



Instructional Technology Leaders Program Q&A

Who is an Instructional Technology Leader (ITL)?

A teacher or Library Media Specialist identified to assist their peers in identifying ways that technology can strengthen classroom curriculum and enhance their students' academic achievement. ITLs help their colleagues to develop the necessary technology skills and instructional strategies needed to integrate technology into teaching and learning.

Why do schools need an ITL?

Effective technology integration requires teachers to obtain learning experiences within the context of their teaching so they can practice, reflect, and modify their practices. Having a designated Instructional Technology Leader within the school is a research-based approach for successful integration of technology into the curriculum. In addition, the amount of district technology tools and resources does not match usage within the curriculum.

Who should school leaders select as their ITL?

It is important that the ITL is an effective communicator and collaborator with staff and students. Each school is unique, so schools have to make the best decision for their situation. Some schools may choose their Library Media Specialist, while some schools may designate a classroom teacher. An ITL may have a flexible schedule to allow them to attend professional development, model lessons, and support teachers. The amount of release time provided for an ITL may affect the impact an ITL can have at their school.

How might having an ITL benefit individual schools?

- Mini-grants available for school-based professional development
- Professional development provided for designated ITL (Substitute teacher pay provided for MPS teachers)
- Technology integration coaching opportunities for teachers
- Increased *effective* use of technology in the curriculum
- More students meeting the Grade 8 Technology Literacy Standards
- More students using high levels of critical thinking skills and increasing their achievement
- Students actively engaged in classroom activities and increasing their attendance
- Access to "Breaking News" from MPS Division of Technology and national trends in educational technology

How can my school get involved?

Contact Neva Moga, the coordinator of the Instructional Technology Leaders Program at longne@milwaukee.k12.wi.us or call 438-3612.

What does an ITL do?

- Participates on their school's Learning Team
- Attends district ITL professional development
- Coaches teachers regarding technology use in the curriculum
- Models best practices for using technology as an instructional strategy in order to close achievement gaps
- Requests ITL Mini-Grants for school-based professional development on technology
- Shares best practices for using technology as an instructional strategy at staff, grade-level, or department meetings
- Is knowledgeable about technology tools
- Is instructional practices focused
- Adheres to district technology standards

"...understand that a focus on technology is not "about" the technology itself, but about changing teacher practice, motivating our students, and creating learning experiences that will be applicable to their work and future workplaces."

~Robert J. Marzano, 2007