
Pennsylvania Department of Education



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
333 MARKET STREET
HARRISBURG, PA 17126-0333

Educational Technology Report Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Entity: Peters Township SD
Address: 631 E McMurray Rd
McMurray, PA 15317-3430

Phone:
Contact Name:

Core Purpose

Mission

The mission of the Peters Township Schools, working in partnership with families and the community, is to educate individuals to be responsible, lifelong learners who possess the skills, knowledge, creativity, self-worth, and ethical values necessary to live, learn, lead, and flourish in a rapidly changing, culturally diverse global society.

Vision

Peters Township School District

Learning from the Past,

Listening to the Present,

Leading for the Future

Shared Values

The Peters Township School Community believes that--

Communication must be

- Open, honest, and timely
- Pro-active
- Personalized whenever possible
- Accomplished through visibility of staff

Cooperation will be achieved through

- Respect for self and others
- Collaboration to solve problems
- Understanding how diversity enhances education
- Maximizing use of public and community resources
- Valuing and respecting each individual's expertise
- K-12 communication and collaboration
- Working in partnership with the community

Celebration is important and will be effective if we recognize that

- Every student has value
- Rewards must be earned
- Success should be rewarded

- Age-appropriate goals can be set
- Process can be as important as product
- Rites of Passage are times for recognition

Needs Assessment

Mission of the Technology Department:

In a cooperative partnership with a community that values excellence in education, the Peters Township School District will utilize existing and emerging technologies to provide educational opportunities, expand and improve communication, access information, and optimize administrative operations.

The Peters Township School District has made a significant investment and commitment to technology integration and utilization at all levels. The District uses technology to support and enhance the educational process, to facilitate district operations, and to communicate and store data and information at various levels. Currently the Technology Department in the District consists of two service areas -- Educational and Informational Technology and the IT Department.

Our Staff

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Toni J Sulkowski
Director of Technology

Bridget Kirwan, Secretary(1/2 time)

Patrick "Duke" Maloy, Network Technician

Grant Stevenson, Technology Technician II

Leanne Zawicki, Technology Technician I

Mose Berymon, Contracted 3 day/week Technician from Questeq

The Role of Technology in Education

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Educationally, the District recognizes the positive impact that technology can play in the attainment of educational excellence and the pursuit of personalization of the educational process. Educational technology helps to facilitate the curriculum, enhances instruction, and optimizes resources that can be used to meet the needs of our students. In addition, there is a focus on staff development to enable staff to use technology successfully in the

teaching and learning process. An articulated K-12 scope and sequence for technology literacy is being developed that meets both PA Technology Standards and the ISTE NETS Standards for Students and that can be integrated into all aspects of the district's curriculum.

Information Access and Communication

Information Access and Communication through technology is another important facet of Educational and Informational Technology. The District uses technology to enhance communication with parents and the community to increase their involvement in the educational processes. The school district's web site is a vital medium through which the District provides a wealth of information to residents and staff. In addition, the school district is expanding its information services by using a variety of online services.

This year the District is implementing a new integrated student information system, Power School. Power School will allow teachers to provide students and parents K-12 with access to student schedules and grades through a designated portal.

The Peters Township Technology Department is pleased to announce that the Pennsylvania School Public Relations Association awarded the District's web site the Award of Honor in its 2005 Excellence in Education Communication Contest.

The web site was also recognized as a "Cool School Site" in 2005 by EducationWorld.com and Finals.com.

Technology Committees

At times the district will involve parents of students and community members on advisory committees for technology. These committees are helpful in providing valuable information, expertise and recommendations to our department.

Technology Hardware

Each K-3 elementary school has one lab of 28 iMac computers. The average classroom has 4 computers plus a teacher's pc laptop station. Each library has about 8 computers for card catalog and Internet search purposes.

Grades 4-6 have one stationary lab of 28 Micron PC computers, one HP mobile wireless lab and three mobile "the Writer" labs to facilitate keyboarding instruction. The library has 6 iMAC and 3 PC computers, as well as a wireless mobile ibook lab. There are also 3 PCs located in each of the classrooms for student use. All teachers have pc laptops.

The Middle School has two stationary labs of 28 new HP computers with flat screens. The library has 15 stationary computers and one mobile HP wireless lab. The Tech Ed

classroom has 18 iMac computers. PC computers are distributively placed as student workstations in the science classrooms and in various locations throughout the school. Teachers use laptops.

The High School currently has eight labs of 28 computers each for curricular implementation in Business Education, Fine Arts, Language Arts and Technology Education. There are also mini-labs in all Science classrooms of 6 computers each. The library has 15 computers plus an adjacent lab containing 30 new computers. Labs are updated on about every 4-5 years. In the 2006-2007 and 2007-2008 school years, the 3 Business labs, World Language Lab, 2 general school labs, the library labs, and the Media labs were all updated with new 17" HP flat screens and small form factor HP desktops. Also, in 2007-2008, all teachers received new laptops. Each Art room has a 17" iMacs for production purposes.

Each school library received a 17" iMac as a donation from PTA Area Council in 2007. These computers will be used to create and publish podcasts and videocasts to the internet as each school library has its own web account to do so. Eventually it is intended that the schools will also be able to videoconference with each other using the iMacs.

All computers located within each of the buildings are wired for network and internet access. A variety of online and internet-based applications are used to support teaching and learning such as Grolier's Multimedia Encyclopedia, United Streaming Videos, Nettekker, and more.

Additionally, staff uses computer-related peripherals to support curriculum and instruction. These include Smart Boards, computer projection devices, and the Classroom Performance System ("clickers.") Every school library is a demonstration model for technology and houses all devices.

Each building is equipped with a LAN which is 100mbs Category 5 wiring to the wiring closet. Each room is then connected to a 100mb switch. Wiring closets are connected together via fiber optic cabling.

The district has a high speed Wide Area Network (WAN) and all buildings are connected to the central office via a gigabit fiber backbone network. This gigabit network is controlled with Alcatel networking equipment at each location. This WAN allows all staff and students have access to district network resources.

The district has a direct 10mb fiber connection to Comcast Communications which is our Internet Service Provider. All students and staff have access to the Internet. Currently the district is using Astaro software for content filtering and as a firewall.

District Software and Online Applications

Administratively the district uses accounting and personnel software from Prosoft Technologies. All staff have access to the Novell Network email system, Groupwise, as

well as Microsoft Office 2000 package. In 2007 a new student information system was implemented, Power School to replace MMS, Edline and Gradequick/Grade Machine. A new facilities request package, FS Direct is scheduled to be implemented in Fall 2008. Special Education utilizes the new IEP Writer web-based application. Cognitive mapping software Kidspiration and Inspiration are available to teachers and students at the schools to use in the labs.

Supporting curriculum and instruction are several internet subscription services at K-3 including Brain Pop, Reading A-Z, Accelerated Reader, and Enchanted Learning. The 4-6 level uses Accelerated and Star Reader and Grolier's Multimedia Encyclopedia. PTMS uses Grolier's and other internet services based upon curricular need. At PTHS, SIRS , Opposing Viewpoints, Apangea, and Bridges are among the many online resources available to staff and students.

All of the school libraries utilize separate electronic card catalogue systems, Follet K-8 and Sagebrush 9-12. The district is currently investigating the possibility of moving to a centralized K-12 system by January 2009.

The Technology Department encourages students and teachers to participate in and take advantage of technology grant and competition opportunities. We are proud of their efforts and accomplishments!

Keystone Integrators : The Pennsylvania Department of Education encourages local schools to recognize teachers who actively utilize technology to support learning in their classrooms. Each district superintendent then nominates one Keystone teacher to represent the district . From across the state, a smaller group of Keystone Integrators are then recognized. Three teachers have been recognized as such since the state implemented this program.

Hands-on-Learning Grants: Peters Township School District teachers earned two \$10,000 Hands-on-Learning grants from the PA Department of Education in 2005 and 2006. The money was used to fund the purchase of handheld computers such as PDAs to enhance curriculum and learning. The Physical Education Department at PTHS earned their competitive grant to support implementation of electronic heart monitors in their classes, while the third grade teachers and librarian at Bower Hill Elementary School purchased a classroom set of PDAs to promote reading and writing skills.

HP Grant: In 2006 a team of science teachers at Peters Township High School was named the recipient of a \$35,000 award from Hewlett Packard. The teachers were provided with tablet pcs, multi-function printers, digital cameras, digital video projectors, staff development, and a \$500 stipend. The grant facilitated the integration of technology across science disciplines. In 2007 the team expanded to a total of 15 teachers and was awarded a competitive grant worth \$81,000 at the National Educational Computing Conference in Atlanta, Georgia.

Keystone Integrator Digital Camera Mini-grants: Two teachers from Bower Hill Elementary School were awarded digital cameras from the PA Department of Education in Fall 2006 as part of a state-wide initiative to encourage teachers to implement digital literacy in their classrooms. Staff development was also provided. The awards were valued at approximately \$1000.

Best Buy Te@ch Grant: In 2007 Best Buy awarded \$2500 to a Middle School Science teacher . The purpose of the grant was to promote technology implementation in the classroom. Grant monies were used to purchase digital cameras and accessories to support the science department's outdoor classroom project. Recently Bower Hill staff received a \$2000 Best Buy grant for the purposes of supporting a project called "The Art of Listening." The money will be used to purchase equipment to enhance art, literature and music.

Inspired Teacher Award: In February 2007 a 4th grade teacher at McMurray Elementary School was awarded one of 30 annual scholarships by Inspiration.com. The \$750 award was used to defray costs for advanced coursework in technology .

New monies received will be used to purchase:

2 mobile labs with printers @ McMurray Elementary

15 digital cameras

Writing software application "Write to Learn" —Gr. 5 McM

Linux server so Moodle ("Blackboard") can be implemented

The purpose will be to use technology to facilitate learning in the language arts areas.

The District maintains current Technology Acceptable Use Policies. They have all been revised within the past year. There are 3 and all are available to students, parents, staff and the public via the web site. Those policies are:

Technology Acceptable Use-Personnel (revised June 2007)

Technology Acceptable Use-Students (revised June 2007)

Technology Acceptable Use of Personal Devices (March 2005)

Emerging Technologies

Web 2.0 technologies such as web portals, virtual communities, blogs, wikis , streaming media and social networking have changed the nature of the internet. In addition, use of server virtualization, integrated program applications, digital applications and hardware, and mobile technologies are also impacting our educational delivery systems. These emerging technologies can be used to support curriculum and instruction by engaging individual students and promoting differentiation of instruction to meet student needs.

Staff identifies potential new technologies by attending conferences at the local, state and national levels sponsored by educational technology organizations including: Three Rivers Educational Technology Conference(TRETC), Pennsylvania Educational Technology Exposition and Conference (PETE&C), and National Educational Computing Conference (NECC). In addition, staff attends content-related conferences, seminars, as well as classes at the university level. Staff has also participated in webinar presentations highlighting technology. In addition, staff reviews professional publications, email news briefs, and websites from ASCD, NAESP, PAESSP, PDK, ISTE and more. Listening to technology-related podcasts and using professional social networking sites have also provided valuable resources for our district.

Currently the District has not engaged in the use of Internet 2 and telecommunications services. Starting in July 2008 the district will join Intermediate Unit One's RWAN and become a part of the KITS team. This will allow teachers and students to participate in virtual field trips and to make connections with peers and subject experts around the world. Video conferencing equipment has been purchased through a generous grant via IU#1 and will be installed in Summer 2008.

The District has utilized the various PATI surveys, reviewed the former E-Tech Plan, interacted with active technology committees comprised of staff, parents and community members and has also conducted several in-house surveys of students and staff to determine strengths and weaknesses.

Strengths:

- Board commitment to providing fiscal support for technology
- More students are actively engaged in using technology K-12
- Staff has received various grants to procure additional cutting edge technologies and to receive staff development
- Staff accepts and is enthusiastic about using technology
- District has expanded technology use for administrative and communication functions to streamline operations and improve communication with community
- District infrastructure is well-developed and is expanding to meet needs

Weaknesses:

- Small IT department that has not expanded to meet ever-growing demands of a growing infrastructure
- The amount of technology staff development overall has been unable to meet the growing needs of teachers and administrators
- Technology Literacy Skills curriculum was never fully developed and state/national standards still need to be addressed
- District is dependent upon local funding for technology
- Expand telecommunications capabilities and connect students/staff globally

Goals and Strategies

Goal: ARTFUL USE OF INFRASTRUCTURE

Description: Utilize district resources effectively to improve student achievement and meet or exceed annual local and State thresholds in all core curricular subject areas

Strategy: Improve the quality and quantity of communication throughout the district

Description:

Activities:

Activity	Description
Continue to use	Continue to implement and enhance use of applications such as

technology to strengthen and enhance communication with all stakeholders.	Power School, Email News, Public Access Television on Cable, brochures and newsletters, and the website. This will include eventual redesign of the district's website and the possible purchase/upgrade of a new SIS.	
Person Responsible	Timeline for Implementation	Resources
Toni Sulkowski	Start: N/A Finish: N/A	\$274,500.00

Activity	Description	
Create opportunities for students to share their ideas with district technology leaders	The Director of Technology will collaborate with building principals at the secondary level to meet periodically with student leaders or students in technology-related clubs to gather input and feedback.	
Person Responsible	Timeline for Implementation	Resources
Toni Sulkowski	Start: N/A Finish: N/A	\$0.00

Strategy: Incorporate the use of technology into all subjects/courses

Description: Staff will use technology in all subjects and courses in order to improve student achievement.

Activities:

Activity	Description	
Each school will be provided with access to new and emerging technologies.	The Director of Technology will work with building level administrators and teachers to share and review current and emerging technologies and how they can support curriculum and instruction. Through collaboration new equipment and applications will be purchased and subsequent training will be provided.	
Person Responsible	Timeline for Implementation	Resources
Toni Sulkowski	Start: N/A Finish: N/A	\$600,000.00

Activity	Description	
Incorporate the use of telecommunications(video-conferencing) into all classrooms and throughout the levels of the organization	Utilize the IU#1 RWAN to participate in Internet 2 activities for instructional purposes, for staff development, and to provide staff with ability to make connections with peers and experts in their disciplines.	
Person Responsible	Timeline for Implementation	Resources
Toni Sulkowski	Start: N/A Finish: N/A	\$186,400.00

Activity	Description
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Integrate technology applications into planned courses of study.	Understanding that technology is a significant, supportive tool in quality curricular development, delivery, and assessment, staff will review all planned courses of study to ensure its application.	
Person Responsible	Timeline for Implementation	Resources
Toni Sulkowski	Start: 2/13/2009 Finish: 2/14/2011	\$3,000.00
Professional Development Activity Information		
Number of Hours Per Session	Total Number of Sessions Per School Year	Estimated Number of Participants Per Year
3	1	300
Organization or Institution Name	Type of Provider	Provider's Department of Education Approval Status
Peters Township School District Intermediate Unit#1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Entity • Intermediate Unit 	Approved
Knowledge and Skills	Research and Best Practices	Designed to Accomplish
<p>Integration of technology into the curriculum</p> <p>How to use different technologies, such as, graphing calculators, CPS, online learning/teaching, curriculum-specific software, PhotoStory, blogging, podcasting/vodcasting, CFF grant implementation, SmartBoards, Internet II, online textbooks, etc.</p> <p>Promoting higher-level thinking skills through project-based learning</p>		<p><i>For classroom teachers, school counselors and education specialists:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increases the educator's <u>teaching skills</u> based on research on effective practice, with attention given to interventions for struggling students. • Empowers educators to work effectively with <u>parents and community partners</u>. <p><i>For school and district administrators, and other educators seeking leadership roles:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides the knowledge and skills to <u>think and plan strategically</u>, ensuring that assessments, curriculum, instruction, staff professional education, teaching materials and interventions for struggling students are aligned to each other as well as to Pennsylvania's academic standards.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Empowers leaders to create a culture of <u>teaching and learning</u>, with an emphasis on learning. Instructs the leader in <u>managing resources</u> for effective results.
Educator Groups Which Will Participate in this Activity		
Role	Grade Level	Subject Area
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Classroom teachers Principals / asst. principals Superintendent / asst. superintendents School counselors Other educational specialists 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Early childhood (preK-grade 3) Middle (grades 6-8) Elementary (grades 2-5) High school (grades 9-12) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pre-Kindergarten Early Learning Standards Reading, Writing, Speaking & Listening Science and Technology Arts & Humanities Civics and Government Environment and Ecology Health, Safety and Physical Education World Languages Kindergarten Early Learning Standards Mathematics History Career Education and Work Economics Family and Consumer Sciences Geography
Follow-up Activities	Evaluation Methods	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Team development and sharing of content-area lesson implementation outcomes, with involvement of administrator and/or peers Peer-to-peer lesson discussions Lesson modeling with mentoring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Classroom observation focusing on factors such as planning and preparation, knowledge of content, pedagogy and standards, classroom environment, instructional delivery and professionalism. Classroom student assessment data Participant survey Review of participant lesson plans 	

Activity	Description
Monitor the use of technology to support curriculum and instruction at the school level.	Technology Director, Asst. Supt. and Building level principals will observe and support teacher use of technology in the classrooms. Staff can identify procedures for observing technology use in the classroom. Staff will share ISTE NETS for students and teachers with

	teachers.	
Person Responsible	Timeline for Implementation	Resources
Toni Sulkowski	Start: N/A Finish: N/A	\$6,000.00

Strategy: Integrate student-related web services and applications using a personalized portal approach

Description: A one stop "My Student Portal" internet page would provide students with access to information and services, so as to improve communication between student and school. Students would have faster and easier accessibility to district provided services.

Activities:

Activity	Description	
Decide upon student web portal venue then install and implement system.	Director of Technology and committee will examine all options and make recommendations to Central Office staff and subsequently School Board for selection, process for installation and implementation and expenditure of funds for establishing a "My Student Portal" web page for all students.	
Person Responsible	Timeline for Implementation	Resources
Toni Sulkowski	Start: N/A Finish: N/A	\$100,000.00

Activity	Description	
Document and compile list of existing applications available to students	The Director of Technology shall compile a comprehensive list of all applications that are available to students--both on district network and via links on the website. List should include where access is available.	
Person Responsible	Timeline for Implementation	Resources
Toni Sulkowski	Start: N/A Finish: N/A	\$0.00

Activity	Description	
Research and investigate available K-12 portal systems that would integrate with the district's current/future applications	The Director of Technology with the Educational Technology Strategic Planning Committee shall conduct research of existing systems including, but not limited to higher educational institutions and available vendors. Research should also include any open source systems, as well as customized options.	
Person Responsible	Timeline for Implementation	Resources
Toni Sulkowski	Start: N/A Finish: N/A	\$0.00

Strategy: Strive to ensure the safest and most secure learning environment.

Description: Review, evaluate, and revise the District Safety Plan and safety procedures as they relate to facilities, staff, students, and the community.

Activities:

Activity	Description	
Continue to ensure internet safety and security for students and staff.	Work with IT Department to upgrade existing network/firewall infrastructure. Update District's Technology Acceptable Use Policy to reflect any changes.	
Person Responsible	Timeline for Implementation	Resources
Toni Sulkowski	Start: N/A Finish: N/A	\$225,000.00

Activity	Description	
Formalize internet safety training for students K-12.	The Director of Technology shall work with Asst. Supt. and staff to identify a Scope and Sequence for internet safety lessons for students K-12, where appropriate in collaboration with school guidance counselors and librarians. Aspects of the Isafe program shall be considered and proper training shall be provided to staff.	
Person Responsible	Timeline for Implementation	Resources
Toni Sulkowski	Start: N/A Finish: N/A	\$7,500.00

Goal: QUALITY LEADERSHIP

Description: Require accountability at all levels so that leadership decisions focus on student achievement in order to meet or exceed annual local and State thresholds in all core curricular subject areas.

Strategy: Continue to implement a Train the Trainers model for improved staff development

Description: Director of Technology will work with administrative team to identify teacher/staff trainers for current and emerging technologies for the purposes of staff training in each building and district-wide. The identified trainers will receive initial, intense training for applications, hardware, peripherals, etc and then will train colleagues as needed.

Activities:

Activity	Description	
Identify levels of assistance needed at the school level and develop strategies to address those needs.	Director of Technology will work with building level administrators and technology teams to identify and evaluate levels of need for training in using applications and technological devices. Part of the process will be to develop the procedures and types of training to address those needs.	
Person Responsible	Timeline for Implementation	Resources
Toni Sulkowski	Start: N/A Finish: N/A	\$32,500.00

Activity	Description
Work in conjunction with the Act 48 Committee to implement this	Director of Technology will share staff surveys and results from technology team meetings at the building level with the District

model.	Act 48 team.	
Person Responsible	Timeline for Implementation	Resources
Toni Sulkowski	Start: N/A Finish: N/A	\$0.00

Strategy: Continue to research and share best national/global practices in technology use

Description: The Technology Director will investigate and keep abreast of best practices and results in educational research as it pertains to technology. This information will be shared with administrative and teacher leadership and shall play a role in technology budgeting, curriculum integration and implementation.

Activities:

Activity	Description	
Develop centralized web-based resources on current technology practices.	This activity calls for providing a server that can host multimedia resources for staff to use to integrate technology in the classroom. Staff will be able to access web links and activities 24/7 from this resource center.	
Person Responsible	Timeline for Implementation	Resources
Toni Sulkowski	Start: N/A Finish: N/A	\$13,500.00

Activity	Description	
Provide means for students to participate in technology planning, implementing and training in technology use	Director of Technology shall collaborate with building principals, especially in grades 6-12 to determine possibilities of providing students with extra-curricular or school day opportunities to share technology-related talents with peers and staff. One possibility is to examine the Gen Y program.	
Person Responsible	Timeline for Implementation	Resources
Toni Sulkowski	Start: N/A Finish: N/A	\$5,000.00

Activity	Description	
Provide resources for staff to attend conferences, webinars, videoconferences, etc. to learn more about emerging technologies.	The Technology Budget should contain funding to provide teachers with opportunities to participate in staff development opportunities outside the boundaries of the school district. Staff should be expected to implement what they have learned and to share with colleagues.	
Person Responsible	Timeline for Implementation	Resources
Toni Sulkowski	Start: N/A Finish: N/A	\$35,000.00

Strategy: Standardize expectations for staff use of technology to communicate more effectively with students and parents

Description: The administrative leadership shall work with staff to determine standardized and effective procedures for using technology to communicate to parents and students. This would

include utilizing the student information system in a timely way as well as using applications such as Blended Schools and Moodle to provide additional classroom and assignment information.

Activities:

Activity	Description	
Establish standards for communication at each level.	Administrators and teachers will work collaboratively to identify and monitor standardized procedures and timelines for using applications such as Power School and Moodle to communicate with parents and students.	
Person Responsible	Timeline for Implementation	Resources
Toni Sulkowski	Start: N/A Finish: N/A	\$0.00

Goal: QUALITY TEACHING

Description: Provide quality instruction so that students will meet or exceed annual local and State thresholds in all core curricular subject areas.

Strategy: Hire, maintain and develop highly qualified staff

Description:

Activities:

Activity	Description	
Provide staff with tools, support, and consistent training to maintain technology skills.	Work with Director of Instruction (GUILD-Induction) , Asst. Superintendents (HR and Staff Development), Principals, and Act 48 Committee to provide meaningful and consistent training for staff in technology. This would also include CFF Coach and any peer-to-peer training.	
Person Responsible	Timeline for Implementation	Resources
Toni Sulkowski	Start: N/A Finish: N/A	\$37,000.00

Strategy: Incorporate technology across the curriculum

Description: The District will continue to provide staff with resources and training to utilize technology to support the teaching and learning process. The Director of Technology shall collaborate with stakeholders at all levels to annually review the state of technology integration and to implement annual plans to meet goals at each school.

Activities:

Activity	Description	
Incorporate 21st Century Learning using technology	Provide technological resources so that students receive experiences and opportunities in using technology: ICT literacy skills(using technology in the context of learning so students know how to learn) and Learning and thinking skills (critical thinking and problem-solving skills, communication, creativity and innovation, collaboration, contextual learning, and information and media literacy should be imbedded into instruction)	
Person Responsible	Timeline for Implementation	Resources
Toni Sulkowski	Start: N/A Finish: N/A	\$500,000.00

Activity	Description	
Refine current teacher competencies and standards and implement district-wide	Technology director will work with staff team to identify district technology competencies for staff and will provide appropriate staff development for them. Competencies will be reviewed on an annual basis and will be linked to ISTE NETS for Teachers. An electronic handbook will be developed to support this.	
Person Responsible	Timeline for Implementation	Resources
Toni Sulkowski	Start: N/A Finish: N/A	\$2,500.00

Activity	Description	
Utilize IU#1 RWAN/KITS programs to incorporate video-conferencing and telecommunications across the curriculum at all levels	The Director of Technology shall provide a listing of curriculum-related videoconferences available to staff and shall identify a process for procurement of telecommunications services especially those that are fee-based.	
Person Responsible	Timeline for Implementation	Resources
Toni Sulkowski	Start: N/A Finish: N/A	\$28,250.00

Activity	Description	
Work with curriculum development committees to provide for technology use in the planned course of study.	The Director of Technology will meet with Asst. Supt. and designated curriculum planning committees to write technology integration resources and activities into the planned courses of study.	
Person Responsible	Timeline for Implementation	Resources
Toni Sulkowski	Start: N/A Finish: N/A	\$15,500.00

Goal: Strengthen technology literacy skills K-12

Description: All students shall master essential technology literacy skills to facilitate the use of technology in learning.

Strategy: Finalize the K-12 Technology Literacy Skills Scope and Sequence.

Description: Director of Technology should work with Asst. Supt., teacher technology leaders and building principals to revise and update proposed Technology Scope and Sequence completed in last educational Technology Plan. A process for implementation should be developed in conjunction with Central Office administration.

Activities:

Activity	Description
Create a committee to review the plan developed	Director of Technology will work with teacher leaders to review and revise the plan. Recommendations will be submitted to Asst. Supt. for

in the last E-Tech plan.	Curriculum and to the Supt. for review and budgetary purposes.	
Person Responsible	Timeline for Implementation	Resources
Toni Sulkowski	Start: N/A Finish: N/A	\$1,500.00

Activity	Description	
Implement the scope and sequence curriculum.	Work with Central Office staff and submit to the Board a proposal for timelines, staffing and budgetary expectations for implementation.	
Person Responsible	Timeline for Implementation	Resources
Toni Sulkowski	Start: N/A Finish: N/A	\$13,000.00

Staff Development

The District recognizes the importance of professional development to insure proper integration and implementation of technology in the classroom. Professional staff must be technologically competent in the application of hardware, internet, and specific software applications. It is recognized that training shall be provided for all staff on an on-going basis each year this plan is implemented. Working with the appropriate administrative staff and the Act 48 team, the Director of Technology shall provide a variety of quality professional resources, training, and technology-enriched opportunities for all staff in order that technology is appropriately and effectively utilized at all levels of the organization, especially in the classroom.

Surveys conducted of staff via PDE's PATI, Act 48 and through in-house electronic surveys indicate that staff desires more and more technology-related professional development. While staff members believe that they are competent in the user of computers, computer projection devices and the district's network, there is an expressed desire to have more advanced training in the use of peripherals such as smart boards and classroom response systems (clickers). Additionally, staff requests continual and more advanced training for district-wide applications such as the Power School student information system, Inspiration/Kidspiration, United Streaming, Microsoft Excel, burning CDs, and Moodle/Blackboard. Web 2.0 technologies such as podcasting, blogging, social networking, and wikis also have been deemed as critical areas for staff development. Finally, the district has identified the need to provide all high school students with an on-line learning experience, and teachers will need professional development in this area.

The District has the financial and human resources to implement a professional development program that will effectively support this plan. The Director of Technology is certified as a technology trainer by PDE and also has a partnership with Waynesburg University so that interns will spend time developing professional training materials for staff. There are core teams of teachers at each school that are technologically competent and who serve as teacher trainers on in-service days, after school sessions and at building-based staff development times. The district has successfully employed a "Train the Trainer" model in the past, and will continue to build upon that concept. Money is allocated in both the Technology and Curriculum budgets for staff development, so that teachers who work after hours can be compensated and outside trainers can also be reimbursed for services. Generally training materials are provided on our district network and are accessible to all staff. It is the intent of this plan to enhance those resources by

providing video training sessions produced in-house and located on an intranet. We also use training resources from vendors of purchased software and web-based applications and from Atomic Learning to support staff development efforts. Teachers are encouraged not only to attend local and state conferences, but to present at them, as well. The District also encourages the procurement of grants. Sometimes training is provided in the grants and staff does take advantage of these opportunities. Most recently we have benefited from the HP grant which provided teachers with on-line training and attendance at the ISTE NECC for two years.

Generally technology staff development is provided to staff on district in-service days. There are about 6 days per year, and the time allocated varies from year to year. Greater effort needs to be made to provide technology training at least 75% of the time. Training is provided by Director of Technology, teacher trainers, vendor-related trainers, or IU #1 personnel. Various approaches are utilized.

- * Academy Days: A variety of technology topics are offered and staff may elect to attend several sessions.

- * Mandatory training sessions: Topics are selected by Act 48 team, Director of Technology or other administrators and staff are required to attend. Generally these are conducted in labs at each building. However, we also use our High School video production studio to provide teachers with training within their classrooms and/or in group sessions in labs.

- * Building-level sessions provided before or after work by in-house teacher trainers and/or the Director of Technology with topics determined by building-level technology teams

- * Attendance at conferences and workshops offered by IU#1, TRETTC, PETEC, NECC, PSLA, vendors and by other national organizations such as NAESSP, NCTE, NCTM, NSTA, and NCSS.

- * Viewing on-line webinars offered through grants, PDE

- * Taking on-line courses at local institutions such as Duquesne University, Waynesburg University, California State University

Unique to the district is an administrative training initiative called Lunch 'n Laptops. These are specific training sessions aimed at administrators and provided during the summer months. Provided by the Director of Technology, they provide principals and central office staff with awareness training of emerging technologies so as to foster a greater awareness of technology integration in the classroom.

Once the District is able to use the IU#1 RWAN, it is our intent to broaden staff development opportunities using video-conferencing. We have also begun to initiate iChat on macintoshes that are located in each school library and Skype to provide staff with ability to video-conference and connect with peers on a smaller scale.

Another factor that will impact professional development will be the (hopeful) implementation of the Classrooms For the Future Program at our High School in 2008-2009. Training will be provided by a technology coach who will be able to assist teachers continually during the work day. The coach will be able to work under the guidance of the Director of Technology and coordinate efforts to implement a Train the Trainer model at the school. This model has been quite effective in the past, and we intend to continue successful approach to training staff to integrate technology in the curriculum.

The effectiveness of our staff development programs is determined in a couple of ways.

- * At the end of Act 48-approved sessions, staff is required to complete an evaluation form. Those forms that are technologically-related are shared with the Director of Technology and with the presenters. These forms are invaluable in determining the appropriateness of the content and the effectiveness of the strategies employed. They are also used to formulate future sessions.

- * Electronic surveys of staff: Periodically we use Survey Monkey to query the staff regarding professional development. Surveys generally help to determine the types of training that is needed.

- * Teacher representation at Act 48 meeting and at school technology team meetings. At these meetings staff shares feedback from colleagues regarding the quality of technology professional

staff development.

This Educational Technology Strategic Plan contains various strategies and activities related to professional development. Hopefully professional development will be offered to all staff in a way that personalizes instruction using effective technological strategies. By having our trainers model effective technology teaching practices, it is our intent that teachers will follow through and use these same techniques in their classrooms.

Budget

Summary: Potential Funding Distribution

Funding Source	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	Total
010 - ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET	\$276,720.00	\$378,990.00	\$445,760.00	\$1,101,470.00
050 - CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION SERVICES	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$3,000.00
eRATE	\$12,480.00	\$12,500.00	\$12,520.00	\$37,500.00
TOTAL	\$290,200.00	\$392,490.00	\$459,280.00	\$1,141,970.00

Goal: ARTFUL USE OF INFRASTRUCTURE

Utilize district resources effectively to improve student achievement and meet or exceed annual local and State thresholds in all core curricular subject areas

Improve the quality and quantity of communication throughout the district	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	Total	Funding Source
Continue to use technology to strengthen and enhance communication with all stakeholders.	\$23,500.00	\$30,000.00	\$32,500.00	\$86,000.00	010 - ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET

Incorporate the use of technology into all subjects/courses	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	Total	Funding Source
Each school will be provided with access to new and emerging technologies.	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$300,000.00	010 - ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET
Incorporate the use of telecommunications(video-conferencing) into all classrooms and throughout the levels of the organization	\$24,720.00	\$24,740.00	\$24,760.00	\$74,220.00	010 - ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET

Incorporate the use of telecommunications(video-conferencing) into all classrooms and throughout the levels of the organization	\$12,480.00	\$12,500.00	\$12,520.00	\$37,500.00	eRATE
Integrate technology applications into planned courses of study.	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$3,000.00	050 - CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION SERVICES
Monitor the use of technology to support curriculum and instruction at the school level.	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$3,000.00	010 - ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET

Integrate student-related web services and applications using a personalized portal approach	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	Total	Funding Source
Decide upon student web portal venue then install and implement system.	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$75,000.00	\$75,000.00	010 - ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET

Strive to ensure the safest and most secure learning environment.	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	Total	Funding Source
Continue to ensure internet safety and security for students and staff.	\$0.00	\$75,000.00	\$75,000.00	\$150,000.00	010 - ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET
Formalize internet safety training for students K-12.	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$7,500.00	010 - ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET

TOTAL	\$165,200.00	\$246,740.00	\$324,280.00	\$736,220.00	
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Goal: QUALITY LEADERSHIP

Require accountability at all levels so that leadership decisions focus on student achievement in order to meet or exceed annual local and State thresholds in all core curricular subject areas.

Continue to implement a Train the Trainers model for improved staff development	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	Total	Funding Source
Identify levels of assistance needed at the school level and develop strategies to address those needs.	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,500.00	\$15,500.00	010 - ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET

Continue to research and share best national/global practices in technology use	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	Total	Funding Source
Develop centralized web-based resources on current technology practices.	\$0.00	\$10,000.00	\$2,500.00	\$12,500.00	010 - ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET
Provide means for students to participate in technology planning, implementing and training in technology use	\$0.00	\$5,000.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00	010 - ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET
Provide resources for staff to attend conferences, webinars, videoconferences, etc. to learn more about emerging technologies.	\$5,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$7,000.00	\$18,000.00	010 - ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET
TOTAL	\$10,000.00	\$26,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$51,000.00	

Goal: QUALITY TEACHING

Provide quality instruction so that students will meet or exceed annual local and State thresholds in all core curricular subject areas.

Hire, maintain and develop highly qualified staff	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	Total	Funding Source
Provide staff with tools, support, and consistent training to maintain technology skills.	\$5,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$6,500.00	\$17,500.00	010 - ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET

Incorporate technology across the curriculum	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	Total	Funding Source
Incorporate 21st Century Learning using technology	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$300,000.00	010 - ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET
Refine current teacher competencies and standards and implement district-wide	\$1,500.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$2,500.00	010 - ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET
Utilize IU#1 RWAN/KITS programs to incorporate video-conferencing and telecommunications across the curriculum at all levels	\$5,000.00	\$5,250.00	\$5,500.00	\$15,750.00	010 - ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET
Work with curriculum	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$3,000.00	\$8,000.00	010 -

development committees to provide for technology use in the planned course of study.					ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET
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TOTAL	\$114,000.00	\$114,750.00	\$115,000.00	\$343,750.00	
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Goal: Strengthen technology literacy skills K-12

All students shall master essential technology literacy skills to facilitate the use of technology in learning.

Finalize the K-12 Technology Literacy Skills Scope and Sequence.	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	Total	Funding Source
Create a committee to review the plan developed in the last E-Tech plan.	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	010 - ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET
Implement the scope and sequence curriculum.	\$0.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$10,000.00	010 - ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET

TOTAL	\$1,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$11,000.00	
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GRAND TOTAL	\$290,200.00	\$392,490.00	\$459,280.00	\$1,141,970.00	
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Monitoring

The Peters Township School District will monitor the use of technology resources to ensure technology implementation and integration are occurring appropriately. The Director of Technology will be responsible for coordinating the overall implementation of this plan. By collaborating with Central Office administrators responsible for curriculum, professional development, assessment, instruction, budget, and district systems operations, the Director of Technology shall be able to conduct a comprehensive annual review of the educational technology plan.

At least semiannually the Director of Technology will review the Educational Technology Plan and work with administrators, principals, teacher facilitators, building level technology teams and the technology department staff to monitor progress of strategies and activities in the plan. Progress indicators include:

- > Review of PSSA and local standardized testing data on an annual basis
- > Review of data collected by the Act 48 Team, curriculum committees, induction team, business office and central office on an annual basis
- > Review of e-surveys of students, staff, and parents/community--conducted at least twice during this strategic plan period (1/2 way and at conclusion of plan)
- > Classroom observations focused on technology integration using specific technology observation instruments --conducted by Director of Technology and Building Level administrators periodically during each school year
- > Assessment of student proficiency in technology using PA and ISTE NETS* Students

standards--conducted annually prior to students entering ninth grade and through assessments administered in technology-related courses
> Actual outcomes achieved as specified

The Director of Technology will support the building administrators in monitoring the integration of technology in the curriculum. The Director will provide continual professional development and training in using instruments to objectively observe technology use on the classroom. Administrators will be provided with ISTE NETS*A and ISTE NETS*S Standards as a means of setting expectations for staff and students in using technology. By reviewing lesson plans, conducting classroom observations focused on technology, and by having teachers document technology use, principals will have annual data to review and share with the Director to determine progress on an annual basis. These tools will provide a basis for determining the appropriateness of technology used.

In addition, the Director of Technology will collaborate with and support the efforts of the Asst. Superintendent's office for Curriculum and Instruction. Each curriculum that is revised and implemented will be reviewed to insure that teachers are provided with references to technological resources to support curriculum and instruction. Levels of use will be monitored through lesson plan reviews and actual classroom observations each year.

Teacher technology teams will be an important venue for monitoring appropriate technology use at the classroom level. The Director of Technology will meet quarterly with Building Principals and teacher technology teams to identify needs and types of support needed to enhance technology implementation. These teams will also be a source of identifying the types of professional development that are needed at the building level. The indicator of success will be to use the standard as to whether or not the technology being used is more effective than any other instructional means to assist students in meeting learning objectives.

Overall effectiveness of the strategies and activities of this plan will be determined by the impact of technology on the general operations of the district and on student achievement. It is expected that student achievement will be positively impacted and that students will achieve standards for technology information literacy skills as identified and evaluated through local assessments by the end of grade 8. Surveys of staff and students will also provide performance indicators as to the effectiveness and positive/negative impact of technology upon learning and staff operations. The Director of Technology will also meet on annual basis with members of the community/staff Strategic Plan Committee for Technology to review progress towards identified strategies and activities.

Evaluation

The District will evaluate the effectiveness of this Educational Technology Plan by using surveys, assessment data, and annual reviews of the plan. The performance measures for the various goals, strategies and activities in this plan will be identified by the Director of Technology in collaboration with the Strategic Planning Committee and Central Office Administrative staff.

Assessment data will be gathered by:

- * collecting statistics on usage of software and web-based applications by students and staff
- * collecting statistics from applications and web-based programs used by parents as provided by the district
- * reviewing curriculum guides of all subjects to determine the degree that technology has been integrated into planned courses of study
- * administering assessments to students on information literacy skills
- * administering electronic surveys to students, staff, and parents regarding technology usage and attitudes toward technology use

After review of assessment data, the Director of Technology and administrators, technology teams, and the Strategic Planning Committee will determine the following:

- * Goals, strategies and activities that are fully met
- * Goals, strategies and activities that are progressing--identify any adjustments to be made
- * Goals, strategies and activities that are not being met at this time
 - > Identify whether or not to retain them
 - > Identify any adjustments that need to be made
- * Recommendations for the next phase of the plan

As a part of this evaluation process, it is expected that the Director of Technology shall prepare a brief report to the stakeholders including the following:

- * An overview of assessment results
- * Progress made in the various goals, strategies and activities
- * Identification of positive outcomes of the plan
- * Recommendations as to what needs to be accomplished in the plan