

# GETTING CERTIFIED FOR ONLINE EDUCATION

By Samantha Fecich

**D**ue to the COVID-19 pandemic, a light has been shined on the power of educational technology in the classroom both virtually and face to face. For some of us, our journey was rather smooth in transitioning from our classrooms to an online learning space. For others, the move to online learning was a struggle. What we've learned is that teaching online is not the same as teaching face to face. We need to rethink our practice for the online learning classroom. As teachers, we need to engage our students through technology in a way that supports them in learning and sharing.

Wherever you are in your educational technology (edtech) journey, I encourage you to take some time to get to know the edtech tools that are available to you and your students. You can continue to learn and grow with educational technology through connecting with others on social media, watching webinars and tutorials, attending conferences virtually, or getting certifications.

That's where our conversation begins today: online educational technology certifications. We all know about the big three education certifications you can pursue:

1. Google certification: [teachercenter.withgoogle.com/certification](https://teachercenter.withgoogle.com/certification)
2. Apple: [apple.com/education/k12/apple-teacher](https://apple.com/education/k12/apple-teacher)
3. Microsoft certified educator: [education.microsoft.com/en-us](https://education.microsoft.com/en-us)

But did you know that other edtech companies offer certifications in their own programs? One way you can do that is by exploring educational technology tools that offer ambassador or educator representative programs. These programs often require you to learn about the technology app or software in depth and create a piece with it. One benefit of the program is that you often get to try out new features of the tool before they are released.

Many educational technology tools offer this type of certification or program. My top three are:

Tech tool	Description
FlipGrid	Share content, feedback, and work with this video response tool.
Adobe Spark	Create digital content such as posts, videos, pages and more!
PearDeck	Engage students in their lessons through content, formative assessment, and interactive slides. Get real-time feedback and data.

Find a tool that you use, or think you might, in your classroom and get to know it. You may find that becoming a certified educator could help you go deeper with the technology tool. Please note that this is not an exhaustive list of ambassador programs; many more are out there.

WeVideo	Schoology	Makey Makey	Everfi
Raspberry Pi	Insert Learning	SeeSaw	Buncee
Kami	Flocabulary	Edmodo	Nearpod
Newsela	National Geographic	EdPuzzle	Wizer
Go Noodle	MineCraft	3D Bear	Everfi

Whichever route you choose, take your time, learn what you can about the tool, and implement it in the classroom where it best fits. I challenge you to create a list of tools you enjoy using with your class and why. Is there one tool that you can learn more about? Consider joining the ambassador program for that tech tool. Happy learning!

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