

Proposed Change:

I propose that my elementary school should no longer have an individual room set aside for a computer lab. By eliminating the computer lab, teachers will be more likely to integrate technology into their classrooms and curriculum, rather than isolating the technology.

Suggested Models of Change:

Ely's Condition of Change

Roger's Diffusion of Innovation: 5 Factors

Agent of Change:

Megan Mallon, 3rd grade teacher, Bluemont Elementary

Ely's Condition of Change	Proposed Change
Dissatisfaction of Status Quo	Scheduling in the computer lab can be difficult with 15 classrooms, particularly when the lab is reserved for specific testing. Teachers are finding it difficult to integrate technology all across the curriculum.
Knowledge in Implementation	A teacher trained in technology would be available to work in classrooms, as opposed to an untrained computer lab aide. Regular classroom teachers would also be familiar with the classroom curriculum and opportunities for technology integration.
Tools Easily Accessible	Desktop computers, previously in the computer lab, will be available immediately for placement into classrooms. Additional laptop carts may also be purchased for classrooms to share.
Time for Learning & Adaptation	It will most likely take a year or so for teachers to become used to not going to a computer lab. Teachers who have not made use of the laptop carts before will need to begin using them, and this will require a learning curve.
Rewards & Incentives	A large incentive for teachers will be more desktop computers to put in their classrooms. There may also be funds for additional mobile laptop carts to be purchased.
Participation Expected & Encouraged	Teachers will continue to fill out technology logs. This will allow the administration to check to see if technology is integrated in with various curriculums, rather than used for isolated skills or activities.
Key Players Must Give Go-Ahead	For this change to be effective, there would need to be approval of the building principal. The support of the district technology support team would also be vital to making this change.
Leadership Must Be Evident	Professional development for teachers would be key in this change. Teachers will need ideas on integrating technology and computers into their classrooms and curriculum.

Roger's Diffusion of Innovation: 5 Factors	Proposed Change
Relative Advantage	As the situation is currently, the computers are isolated in the computer lab. Teachers are less likely to use them with their curriculum, and more likely to do isolated activities while in the computer lab (typing, software programs, etc.).
Compatibility	I am personally a strong proponent of integration of computers in the classroom. If teachers can see the importance of using technology, and the convenience of having more computers in their classroom, then this change will be effective.
Complexity/Simplicity	Use of rooms reserved strictly for computer labs have been used for years. As with any change, teachers have to understand the reason for getting rid of the computer lab and integrating into the classroom before they will be willing to try out the change.
Trying Out the Change	While a computer lab could potentially be put back together after being taken apart, the cost (as well as time spent) would not likely be worthwhile. Teachers would need to get on board while trying out the idea of having no computer lab. They would need a chance to try various new solutions in their classrooms before expecting everyone to be satisfied.
The Change is Observable	Teachers would need the opportunity to observe their colleagues integrating computers into their classroom and curriculum. They would also need the support and professional development on ways to use the extra desktops and the laptop carts in their classrooms.

References:

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