

Reflection

(Minimum of 3-4 sentences per question)

1. Briefly describe the field experience. What did you learn about technology coaching and technology leadership from completing this field experience?

For this field experience, I created and implemented an assistive technology plan with a struggling biology student. This student struggles with keeping track of due dates for assignments and completing written assignments. His IEP has specific goals to address these issues, but the student was still struggling and did not have grades that accurately represented his abilities. I created a plan that involved using Google drive and Google calendar. The student received an iPad for a Christmas gift and had been sporadically bringing it to school but was only playing games on it. I decided to use the iPad to our advantage and require that he bring it to class each day and have him complete all written work within Google drive using his iPad. I also worked with him to create Google calendar entries and set corresponding alerts to remind him of upcoming due dates. During this experience, I found myself coaching his other teachers for how to use Google drive effectively in their classrooms too. Some of them were already aware as he had mentioned it to them, so after my coaching, they began minor implementation as well. In addition, these teachers now look to me as technology leader for Google drive use with this student (and other students) because I had such great success during my assistive technology plan. I also learned how easily others are willing to try something new if they trust you and your judgment. After seeing my successes, the other teachers now even ask me other technology questions because of how I established myself as a leader in this particular instance.

2. How did this learning relate to the knowledge (what must you know), skills (what must you be able to do) and dispositions (attitudes, beliefs, enthusiasm) required of a technology facilitator or technology leader? (Refer to the standards you selected above. Use the language of the PSC standards in your answer and reflect on all 3—knowledge, skills, and dispositions.)

Knowledge – *To complete the technology experience explained above, I needed to be knowledgeable of the content standards required of my course and what types of technology would best benefit the learning experiences of my students (PSC 2.1). In addition, I had to know how to adjust the process and product for the student I was working with as he had to complete what would typically be in-class written assignments on Google drive and submit via the share folder (PSC 2.5).*

Skills – *For the technology experience above, I had to be learn the program I was using (Google Drive) and be able to troubleshoot basic problems my student may have while using the software (PSC 3.5). I also had to be able to using a blended learning concept for this particular student and use this learning network to extend and monitor his learning (PSC 3.3). In addition, I had to be able to find assistive technology that would support this student's learning disability and IEP goals to support his individual learning needs (PSC 3.4).*

Dispositions – *After completing this technology experience, I am anxious to research and develop additional assistive technology plans for other students. Through my conversations with other teachers, I also increased the awareness of assistive technology use by students and this makes me feel optimistic for the future (PSC 4.3). After reflecting on this assistive technology use at the end of the plan, I see how important using assistive technology is with students and as a result I have a new desire to model the effective use of technology with high-incidence learning disabled students in my classroom and school and hope to have other teachers join me as well (PSC 6.2).*

3. Describe how this field experience impacted school improvement, faculty development or student learning at your school. How can the impact be assessed?

This field experience helped in the awareness of all faculty at the school. While doing this assignment, I had several conversations with my peers about assistive technology and the benefits it can have for high-incidence learning disabilities (which it isn't commonly used for these students). In addition, my success with this particular student has impacted other teachers by demonstrating that he actually can be successful, he just needs to be given the proper tools. Now moving forward, I will explore these assistive technology options and find a way to implement this with all of my special education students. If my students are benefitting from these new methods of assistive technology, then students will have higher grades and perform better in the classroom.