

Chapter Two: e-Education



e-Education defined

- 2.1 In the South African context, the concept of e-Education revolves around the use of ICTs to accelerate the achievement of national education goals. e-Education is about connecting learners to other learners, teachers to professional support services and providing platforms for learning. e-Education will connect learners and teachers to better information, ideas and one another via effective combinations of pedagogy and technology.
- 2.2 The challenge is to transcend the mere exchange of information and to transform e-Education into a range of learning activities that meet educational objectives.
- 2.3 e-Education is more than developing computer literacy and the skills necessary to operate various types of information and communication technology. It is the ability to:
- apply ICT skills to access, analyse, evaluate, integrate, present and communicate information;
 - create knowledge and new information by adapting, applying, designing, inventing and authoring information;
 - enhance teaching and learning through communication and collaboration by using ICTs; and
 - function in a knowledge society by using appropriate technology and mastering communication and collaboration skills.
- 2.4 e-Education views ICTs as a resource for reorganising schooling and as a tool for whole-school development. It includes ICTs as:
- a tool for management and administration;
 - a resource for curriculum integration;
 - a communication tool;
 - a collaborative tool for teachers and learners; and
 - a learning environment that advances creativity, communication, collaboration and engagement.
- 2.5 ICTs, when successfully integrated into teaching and learning, can ensure the meaningful interaction of learners with information. ICTs can advance high order thinking skills such as comprehension, reasoning, problem-solving and creative thinking. Success in the infusion of ICTs into teaching and learning will ensure that all learners will be equipped for full participation in the knowledge society before they leave further education and training (FET) institutions.
- 2.6 Moreover, these learners are likely to utilise e-Government processes, not only to acquire and use information, but also to implement public sector reforms that can

