# Istation

# Making the Switch to Digital

*Strategies for Technology-Based Intervention and Instruction*

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# Making the Switch to Digital

"We need technology in every classroom and in every student and teacher's hand, because it is the pen and paper of our time," said respected author and educator David Warlick. "It is the lens through which we experience much of our world."

Many educators, administrators, and parents in the educational community agree, and with good reason. However, assessing an entire school using technology isn't without its challenges. This comprehensive e-book gives you the proper steps to start on the path to a more efficient, effective, and cost-saving twenty-first-century learning environment with edtech integration strategies and knowledge that you can share with your staff for years to come!

# Knowing Twenty-First-Century Learning Goals

Stating your learning objectives is the first step in defining what edtech solutions and integrations will work for your institution. Every school has its own interpretation of those goals, but these initial three are great springboards.

**1. Successful students**
For every school, the main goal is student success. In what areas do your staff and district hope to see success? Is it in student discovery and motivation, improved test scores, better collaboration within classrooms? List 3 or 4 subgoals that will help bring your specific students' success to fruition.

**2. Educational technology that leads to student achievement**
What educational technology will best support you and your students on your unique path to success?

The four most-utilized edtech categories include:
1) software
2) hardware
3) process
4) product

**3. Preparing students for twenty-first-century jobs**
In education circles, twenty-first-century skills have become recognized as a range of abilities and competencies that go beyond traditional classroom instruction. These skills — such as problem-solving, communication, collaboration, creativity, and innovation — prepare students for success in today's classrooms and the workforce.

The nationally normed Istation's Indicators of Progress (ISIP™) assessment cross-functionally improves students' achievement, while providing the opportunity to build twenty-first-century skills in a variety of subject matters. Istation is a blended learning solution for reading, math, and Spanish for grades pre-K through 8th grade.

If you want to get the most out of classroom intervention practices, optimize your efforts with effective blended-learning support from Istation. Istation's computer-adaptive curriculum and assessments have the essentials that schools need to personalize learning. Istation's Super 7 Essentials are currently helping over four million students grow!

- formative assessments
- adaptive curriculum
- personalized data profiles
- teacher resources
- school-to-home connection
- professional development
- proven results

# 3 Common Mistakes with Classroom Technology

## 1. Prioritizing Technology's Fun Features

Technological gadgets can have exciting, fun features, but do they serve your educational goals? Technology must be seamlessly and appropriately incorporated into your classroom setup and your overall curriculum. Before purchasing an edtech product, ask yourself:

- Does this product make learning easier and more engaging for our students.

- Why am I using this technology?

- How will it improve learning in my classroom?

It is important to prioritize pedagogy before technology in your classroom.

## 2. Technology as Busywork

Sitting a student in front of technology as a means of filling class time does not provide a rich learning experience. Technology should be used as a purposeful learning tool, without it being overused. For instance, Istation Reading can work as a primary intervention program, with recommended weekly minutes per student. The recommended 30/60/90 rule of usage minutes per week is based on students' instructional tier levels.

## 3. Lacking Technology Training

Proper, well-organized technology training for instructors unlocks the learning potential in students through the effective use of integrated tools. It is well worth the time and effort to provide a clear understanding of what platforms to use, technical specifications for each tool, and easy-to-follow instructions for setup and implementation. Ultimately, the process will create a well-informed staff who can pass their expertise to their students and creatively extend the features of their edtech.

Istation's Professional Development Team provides customized guidance and insight into proven educational approaches, best practices, and more. Istation's specialists possess the real-world instructional experience and technical support to help schools drive adoption, boost implementation, and optimize usage. Istation also provides a wealth of technical support resources as well as an extensive library of implementation and product training videos and step-by-step instructions.

# 4 Types of Technology Integration (SAMR)

There are four types of technology integration within the classroom, and they can be remembered with the acronym SAMR:

1. Substitution

2. Augmentation

3. Modification

4. Redefinition

**Substitution** and **Augmentation** allow technology to enhance the classroom. **Modification** and **Redefinition** allow technology to transform the classroom.

Which technology integration have you used or want to try in your classroom? Let SAMR be a guide to achieving your twenty-first-century learning goals!

| Integration Type | Technology's Role | Example |
|---|---|---|
| **1. Substitution** *Enhancement* | Technology is directly substituted for a more traditional medium. | An electronic or web-based version of an Istation Teacher Resource filled out by students via a word processor instead of a hard copy. |
| **2. Augmentation** *Enhancement* | Technology is directly substituted for a traditional form but with significant enhancements to the student experience. | Istation's interactive digital tools are used alongside Istation's fully-scripted teacher directed lessons. |
| **3. Modification** *Transformation* | This is a move from enhancement to transformation.  This is an actual change to the design of the lesson and its learning outcome. | Students choose an appropriate selection within Istation Reading, which can be accessed on-demand digitally. Students turn the selection into a narrated voice recording or podcast that discusses the content of the selection. |
| **4. Redefinition** *Transformation* | Technology tools allow educators to create a novel experience by redefining a traditional task in a way that would not be possible without the tech. | Students take part in a live, virtual field trip with another classroom of the same grade via videoconferencing.  Students identify the geometric shapes within their classroom. They match these shapes with recalls from the geometry lessons taught during Istation Math's instruction. |

# Do's and Don'ts for EdTech Integration

Victoria Tong (@FiggieTong), the Language Arts Instructional Coach at Coppell Middle School West (CMS West) in Texas, told us that Istation's reading intervention tool has played an important part in getting the school on track and helping teachers see improvements in student reading scores. Here are some of her edtech integration do's and don'ts:

**DO ensure consistent small-group days throughout the entire school.**
Mondays and Fridays are known as small-group days schoolwide for CMS West. Students in all language arts classes for 6th, 7th, and 8th grade participate in small-group activities on these two days of the week.

**DO create a more structured environment for monthly assessments.**
Lounging on the floor to read a book or work on a project may be comfortable, but teachers at CMS West found that while comfortable seating is necessary at times, their students performed better on monthly ISIP™ assessments if they were sitting in a more formal position. After analyzing scores — and a lot of trial and error — the verdict was in: treating ISIP assessments more formally improves students' results.

**DO encourage 1 devise/1 student.**
Going 1:1 has helped by giving all students access to their own personal device. Logging in to apps or taking monthly ISIP assessments is now a seamless process that students are used to.

**DO share data with your students and have them track their own progress monthly.**
CMS West students focus on measuring, tracking, and discussing their own growth in Istation. The data is placed in their hands so that they can take ownership and feel in control of their success. Teachers meet with each student to help set attainable goals and brainstorm ways they can grow in their weakest areas.

**Check out these 10 ideas for edtech integration in the classroom!**

1. Blended learning
2. Game-based learning
3. Learning with handheld devices
4. Instructional tools
5. Web-based projects, explorations, and research
6. Student-created media
7. Collaborative online tools
8. Social media
9. Project-based activities
10. Incorporating technology

# Do's and Don'ts for EdTech Integration

**DON'T try to squeeze in small groups on an ad hoc basis.**
Without a structured time for small groups in the classroom, it's easy to miss that time during the day. You may get caught up in doing something else and not get to small-group intervention time that week. Committing to two days a week has allowed small-group time to be a fixed part of the school's culture.

**DON'T only use the digital lessons in Istation.**
Istation provides a wealth of resources. From printable books to over 2,500 easy-to-execute lessons and practice activities, Istation makes it easy to print and teach. Lessons are scripted and timed to fit conveniently where you would like them and are fully flexible, so feel free to adapt them or use only a part of them!

**DON'T: Hide the data from students.**
Keeping data from students at the middle school level can leave them out of the loop and unmotivated. The middle school years are a pivotal time for our young adult learners, and they should know their scores, progress, and opportunities for improvement. They are working on time-management skills, achieving academic and personal goals, and learning to interact in a mature way. CMS West told us that giving students this responsibility helps them take their learning more seriously.

**DON'T limit Istation use to just school time.**
The Istation Home feature offers students a way to explore the program differently than at school. When students log in to Istation at home, they can continue working along their instructional path or navigate to Ipractice to work on their favorite lessons or games. Teachers have the option of assigning individual, skill-based lessons to a whole class or specific students using the Assignments feature. Additionally, parents have access to Istation's reports and Parent Portal resources and can take an active role in their child's education.

Following the guidelines above, CMS West saw dramatic changes in its middle schoolers' tier levels during the last school year. At the beginning of the year, 214 students were in Tier 3. By the end of the year, that number had dropped to 100 students.

**Build your intervention team with Istation's blended learning solutions!**

Help educators collaborate and succeed with formative data and instructional resources for reading, math, and Spanish.

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**Get Istation's FREE interactive e-brochure to see how Istation mixes technology and teaching.**

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**Changing Lives.**

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