SUPERINTENDENTS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT ED TECH

1. INSTRUCTION DRIVES PURCHASING
Your district’s major-element technology plan, and how it is being funded, is a critical consideration. A district's capacity to purchase technology is directly tied to its ability to effectively support instruction.

2. SHAPING VERSUS BLOCKING
Network management means making critical decisions about how the district funds, manages and maintains its technological infrastructure. Districts that intentionally shape or direct resources can avoid the negative outcomes of blocking.

3. RENEW THE CLOUD
"Technology leaders that preserve an on-premise "cloud" solution are missing the benefits of choosing the right provider with the right cloud model," said the Cloud Computing Research Center. "This approach helps to reduce costs, improve performance and enhance collaboration.

4. GET A ROAD MAP
Your network documentation is key to both undoing and doing more. Creating a map of each user's network and having a well-documented system is a must. For example, this map should include all network devices, such as servers, routers, and switches. The fully documented approach is best for reducing costs and ensuring your district's IT performance.

5. BANDWIDTH SUPPORTS INSTRUCTION
Clearly, you can’t have technology without the bandwidth. However, technology leaders need to ensure the bandwidth they contract for is reliable and flexible as needs change. Some districts may have been over-purchasing bandwidth, while others are under-utilizing it.

6. HAVE EXPECTATIONS
Minimum expectations for technology leaders should include:

- A well-trained, knowledgeable and accountable technology team and leadership.
- A collaborative and productive culture.
- A clear plan for technology infrastructure.
- A comprehensive IT strategy.
- A risk mitigation plan.
- A clear IT budgeting and planning process.
- A commitment to continuous improvement.

7. DON'T DELICATE, CONSIDERATE
Institutions often value a unified approach to technology, which is why technology leaders should consider the following:

- Align the technology plan with the district's mission and vision.
- Communicate the plan to all stakeholders.
- Provide training and support.
- Establish clear roles and responsibilities.
- Develop a crisis plan.

8. RELIABLE SOLUTIONS ARE BETTER THAN MACGUFFINS
When selecting technology solutions, there's a lot to consider. Your technology team should carefully consider the following:

- Cost:
- Scalability:
- Security:
- Training:
- Support:

The technology solution should support instruction, instead of creating barriers to learning.

9. DON'T WATCH WATER BLOOD
The offer needed to "water the needs" is virtual personnel or remote work. This is a great opportunity to reflect on your district’s IT needs and how to support flexible work arrangements.

10. THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX
Your technology department shouldn’t just focus on technology. Your technology department should be focused on the whole district.

- "This is a key innovation that is game-changing for our district."
- "This technology is helping to reduce costs and improve performance.

The Consortium for Digital Learning has the knowledge, experience, and network of partners to provide support and training to your district.

CONTACT US
Brad Wicke
bwicke@cb.org
(555) 555-5555

(External links are not provided due to the nature of the diagram.)