

## ISSUES

### 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?

### 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?

### 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?

### 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?

### 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.)?