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815: Response to 4 Discussion Topics

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### **Week 3 Topic:** *Designing and Maintaining*

Technology coordinators can effectively manage network operations by implementing several key strategies. Training through courses and hands-on experiences with IT staff is crucial for acquiring the necessary skills. Regular collaboration with IT professionals keeps coordinators informed about the network's status and any issues. Using user-friendly network management tools and standardized procedures simplifies tasks while maintaining detailed records and clear usage policies to ensure consistency and security. Continuous monitoring with real-time tools aids in quick issue resolution. For complex tasks, hiring external experts or consultants is a practical solution (Frazier & Herrington, 2024).

My experience as a technology coordinator and director underscores the importance of aligning communication and work with the school's goals, especially when collaborating with external IT consultants. Engaging with professional organizations and online forums offers opportunities to learn best practices and network with peers. Leveraging vendor training and technical support ensures quick access to expertise. These strategies empower technology coordinators to manage network operations effectively, ensuring alignment with the school's mission and objectives.

### **Week 5:** *Organization*

As a technology coordinator, balancing administrative and pedagogical roles to support the learning environment effectively is crucial. This involves managing budgets and resources while understanding and meeting the instructional needs of teachers and students. According to Frazier (2024), critical qualities for this role include communication skills, leadership, problem-solving abilities, and balancing administrative and pedagogical approaches.

Effective communication helps convey technical information clearly, fostering collaboration. Leadership and vision inspire teams and advocate for technology integration aligned with school goals. Problem-solving skills are essential for addressing challenges and maintaining stability. These attributes enable technology coordinators to enhance technological infrastructure and support the school's mission.

### **Week 8:** *Evaluation*

Developing a blended learning environment requires addressing technological infrastructure, teacher training, and equitable access. Frazier (2024) emphasized that establishing a robust technological infrastructure is crucial for any digital learning initiative.

My first experience with blended learning was during COVID-19 at a charter school, where I collaborated with an ELA teacher to support students learning both remotely and in person. The situation was challenging, especially in providing adequate tech assistance to remote learners. To overcome such challenges, schools can invest in reliable technology and internet access, as suggested by Frazier, and provide comprehensive professional development for teachers to integrate digital tools effectively. Ensuring all students have access to necessary devices and resources is essential. Additionally, involving parents and the community in understanding the benefits of blended learning can create a supportive environment. Implementing flexible scheduling and personalized learning plans can further enhance student engagement and success.

### **Week 10:** *Policy and Practice Continued*

Canva Education is a valuable tool for creating visual content but is often underutilized in schools. Schools should offer regular training, such as workshops, to help

teachers understand its features and maximize its potential. Encouraging tech-savvy teachers to mentor others and incorporating Canva into lesson plans can enhance creativity. Schools can support this by creating a library of templates for various subjects and grades. Highlighting successful projects demonstrates Canva's impact on learning.

For example, I taught my principal to use Canva for staff videos. Providing technical support, gathering feedback, and teaching students to use Canva empower creativity. Student ambassadors can also assist their peers and teachers. Implementing these strategies can maximize the value of Canva Education, as emphasized in Chapter 5, "Supporting Educational Technology" (Frazier & Hearnington, 2024).

## References

Frazier, M., & Herrington, D. (2024). *Technology coordinator's handbook* (4th ed.).  
International Society for Technology in Education.