

## ISSUES IN INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY

Below are five issues that educators face when using today's technology for instructional purposes. Each week for the next five weeks, the class will examine a different issue. In order, the five issues are: access to technology, intellectual property rights and fair use, privacy issues, special needs students, and protection on the Internet. Each week we will discuss the issue for that week using BlackBoard. Check the discussion board for specific instructions for each week. Each week, choose three questions from the list of questions for each topic to address in your initial post. Respond to—or expand upon—the post from two other members' postings, including at least one question from the list for that issue that you did not answer in your own initial post. Complete your postings no later than each Monday by noon. To reiterate:

1. Post an answer to at least three questions under the topic for that week.
2. Respond to the posts of at least two other posts.
3. At least one of your responses must answer a question that you did not answer in your first post.

### Issue I (Week 4): Access to Technology: The Digital Divide

How is access to technology defined? What are the major issues in differential access to technology in schools? What groups typically have less access to technology and under what circumstances? What strategies might a classroom teacher use to maximize access to technology for his/her students? What are a teacher's legal obligations with respect to ensuring equal access to all students in his/her classroom? Where do a classroom teacher's obligations in this respect end and school or district obligations begin?

### Issue II (Week 5): Intellectual Property Rights and Fair Use: Using copyrighted material for instruction.

What is meant by intellectual property rights? How is this related to or different than copyrights or patents? What are the limits and under what conditions may a classroom teacher use copyrighted materials without obtaining prior permission from the copyright holder, i.e., fair use? Discuss the various forms of copyrighted media a teacher might use: text, images, video, sound recordings, etc. Is there a difference between using original purchased media and copies of that media?

Issue III (Week 6): Privacy Issues: Protecting students' right to privacy.

What are a classroom teacher's obligations with respect to protecting the private information of the students in his/her classroom—both in respect to the use of technology and without? Under what conditions, to whom, and to what extent, may a teacher give personal information about a student to another individual? Under what conditions, to whom and to what extent, is a teacher *required* to provide such information? What special considerations and strategies must a teacher observe when sharing student work on the Internet?

Issue IV (Week 7): Special Needs Students: Classroom Accommodations.

What are special needs students? What are some of the accommodations teachers are required to make for special needs students and under what circumstances must they make them? Who is primarily responsible for meeting the needs of this student population? What are some examples of the ways that technology provides accommodations for special needs students? What special social and emotional considerations—if any—should a teacher be aware of when dealing with a special needs student in his/her classroom?

Issue V (Week 8): The wild, wild Web: Protection on the Internet:

What are some of the dangers faced when using the Internet as an educational tool? What dangers “lurk” on the World Wide Web for the unsuspecting student and teacher? What precautions should a teacher take when using the Internet as an educational tool? What software and/or hardware tools are available to a teacher to protect against threats on the Internet (i.e., viruses, spam, etc.)?