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### **Module 3 Paper**

As a technology teacher by trade, I teach others how to use technology. It just so happens that I work specifically with teachers and developing technology that they want to use. And so I spend much of my day worried about what teachers need to know in order to do their job with technology. I help design products that are intuitive to use, but the reality is that no one can pick up a computer for the first time and immediately begin to use it appropriately. So, what skills DO teachers need in order to be successful and meet ISTE's NETS-T's standards? To answer that question I will explore three particular standards listed in NETS-T as technology standards for teachers:

- Promote and Model Digital Citizenship and Responsibility
- Model Digital Age Work and Learning
- Design and Develop Digital Age Learning Experiences and Assessments

In order to Promote and Model Digital Citizenship and Responsibility a teacher must obviously possess a sense of Digital Citizenship and Responsibility. This means that a teacher has to have a good grasp on Information Literacy, consistently practice good digital behavior and understand his/her role as an example to the students. Information literacy is critical to a teacher's ability to effectively teach using technology. A teacher must know how to do a search using a search engine online to find information. A teacher should be able to determine the reliability of digital content, realizing that not everything that is on the Internet is true. However, it

is not enough to simply know but a teacher must, as the standard says, model the good behavior. If a teacher is teaching a lesson on the Civil War and wants to show a relevant video to the students, then searching YouTube and just playing the first video that pops up is not a good idea. A teacher should develop criteria for evaluating web sites and other digital content and run everything he/she presents to students through that criteria. If a teacher isn't an example of good digital citizenship then the students will model that negative behavior.

Part of Modeling Digital Age Work and Learning is having basic computer and technology competencies. A teacher should be familiar with a word processor, understand how to navigate and use the internet, and if his/her school uses a Learning Management System then knowledge of that is particularly important. In order for teachers to expect good digital products from their students, they must be willing to do the same themselves. If a teacher wants students to type up and properly format a paper, then he/she should type and properly format the handout of the assignment. The ability to use the internet is becoming more and more critical for a teacher. A teacher cannot expect his/her students to complete an online assignment without already possessing the knowledge himself/herself. Similarly, in order to foster a digital learning environment, and encourage students to use the Internet as a resource, teachers should model this by using the Internet to teach the curriculum. If the school has a Learning Management System then the teacher should take advantage of that. This involves understanding even the complex features like online grading, online assignment collection, and discussion board moderation.

Teachers also need to Design and Develop Digital Age Learning Experiences and Assessments which means they need to have the capability of understanding newer technologies and stay on top of the trends that are present in education. Teachers should be able to create digital exams and assessments using some kind of software. While it's obvious that a teacher can't know everything about what's out there and available, he/she has a

responsibility to the students to at least have a basic knowledge of the tools that the school supports. If the school has a testing software that most teachers use then any teacher who wants to meet the NETS-T standards should get basic training on it and use it.

One of the major problems facing technology in education is that there aren't enough teachers who know how to use technology effectively. Not every school has a dedicated person to teach the teachers. So it's up to teachers to learn on their own time and often that's just not practical. Professional Development time is usually spent learning about other things like state standards, differentiated instruction, or the latest teaching philosophy fad. Teachers simply don't have the opportunity to learn these skills, and so it will truly be up to the next generation of teachers to come into education knowing these skills and adopt the latest trends and use technology the way it is supposed to be used. Education is definitely at a tipping point when it comes to technology. It's time for teachers to join the students and become good digital citizens.