Abstract: In the age of accountability, state-legislated competencies and national standards for teachers, reliable and valid tools with which to assess teacher proficiencies are absolutely necessary. San Jose State University’s PT3 Grant, BayTech, (http://baytechpt3.sjsu.edu) in response to these new technology standards developed a unique, reliable, and comprehensive performance-based methods for evaluating the pre-service teachers’ basic technology skills as well as the candidates ability to integrate technology in the field experience.

Description

The course work in the teacher preparation at San Jose State University is technology-rich. In an effort to ensure that entering teacher candidates have sufficient pre-requisite technology skills, a performance-based test was created. Each teacher candidate is required to either pass the performance-based test of basic technology skills or complete EDIT 122, Microcomputers for Educators, or an equivalent. A sample test of the Performance-based Test of Basic Technology Skills can be found at http://sweeneyhall.sjsu.edu/depts/it/techtest/index.html. The course content of EDIT 122 can be found at http://sweeneyhall.sjsu.edu/depts/it/edit122/index.html.

Realizing that simply taking technology rich teacher preparation program does not mean that a teacher candidate will integrate technology in teaching, the BayTech Grant has supported the development of a technology integration component to the classroom observation tool. The observation tool was developed over two years by the College of Education’s supervisors of student teaching. The resulting Technology Integration Classroom Observation Tool is directly correlated to the standards for technology integration required by the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing. The California Standards are very similar to the ISTE standards. All Elementary Education teacher candidates are required to teach at least one technology integrated lesson during the field experience that is evaluated by the university’s supervisor using the Technology Integration Observation Tool. A copy of the Classroom Observation Tool, the Pre-observation Form and the California Standard can be downloaded at http://baytechpt3.sjsu.edu/activities/observation_tool.html.

These assessment tools permit San Jose State University’s College of Education to assess the teacher candidate’s ability to demonstrate competence in using technology as a personal tool at the beginning of the teacher education program and also to demonstrate the extent to which the teacher candidate integrates that technology competence into teaching practice as the candidate leaves the program.