



Letter of Informed Consent

March 15, 2007

Dear Valued Teacher:

Helping students acquire technology skills remains a critical need for many communities. According to the latest report issued by the National Center for Educational Statistics (NCES, 2006), survey results indicated a digital divide persists along demographic and socioeconomic standings, whereby students living in households with lower family incomes are less likely to use computers and the Internet. The report concluded, "Since the use of computers helps students gain computer literacy, use rates may indicate how well prepared the current generation of students will be to enter a workforce where computer literacy is in demand" (p. 3).

In order to address the widening gap in technology resources, I am conducting a survey to determine the need for a community-based nonprofit organization that seeks to bridge the digital divide by providing Internet access, computer skills, and technical knowledge to underprivileged students (grades 5 – 12), high school dropouts, under-skilled adults, and other community members during after-school hours and on weekends. I am asking for your help in determining important factors that affect the use of technology in your classroom. By knowing more about the technology skills of your students, this will yield valuable information for designing a technology learning center in your area [*Note: This center is not affiliated with the DeKalb County School System.*]

Please take 5-10 minutes to complete this survey. Simply fill in the attached questionnaire and return it to your school administrator within the week. The specific name of your school will not be included in my final report. Your answers will be completely confidential and participation is voluntary.

There are no foreseeable risks or discomforts to you. Refusal to participate will involve no penalty or loss of benefits to which you are otherwise entitled, and you may discontinue participation at any time without penalty or loss of benefits to which you are otherwise entitled.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 770-513-8303 (cell: 404-428-3886), or by email to npr@techlc.org.

Sincerely,

Nancy Pliska Robinson, Ph.D.

Founder/President

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Instructions

Mark your responses with a where indicated and use blue or black ink.

General Information

1 What is your students' grade level? 1-5 grade 6-8 grade 9-12 grade

2 What is the subject you teach for this class?

3 What is the size of your class? (Number of students)

Computer Access

Instructional computers: Refers to computers that are used for instructional purposes. Does not include computers used for administrative purposes.

4 What is the number of **instructional computers** located in your classroom?

(If none, please enter "0" → Go to Question # 6)

5 How many **instructional computers** in your classroom have access to the **Internet**?

(If none, please enter "0")

6 Do you have access to a computer lab, library, or media room in your school with **instructional computers**?

Yes

No → Go to Question # 11

→ **6 a** If "yes," please indicate how many **instructional computers**. (Number of computers)

7 Do the **instructional computers** in the lab, library, or media room have access to the **Internet**?

Yes

No

8 Are your students able to access **instructional computers** with **Internet** access at times other than regular school hours?

Yes → Go to Question # 8a

No

8a If yes to *Question # 8*, when are they available to students? (*Mark one on each line.*)

- | | | |
|---------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Before school | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| After school | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| On weekends | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |

9 How would you describe your students' access to **instructional computers**?

- Never available
- Available once per semester
- Available once per month
- Available once per week
- Other (*Specify*) _____

10 How would you rank the quality of the **instructional computers** in your school?

- Excellent Very good Good Fair Poor Don't know

Filtering software: Blocks access to sites containing keywords, such as filtering software, to prevent student access to inappropriate material on the Internet.

11 Does your school use any technology or other procedure, such as **filtering software**, to prevent student access to inappropriate material on the Internet?

- Yes
- No

→ **11a** If yes, specify the name of the software _____

E-mail Use

12 Do your students have a school-sponsored e-mail address?

- Yes
- No

13 As a teacher, do you have a school-sponsored e-mail address?

- Yes
- No

Laptop Computer Access

14 Does your school lend laptop computers to students?

- Yes → *Go to Question # 14a*
- No

