

VIEWING GUIDE



About the video

REL Midwest worked with Iowa Public Television on a 30-minute informational video¹ that covers research-based strategies for the successful use of technology in K–12 schools. The video focuses on the recommendations of the National Education Technology Plan (NETP) and is available as a full 30-minute video and as separate segments for each section of the plan (learning, teaching, leadership, assessment, and infrastructure). The video includes examples from Iowa districts that demonstrate elements of the NETP’s recommendations in practice.

“I would like to be able to say that the research around education technology is glowing... What we found is that the gains are coming not necessarily from a ubiquitous use of technology but rather a very purposeful and careful use of technology.”

– Liz Kolb, Ph.D., Clinical Assistant Professor, University of Michigan

Intended audience

REL Midwest created this informational video as a tool to present school staff as well as state and local education agency staff with the research on education technology and how this research may translate into practice. The video focuses on examples from Iowa, but the information and evidence shared in the program offer important learnings for people and groups based outside the state. REL Midwest hopes viewers will watch the video and use the following discussion questions as a starting point for a conversation on opportunities and effective strategies to integrate technology into instructional practice.

Discussion questions

- When might technology not be the best solution to improve student learning?
- What challenges do students face when it comes to technology use? How might schools address those challenges?
- What challenges do educators face regarding technology use? How might educators overcome those challenges?
- How did the “Leadership” section of the video define a leader? Did this definition surprise you?
- How could technology be used to effectively assess student learning?
- What, if any, effective strategies have you found to assess the usefulness of technology?
- What infrastructure changes have you seen in your school or district to improve the integration of technology into the classroom? Are there changes that you still hope to see?

About REL Midwest

REL Midwest is part of a network of 10 regional educational laboratories funded by the U.S. Department of Education’s Institute of Education Sciences. REL Midwest works in partnership with practitioners in seven Midwest states to conduct applied research and provide training, coaching, and technical support to create a more evidence-based education system. Please visit the REL Midwest website to learn more: <https://ies.ed.gov/ncee/edlabs/regions/midwest/default.aspx>.

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¹ Please visit this link to watch the informational video: https://ies.ed.gov/ncee/edlabs/regions/midwest/events/archived_events/2017/december-12.aspx.