Updated Introductory Statement

In an effort to ensure that educators keep up with technology, some schools have offered tech training for current teachers. There is some concern amongst teachers, however, that once again the "tail is wagging the dog". Teachers often feel that administrators and technologists, fascinated by the 'promise' of new technology, do not always accurately assess whether the technology will meet the needs of students and teachers in the classroom. As a result, technology is often implemented prematurely and unsuccessfully in schools.

So how can we ensure that a given technology best meets the needs of teachers and students? One proposal is to have teachers play a more significant role in administrative decisions that impact the delivery of education in the classroom. Teachers could identify areas of improvement within their classroom and then work with administrators to determine the best way to address these issues. In some cases the solution may involve technology, in others it would not. In all situations however, teachers would be instrumental in assessing the problem and identifying potential solutions.

So rather than focusing on technical training, we may need to take a step back and assess the process for determining the best way to address the educational issues in the classroom. To that end, we ask the following question:

"Should teachers be instrumental in assessing classroom needs and whether new technologies best address these needs?

They divided their responses in the following categories:

82% (694 votes) Yes. Teachers are best able to assess problems and areas for improvement in the classroom and can best evaluate whether a given technology can adequately address these issues.

15% (129 votes) Maybe. Teachers should be involved in identifying issues in the classroom however administrators and technologists may better understand the educational possibilities presented by new technologies and how these technologies can potentially meet the needs of students and teachers.

3% (23 votes) No. Administrators can identify issues at schools and technologists can best assess how technologies can address these issues. Teachers should be focused on educational delivery and should be provided opportunities to learn how to best implement new technological solutions to classroom problems.

Explanation

I've revised the Edutopia introductory statement to reflect missional rather than instrumental thinking. Instead of focusing on the need for technological training, the revised statement emphasizes the need for teachers to have a critical role in identifying classroom needs and finding appropriate solutions – which may involve technology.