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Computer Skills Growth Chart

A Project of INTEGRATE

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Preamble

The Computer Skills Growth Chart project grew out of a need observed in many districts around the state; many teachers find themselves stymied in trying to integrate technology into lessons in ways that are age appropriate and that work well with the Delaware and national curriculum standards. The Computer Skills Growth Chart is based on the NETS (National Educational Technology Standards) for Students, the Delaware Content Standards and Performance Indicators and the Delaware computer skills graduation requirement.

The chart is not a technology curriculum guide or a scope and sequence, nor is it a set of requirements for any student, grade or teacher. Instead, the chart is intended as a planning aid and a vehicle to support discussion of technology integration across the curriculum areas to allow technology to support the kind of sophisticated learning activities called for by the new standards.

For brevity's sake, each skill is only mentioned in the grade in which it is reasonable for students to perform the skill independently. Specific teaching activities or additional support may be needed as the students develop the skills. The skills should then be utilized as students engage in standards-based activities in all areas of the curriculum.

The chart specifically omits two major areas. First, the ethical, human and social issues related to uses of technology should be addressed as appropriate each time they arise in the classroom. Second, keyboarding skills are a separate and needed skill not easily integrated into other activities. Based on the committee's review of the available research and various scope and sequence documents, it was concluded that keyboarding is largely based on motor skills so it seems appropriate to begin keyboard training in grades 2-4 based on developmental readiness. Educators should also encourage the use of left and right hands to avoid bad habits that will later need to be unlearned.

As time goes by, it is expected that many students will attain these skills long before the targeted grade levels. INTEGRATE will be reviewing the chart on a regular basis. Send comments to skillschart@dcet.k12.de.us.