



"It's all about learning!"

Computer and Communications Technology

*A Position Paper
of the
New England League of Middle Schools*

The New England League of Middle Schools believes educators must empower students to live and work in a technology rich world.

Technology has become more universal, powerful, and flexible; new opportunities exist to enhance learning. To successfully meet the challenges of emerging technologies, schools must implement well-designed professional development programs and ongoing effective planning.

The New England League of Middle Schools believes technology must be accessible to all learners, and that this access not limited by course selection, classroom space or socio-economic considerations. We believe with technology students will become independent learners and active participants in collaborative learning communities. This can be accomplished best by effectively integrating technology into successful middle level practices.

Underlying these beliefs are the following assumptions:

- Technology is sophisticated and ever present in our world.
- Students must be able to use technology in a global society.
- Students must be confident in their abilities to use and understand computer and communication technology.
- Students must be able to use technology to communicate, think critically and creatively and problem solve.
- Parents and the community recognize the importance of computer and communications technology in learning.
- School Communities must model a safe and ethical technological culture.
- The integration of computer and communications technology into the school is accomplished through systematic and purposeful planning.

Because technology is a dynamic and vital component of student learning, educators and parents must recognize its expansive nature. This process is a journey, not a destination. Continuous learning is the keystone to the successful integration and ongoing use of technology in the middle school.

Through conferences, seminars, publications, fieldwork and networking, the New England League of Middle Schools will serve as a catalyst for action so that these beliefs become a driving force in middle level education throughout New England.