

## 2008-09 IT2 Updated FAQ

The following questions were submitted after the Oct 31<sup>st</sup> LEAP day. This synopsis provides answers to many of the common questions asked. If you have further questions, please contact your IT Specialist at the Resource Center.



**Q: Why is the IT2 Program targeting the use of Activote?**

A: The Activote devices are an on-the-spot assessment system. Teachers ask questions, learners give their answer on their device. Responses are analyzed and can be displayed on the Activboard in chart format or exported to spreadsheets. In this way, the teacher gets insight into every student's understanding of a topic. Activotes allow every voice to be in the room in a non-threatening way. Activotes enable staff to gather timely formative assessment to inform instructional practice.

**Q: Can staff focus on other forms of technology implementation to meet the IT2 Program requirements?**

A: This year's focus for classroom teachers is Activstudio. Individual growth plan goals and demonstration of "Evidence of Achievement" will need to focus on Activstudio use with students incorporating Activotes. Specialist staff that does not have a classroom or access to an Activboard as a normal part of their jobs will complete the Specialist IT2 Program. The Specialist identified as part of the Specialist IT2 Program are Occupational Therapists/Physical Therapists, Physical Education Specialists, Psychologists, Secondary Counselors, Special Education Preschool teachers, Speech and Language Pathologists, and Vision Specialists.

**Q: Why is the specialist IT2 Program different from the regular classroom teacher's IT2 Program?**

A: Specialist staff do not have a classroom or access to an Activboard as a normal part of their jobs. They will complete the IT2 Program by completing the Specialist Skill Inventory and Specialist Individual Growth Plan. Each Specialist will complete their "Evidence of Accomplishment" as well. Details for the Specialist IT2 Program are on the IT2 portal page. The Specialist identified as part of the Specialist IT2 Program are Occupational Therapists/Physical Therapists, Physical Education Specialists, Psychologists, Secondary Counselors, Special Education Preschool teachers, Speech and Language Pathologists, and Vision Specialists.

**Q: Does the "Evidence of Achievement" demonstration require a flipchart for each element to demonstrate or can all elements be demonstrated in one flipchart?**

A: Staff can demonstrate their "Evidence of Achievement" in the means most suitable for the individual. Some may choose to incorporate all the requirements in one flipchart, while others may use multiple flipcharts.

**Q: Can my administrator check me off for IT2 during my observation?**

A: No, check off by administrators was not part of the negotiated agreement for the IT2 Program.

**Q: Can we use PowerPoint with Activotes to meet the IT2 Program requirements?**

A: This year's focus is on our Activstudio technologies as negotiated between the District and LWEA. Staff need to be able to create multimedia flipcharts incorporating Activotes to meet this year's requirements. Interactive white boards provide a new, dynamic learning tool teachers can utilize in their classrooms. Knowing how to use this tool will enable teachers to choose best the tools that meet their students' unique learning needs.

**Q: Are we discouraged from using PowerPoint?**

A: Teachers are not discouraged from using PowerPoint. PowerPoint is dynamic presentation software with outstanding classroom application. Activstudio is an excellent instructional tool all teachers need to be competent in using in their classrooms. While Activstudio may be used for presentations it also contains an interactive component that PowerPoint lacks. A teacher well-versed in the capabilities of both

applications will be able to make an informed choice, based on their students' needs, as to which application fits best.

**Q: One of the multimedia options is video. Should I embed video in the flipchart or link video?**

A: Video adds to the dynamics of a lesson. Short video clips can be embedded into flipcharts or linked. To reduce file size of the flipchart and to save storage space, staff should link video whenever possible.

**Q: How can I get help with any technical issues?**

A: The District is committed to maintaining every projection station as a functional and reliable part of the education process. Technical support staff is allocated to solve technical issues as soon as possible and systems are in place to meet technical needs. If you experience technical issues with your classroom technologies, then please contact helpdesk.

**Q: Can Activstudio be installed on my home computer?**

A: Yes, each school librarian can loan you an installation CD set to install Activstudio software on your home computer. Both PC and Mac (by Jan, 2009) editions of the latest version of Activstudio are available via your school's librarian.

**Q: Can students get copies of Activstudio to use at home?**

A: Yes, there is a Student Edition of Activstudio available for download from the Promethean Planet website. This edition allow for students to interact with flipcharts as well as view flipcharts created by teachers. The download requires an email address.

**Q: Can I get my Activboard re-installed in a different location in my classroom?**

A: Activboard installations are permanent and based a set of specification developed for nearly every teaching location in our schools. If your Activboard is unusable, please contact your administrator to determine the feasibility for re-locating Activboards.

**Q: Can flipcharts be converted for viewing on the internet?**

A: Yes, flipcharts can be converted to a variety of formats for viewing on the internet. Flipcharts can be converted to pdf files, PowerPoint, Word, Flash files, or to a HTML web page. Flipcharts can also be uploaded as flipchart to web pages. Flipcharts can be viewed with Flipchart Viewer or Student Edition of Activstudio. Both are available for download from Promethean Planet.

**Q: Will there be 5QL classes offered for specific skills (ie just Activotes)?**

A: Yes, courses are currently being developed to teach single classes focused around specific skills.

**Q: What 5QL classes are available to meet the IT2 Program requirements?**

A: All of the 5QL classes designed to meet the IT2 Program requirements (including check-off) are designated with **IT2** in the title. In addition, the course description declares that *"This course meets the IT2 Program requirements needed for check-off and payment of the \$1250 Technology money."* Other Activstudio 5QL courses do not meet the sharing and collaboration requirements necessary under the IT2 Program. These courses are for skill acquisition only.

**Q: What happens if I enroll in an IT2 Activseries or IT2 Activseries Advance series class and I can not make all the sessions?**

A: The IT2 component classes are multi-session class designed to teach the skills necessary to meet the IT2 program requirements. Attendance at all sessions is mandatory. If participants miss a session, then they will not be able to be checked-off for the IT2 program. They will need to enroll in another IT2 Activseries class or choose another method to be checked-off.

**Q: Can I retake 5QL Activstudio classes and get paid?**

A: Yes, staff are allow to retake 5QL classes for pay. However, credit or clock hour can only be earned once per year for a specific class.

**Q: Why does the IT2 Program require teachers to use specific software to meet the requirements?**

A: By requiring one software, we can ensure common baseline skills for all teachers and ensure access to learning experiences for all students. We can access community levy funding for Professional Development focused on Activstudio thus avoiding the “mile wide/inch deep” professional development support. Focusing on one application provides better support and training with focus.