and motivating learning environment for students from diverse backgrounds. The idea of multiliteracy refers to how social, cultural, and technological changes have influenced literacy, and it encourages teachers to integrate various forms of media into their instruction.

**So What: What does it mean to your professional practice**

As an educational leader, understanding the concept of multiliteracy can enhance my professional practice by providing a more inclusive and effective learning environment for my students. By incorporating various forms of media into my instruction, I can meet the diverse learning, cultural, and social-emotional needs of individual students.

The use of digital media and storytelling in education can also make content more accessible and engaging for a broader group of students. It allows me to teach all representations of meaning, including linguistic, visual, audio, spatial, and gestural. By doing so, I can cater to the different learning styles and preferences of my students, making learning more personalized and meaningful.

**Now What: How can you best demonstrate application in your practice**

To best demonstrate the application of the concept of multiliteracy in my practice, I can start by exploring various forms of media and technology that I can incorporate into my instruction. This includes videos, podcasts, images, and other digital resources that can help me teach different representations of meaning.

I can also design lessons and activities that cater to the different learning styles and preferences of my students. This means incorporating various forms of media into my instruction and allowing my students to engage with the content in a way that best suits their learning needs.

Additionally, I can collaborate with my colleagues to share ideas and resources and learn from their experiences. This collaborative process can help me to continually explore and experiment with new digital tools and technologies and incorporate them into my practice. Overall, by embracing the concept of multiliteracy, I can create a more inclusive and effective learning environment for my students.

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### Standard 3. E

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