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# The Technology Fix: The Promise and Reality of Computers in Our Schools

*William D. Pflaum*

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**William D. Pflaum : The Technology Fix: The Promise and Reality of Computers in Our Schools** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Technology Fix: The Promise and Reality of Computers in Our Schools:

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The Technology Fix By Crystal Walters  
Involved with education and an author of both printed and digital materials for classrooms, William D. Pflaum wanted to answer the looming question, "Why has the promise of technology not come true." In his book he spent a year traveling around to many schools to see exactly what was happening in schools and to find out what conditions must exist for the technology investments that we all hoped would save education could pay off. Pflaum claimed that he did not have a hidden agenda he simply wanted to observe what the schools were doing and to document his findings. The true stories of his visits to the schools were told with honesty and seemed to be neutral and unbiased. I found several of the stories to be awakening as to the nature of technology and its use. He observed lack of technology, lack of computer use and training. But, the prevailing subject that continued to come up was the lack of curriculum coordination or organization in schools. Pflaum also commented on positive insights he has noticed in schools. The introduction at the beginning of the book set up the conditions for Pflaum's observations and passion. The next 4 sections of the book are divided into chapters that address the stories of each school that he visited. The chapters are focused on school commitment to technology. The sections are "Commitment and Focus," "Commitment with Less Focus," "Hit or Miss Focus," and "Too Troubled to Focus." The book ends with a conclusion and the next steps to using technology in education. Overall the book had a good sense of humor and was fun to read. I would recommend it to anyone involved with technology education or teachers who want to use more technology in their curriculum.

During the technology boom of the 1980s and 1990s, computers seemed set to revolutionize education. Do any of these promises sound familiar? \* Technology would help all students learn better, thanks to multimedia programs capable of adapting to individual needs, learning styles, and skill levels. \* Technology would transform the teachers' role from a purveyor of a one-size-fits-all curriculum to a facilitator of student exploration. \* Technology would replace static textbooks with dynamic, interactive learning resources that were always up-to-date. \* Technology would boost test scores, as engaged and motivated students acquired advanced skills, problem-solving abilities, and a growing thirst for knowledge. By 2001, educational materials developer William D. Pflaum had begun to suspect that technology was not the all-purpose solution it had seemed. He decided to see how computers were really being used in U.S. classrooms and embarked on a yearlong road trip to a cross-section of elementary, middle, and high schools throughout the nation. In this book, he recounts his journey. Although he did find technology application to admire, too often he found broken promises: millions spent for little measurable gain, problems instead of solutions, a fix instead of a fix. This inside look at computer use in our schools shares the voices, experiences, triumphs, and frustrations of educators and students in urban, rural, and suburban settings. The author provides insight into the key roles that computers currently play in the classroom and clarifies what we must do ensure that the promise of technology is fulfilled . . . and that students truly benefit.