# Leading the Way

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## Contact Information

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# EETT Project Development

The Enhancing Education through Technology (EETT) grant is at the forefront of school reform in the 21st century. As participants of this projects, we are embarking on an incredible adventure. Our journey may not have clear roads to follow, and we may make mistakes or get lost along the way, but we are all heading towards the same destination: a quality, 21st Century education for all students.

### Keeping the Focus

When you and your team are discussing options for your EETT project, it is important to remember that the driving force behind each experience is to improve student achievement.

As a collaborative team, your first steps must include identifying the needs of your students. Various resources, including local and regional assessment data, can be of great assistance.

When considering possible options for an EETT project, it is important to ask the following question:

**How will our project help our students become more successful?**

**How will our project improve students' technology / 21st Century skills?**

Referring to the model to the right, administrators and teacher leaders should also consider the ways in which this project could improve the technology/21st Century skills of educators and increase school/classroom integration of these skills.

It is imperative that you make sure the needs of educators involved in this project are being met. Keep the following questions in mind:

*Are the goals and objectives realistic for teachers to implement?*

*Are there provisions in place to support teachers?*
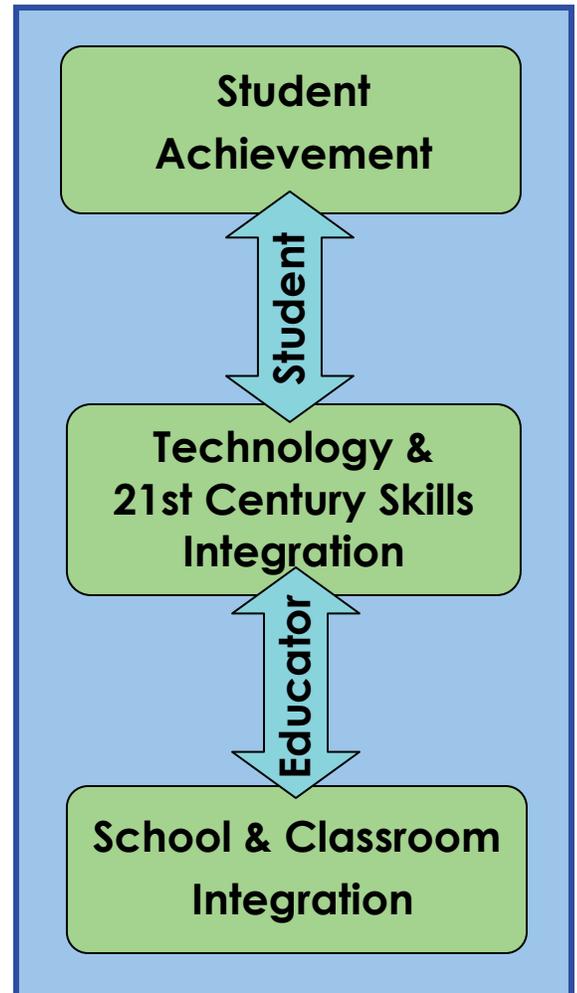


This model illustrates not only the importance of the focusing on students, but educators, as well.

Through your EETT projects, students will not only improve academically, but they will also experience instances of authentic learning when technology and 21st Century Skills are integrated into the curriculum.

Educators will also gain an understanding in technology and 21st Century skills. They will also learn how to plan, organize and evaluate in this new learning environment.

# EETT Project Development continued from pg 1

## Support Structures

Besides our online communities, the EETT coordinators are available to provide assistance to project participants through a variety of program interventions. These supports include;

- Face2Face workshops
- Establishing & building a collaborative community
- Providing professional development workshops for integrating technology & 21st Century skills
- Supporting project implementation
- Assistance in the evaluation of project goals and success

## Developing a Plan

There are NO BOUNDARIES when it comes to brainstorming ideas for your team's EETT project, as long as your team can make the connection that it relates to student achievement! You may also want to think about how projects will increase the technology and 21st Century skills of students and/or educators, or increase the integration of technology into schools or classrooms.

The project's capacity will be determined by the contributions made by the team members. Teams can choose to complete one large scale project or individual experiences under a common theme.

On December 8th, 2008 the EETT project will hold a Learning Showcase where teams

## Team Brainstorming

With your team, brainstorm **specific objectives** for the following areas:

| STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT | TECHNOLOGY INTEGRATION | CURRICULUM INTEGRATION |
|---|---|---|
| Improve ELA scores:<br>• build vocabulary<br>• improve fluency<br>• develop writing strategies | Technology integration to support ELA:<br>• building on-line writing portfolios | Develop a lesson/unit plan about on-line writing portfolios to support ELA student achievement goals. |

**Teacher leader sample**

| STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT | TECHNOLOGY INTEGRATION | CURRICULUM INTEGRATION |
|---|---|---|
| Improve ELA scores:<br>• build vocabulary<br>• improve fluency<br>• develop writing strategies | Develop a social networking community that investigates best practices for improving student achievement in ELA. | Develop professional development opportunities that provide strategies to improve student achievement in ELA. |

**Administration sample**

can share out their experiences. In December 2009, teams will present their completed projects.

## Action Planning

Once your team has brainstormed the academic needs of your students, strategies for technology integration, and ways to implement technology in the classroom, begin developing an action plan. An action plan determines

- needs of the students/teachers/administrators
- alignment with district goals
- team responsibilities
- Timeframes
- planning details
- evaluation methods

*Re-directing schools to adapt 21st Century Learning means change – which is not always easy. No matter how you look at it, change means rocking the boat. Along with the technology tools and skills that 21st Century Learning demands, come shifts in the way teachers think and teach in the classroom. For many, this represents a huge departure from the chalkboards and lesson plans we have relied on for years. So if we know it is imperative to face the rocky waters and seriously commit to creating 21st Century Learning Environments in our schools, how can we make it easier?*

Taylor, Lydotta, and Jill Fratto. "8 Steps to 21st Century Learning." *Educators' eZine*. Dec 2006. Click here to be linked to the article.

## Web 2.0 Tool Spotlight:
# Survey Tools

In an age of standardized testing, the word "assessment" sometimes carries negative connotations. Assessment, however, plays an integral role in the teaching-learning cycle. In addition to summative evaluations, ongoing assessments must be regularly given, and teachers should use the data to drive their instruction.

Ongoing assessments need not be traditional pen-and-paper "quizzes," however, and many teachers regularly utilize alternative methods to check for understanding.

"Checking for understanding," according to authors Douglas Fisher and Nancy Frey, "is an important step in the teaching and learning process. The background knowledge that students bring into the classroom influences how they understand the material you share and the lessons or learning opportunities you provide."[1]

Proponents of Differentiated Instruction recommend not only assessing regularly after instruction has begun, but assessing students prior to new learning in order to determine readiness level, learning style, and interest level to be able to make proper modifications.

Online survey tools are a quick, reliable, and efficient way to survey, pre-assess, and assess students as they move through the learning process. Teachers can build surveys or assessments by modifying pre-formatted questions. Most survey tools allow for multiple question types, including short answer, multiple choice, and ranking. Surveys can be made into gradable assessments if the creator designates correct answers.

Once a survey is activated, students can access and take the survey by visiting a specific URL. Surveys/assessments can also be embedded on web pages or wikis.

Most survey tools generate customizable reports that allow users to view individual responses or summaries of multiple responses. Some tools offer grade book-type applications that immediately import grades generated from online assessments.

There exist several online survey/assessment tools that offer free memberships, and several more are available for a nominal fee. If your district has a School Wires license, that platform offers a very user-friendly survey tool.

Administrators can use these online tools as well, such as to survey staff for ideas on professional development or assess knowledge of a new policy/procedure.

Online survey/assessment tools are one way to enhance education through technology, both inside and outside of the classroom.

[1] Fisher, Douglas and Nancy Frey. Checking for Understanding: Formative Assessment Techniques for your Classroom. Alexandria,

## Online Survey (and Assessment) Tools

- **Survey Gizmo**
  www.surveygizmo.com

- **Survey Monkey**
  www.surveymonkey.com

- **Quia (fee)**
  www.quia.com

- **jot form**
  www.jotform.com

# Web 2.0 Tools to Try

The following are online tools that may enhance education. As always, use professional judgment when using online tools with students, and adhere to school/district AUP when using these or any online tools. If viewing on a computer, click on the name of the resource to open the page on your internet browser.

**AirSet**
Coordination/project management tool with calendar and file sharing

**Chitch.at**
Educational network that allows teachers to build, share, and rank interactive assignments

**Clipmarks**
Bookmarking tool that allows user to "clip" interesting pictures, text, etc. instead of entire website. Browser add-on is available.

**Dipity**
Interactive timeline tool

**Read The Words**
Text - to - audio converter originally developed to assist auditory learners

**Text 2 Mindmap**
Transform outlined text into a mind map

**Tikatok** and **LuLu**
Upload and publish books online

The Third in Our Series of Face-to-Face Workshops:

# Guiding Student Learning
## in the 21st Century
### November 13, 2008
### 8:30 AM - 3:30 PM
### Erie 1 BOCES Education Campus

## Workshop Highlights

**Guiding Student Learning in the 21st Century**

A passionate student is a learning student. As the people of the world are becoming increasingly connected, the nature, use, ownership, and purpose of knowledge are changing in profound ways. Our goal as educators is to leverage these connections and changes as powerful means to improve teaching and learning in our schools. Come listen as Sheryl stirs a sense of urgency for shifting classroom practice toward more engaging approaches that unleash the passion that lies within each learner. School leaders in this session will explore new and innovative ways to approach learning to help **all** students become adaptive experts and apply the skills they learn to real world situations.

**Creating Environments that Support Learning: The Role of Emerging Technologies in the Core Curriculum**

Evidence on isolated exemplary practices in education suggests that new models of teaching and learning have the power to improve educational outcomes dramatically. What we now know about learning can guide educational leaders in creating learning environments that extend the positives of traditional instruction as well as offering new possibilities.

Participants will explore ways to:

♦ bring in exciting curricula based, real-world problems into the classroom;

♦ use scaffolding and other tools to enhance learning;

♦ build local and global communities that include teachers, administrators, students, parents, practicing scientists, and other interested people;

♦ and embed 21st Century skills into standards-based core content instruction

Erie 1 BOCES EETT Project announces two new workshops for Administrators and Technology Leaders aimed at enhancing best practice through technology. These hands-on workshops will assist technology leadership teams to turnkey training to their respective staff.

## Enhancing Collaboration Through Technology
### November 3, 2008
### 8:00 AM - 3:30 PM
### Erie 1 BOCES Education Campus

### workshop description

Collaboration in the 21st Century has taken on a new definition. Through this interactive workshop we will investigate

♦ ways to collaborate using Web 2.0 tools and 21st Century skills

♦ strategies for collaboration in the community, administration, and the classroom

## Enhancing Differentiated Instruction Through Technology
### December 1, 2008
### 8:00 AM - 3:30 PM
### Erie 1 BOCES Education Campus

### workshop description

Differentiated Instruction is an accepted best practice with proven results for improving student achievement. This workshop will investigate the following aspects of Differentiated Instruction:

♦ Assessment

♦ Differentiating Content, Process, and Product

♦ Structuring And Managing DI in the Classroom

To register for EETT events, please visit the Ning at www.nys-eett.ning.com. On the left-hand toolbar, click the name of the event you wish to register for under the heading "Events." Under the RSVP column, you will see an option to confirm attendance. Workshops are free to EETT members. Non-members will be charged $75 for half-day workshops or $150 for full-day workshops.. If you have any questions, please contact Jenny Conklin or Shannon Logan.