Chapter 1

Use of Technology to Motivate Students

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A middle school teacher proposed that since students these days are more at ease with technology due to the excessive use of technology gadgets in their lives, why not make the best use of technology by way of electronic whiteboards to engage students? This brought about some changes in this inner city school which had failed the state Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) report more than once. However, was the sudden surge in student motivation the result of the novelty effect or the Hawthorn effect? And might that surge in student motivation soon fade away?

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In urban neighborhoods where education is generally not viewed as life-transforming training, but instead as free daycare, teaching can be a daunting task. And if there is a huge pressure place on teachers by administrators to either perform or perish, the challenge becomes even more pronounced.

One such inner city school, which has failed the state Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) report for the last 3 years, is Elm Middle School. Some of the main reasons for failing AYP standards have been low math and reading results combined with other non-evaluative contributing factors such as; lack of parental support, poor student attendance, and low student motivation in classrooms. Although several
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