

Years of Administrative Experience and Use of Electronic Technology

The high school principals completing the survey were asked to indicate their number of years of administrative experience. Five categories of years of experience were then established: 0-5 years, 6-10 years, 11-15 years, 16-20 years, and over 20 years. The data for each survey question were analyzed according to these categories. See Table 9 for a presentation of the results.

Years of Administrative Experience and Home Computer Use

Each category reported a greater than 80% level of home computer ownership except the over 20 years group. Home computer use was also reported lowest by the over 20 years group. Laptop use varies by group where the group with the greatest administrative experience has the smallest reportage of laptop use.

Years of Administrative Experience and Attitudes

New administrators with 0-5 years of experience and those with the longest tenure, over 20 years experience, have the lowest level of confidence in their ability to learn to use a computer. The other groups reported slightly higher means.

The newest administrators believe strongly that computers are a practical tool for high school principals. The administrators with over 20 years of experience reported the lowest belief in that area.

Years of Administrative Experience and Levels of Comfort Regarding Specific Skills

Among the computer skills surveyed, those administrators with 0-5 years experience scored the lowest levels of comfort with specific computer skills in 6 of the 17 skills (creating a database, creating graphs and charts, using a program for budgeting and cost projections, using a modem, sending an electronic fax, using a search engine to create an Internet search). Those administrators with 11-15 years of experience scored the highest levels of comfort in 4 of the 17 skills (using a computer spreadsheet, using commands necessary to activate a printer to secure a hard copy, creating graphs and charts, retrieving information from the student database). Those administrators with 16-20 years of administrative experience scored the highest levels of comfort in 13 of the 17 skills (word processing, using a computer spreadsheet, activating a printer, creating a master schedule using a computer program, using a digital camera, retrieving information from the student database, functioning as a member of an electronic mail network, creating and presenting an electronic slide show, accessing information on a CD-ROM, practicing the responsible use of technology, using computers for administrative purposes).

