

### The One-to-One Tsunami

Technology is becoming the new face of education. In 1995 Microsoft coined the term “Anytime, Anywhere Learning”. The idea was that students could learn anywhere and anytime they wanted, 24/7. With the passing of NCLB technology was put on the back burner. However, technology seems to be coming back with one-to-one programs. This program is designed for students to have their own laptops. Several states are adopting these programs and doing whatever it takes to make it work.

There are benefits for teachers and students. Students will be able to use laptops for self-directed learning – students can research and learn about what they are interested in. They can use higher order thinking skills, and they can spend more time on task – better work will be provided. Teachers will be able to get professional development – using technology effectively in the classroom and managing a successful classroom – students stay on task and you can differentiate instruction.

There are several things that need to be taken into consideration before starting. First, plan your time and curriculum. Make sure you have enough money to keep the program running, equipment, upgrading, hardware, etc. Ensure the safety of the laptops, students will need to carry these from place to place and from viruses. Lastly, make sure you have an infrastructure that can hold all computers, network that all students can access.

One-to-one programs seem like the way to go. I don’t understand why this is not happening across the board. Students would be more engaged. I think it would close the gap between what is happening at school and what is happening at home. Several students do not have technology at home to help them with their school work. If students were able to get a laptop from school, homework would probably be completed more often. There also would be draw backs of this program such as students not taking care of the laptops. To replace laptops would be a lot of money. I also believe some veteran teachers would be reluctant to go through professional development and incorporate technology into their classrooms. Overall, in my opinion there are more positives than negatives with the one-to-one programs.

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