Chapter 6
Lack of Technology in Urban Schools

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Many times in urban schools, computers and learning software are either at a shortage or simply do not exist. In schools like that, the ratio of students to computers can be as high as 20 to one. This case study compares the learning technology resources and opportunities accessible to William and Terrance, two cousins who attended 4th grade in two different school districts.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

For those urban schools that cannot provide simple necessities such as textbooks and heat or air conditioning, educational technology is defiantly at the bottom of the agenda. Such basics as computers and learning software are either at a shortage or simply do not exist. Many times in the urban schools the ratio of students to computers is as high as 20 to one. Without these resources, school graduates are not prepared for the world’s demand of information literacy and technical skills. Research shows that although there are dramatic increases in the use of computers in the school system, children in public urban schools have less access to computers than those in the suburban and private school systems. As a result, many of the urban students are not prepared for the level of technology expected in colleges or among the work force.

DOI: 10.4018/978-1-61350-492-5.ch006