

**Abstract**  
**Getting A Learning Return On Our Technology Investment**



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Schools have purchased computers and other new technologies in hopes of raising student achievement and increasing motivation to learn. As more and more schools look to technology to support student learning, the question arises, What do we need to do to maximize the return on our technology investment? The WestEd Regional Technology in Education Consortium (RTEC) published, "Getting A Learning Return On Our Technology Investment," a paper authored by Cathy Ringstaff and Loretta Kelley that seeks to answer this question, and offers some suggestions related to issues such as professional development, access to technology, and long term planning that technology leaders should consider as they seek to help shape the future of technology integration in our schools. Highlighted are 10 lessons from the research that answer the question, Under what conditions does technology have the most benefits for students?

A full copy of the paper is available at [www.westedrtec.org](http://www.westedrtec.org). The archive of an online roundtable about the paper including a discussion with the authors of the paper is located on the RTEC web site, in the RTEC Exchange.

The authors highlighted 10 lessons from the research that answer the question, "Under what conditions does technology have the most benefits for students?" We have summarized those 10 lessons below. Our hope is that this paper will help to ensure the maximum learning return on your technology investment.

- Lesson #1 – Technology must be matched to learning goals
- Lesson #2 – Technology is only one piece of the puzzle
- Lesson #3 – Adequate and appropriate professional development is vital
- Lesson #4 – Changing teacher beliefs about learning and teaching with technology is an integral part of the process
- Lesson #5 – Students must have sufficient access to technology to make a difference
- Lesson #6 – Classroom access for students and teachers results in more use and student learning
- Lesson #7 – Computer access at home holds great benefits
- Lesson #8 – Long term planning is essential
- Lesson #9 – On-site technical and instructional support must be provided
- Lesson #10 – Technology needs to be integrated within the curriculum framework