



The [Triple E Framework](#) was developed in 2011 by Dr. Liz Kolb at the University of Michigan. It focuses on student growth instead of learning tools, giving the Triple E Framework longevity. Educators can use this valid and reliable framework to evaluate digital learning regardless of what tool is used or how quickly technology develops.

Engagement:

[Engagement](#) is more than interaction with a tool or resource. Students must be active learners: observing, processing, collaborating, creating, evaluating. Does the tech tool they're using:

- allow them to focus on the assignment/task/activity with less distraction?
- motivate students to start the learning process?
- cause a shift from passive to active learning (through co-use or co-engagement)?

Enhancement:

If technology is used to [Enhance](#) the learning process, students will master concept knowledge or skills that were not possible without the technology. Does the tech tool they're using:

- allow them to demonstrate a more mature or detailed understanding of the learning goal?
- provide scaffolding to support learning (for all learners, not only those with IEP, 504, etc.)?
- offer paths to demonstrate mastery students could not take without the tool?

Extension:

Technology is a great way to [Extend](#) learning beyond the classroom setting. Real-life connections provide context for what students learn and validity for why they learn it. Does the tech tool:

- provide students opportunities to learn outside their classroom (24/7)?
- create a bridge between school learning (learning goals) and life experience?
- help student develop soft skills that will be used in real life (communicate, collaborate, etc.)?

The TEF Tool ([Link](#)):

- **Green:** 13-18 points. Very strong connection between tech and learning goals. It meets all three parts of the framework.
- **Yellow:** 7-12 points. Strong connection between tech and goals, but it only meets two parts of the framework. Look for another way to leverage the technology use.
- **Red:** 6 or below. Weak connection, likely Engagement. Do they really need it? Proceed carefully.

What Can We Do?

- Build your technology literacy; it's just like reading, but with more swiping, clicking & videos.
- Talk to your colleagues; odds are someone else you know has an idea and PD is reactive.
- Play with the tech tools, along with your students; they know secrets you don't.
- Add tech in small parts with a purpose; technology isn't a Band-Aid® that will fix everything.
- If you are an admin... do your research before you ask your staff to do **one more thing**.