



Building Ed Tech Leadership

NETS Project Manager Carolyn Sykora explains how you can help refresh ISTE's standards for administrators

The refreshed NETS•S and NETS•T are making their way into state technology plans and in front of state legislatures for approval. Nevada's technology plan, which includes the NETS•T (2008), will be the first teacher standards to be considered at the state level. Kim Vidoni, Nevada's state educational technology coordinator, calls this shift "groundbreaking."

Why is this happening now? States are recognizing that the refreshed student and teacher standards hold the promise to leverage the strategic capacity of technology in teaching and learning. The new U.S. administration led by President Obama appears poised to bring more technology into the classrooms. It will take educational leaders with transformational vision and leadership to fulfill these promises.

Since June 2008, ISTE has been engaging educators, thought leaders, teacher educators, and others to help refresh the NETS•A. Participants have considered questions such as: What is different about being an administrator now? What needs to be different at this particular time in education? These questions provoked lively discussion and supplied ISTE with an abundance of thoughtful feedback to help craft the Draft NETS•A—slated for release this year.

Released in early January, the draft reflects trends heard repeatedly in the field, including the need for shared leadership and a culture where the transformative leader is among the stakeholders rather than above them, the value of administrators modeling digital age professional work, and support for a culture of change and risk taking. ISTE continues to seek comment and revisions on the five draft standards:

1. Inspire excellence through transformational leadership
2. Establish a robust digital-age learning culture
3. Advance excellence in digital-age professional practice
4. Ensure systemic transformation of the educational enterprise
5. Model and advance digital citizenship

ISTE welcomes feedback on the draft until mid-April, when the NETS Refresh Leadership Team will finalize the standards for approval by ISTE's board of directors. There are several ways to take part in the refresh efforts. You can:

- Join ISTE leadership at a NETS Refresh Forum near you (see www.iste.org/nets-refresh for schedules).

- Give us feedback online (see www.iste.org/nets-survey).
- Lead your own forum using the NETS Refresh toolkit with colleagues at meetings or conferences (see www.iste.org/nets-toolkit for instructions and materials).

We will release the new NETS for Administrators at NECC in June, and the third NETS booklet, *National Educational Technology Standards for Administrators*, will be available at the ISTE bookstore (preorders available at www.iste.org/netabk).

Today's administrators will need to have a strategic vision supported by technology to help tomorrow's students compete and excel in the global knowledge economy. The revised NETS•A are meant to both inspire administrators to become 21st-century leaders and provide guideposts to get there.

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