

Committee: Technology

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I Existing Conditions

A Interactive collaboration using technology that is integrated into the curriculum

How it works well

PTSD has initiated this process by limited deployment of technology in the classrooms

Some technology training is provided to students at all levels, and equipment is available on a limited basis

Recommended Improvements

The equipment needs to be in good working condition and with updated software.

Incorporate the use of technology in the classroom so that students learn subject matter content

as well as "real world" skills that will help them in their careers.

Expand 21st Century skills to all content areas across all semesters by hands on training and problem solving

B Accessibility to textbooks and supporting material

How it works well

PTSD already has the following:

Electronic writing program (Write to Learn),

Enrichment program (Renzuli)

Independent reading and assessment program (Star Reader and Accelerated Reader)

Databases (POWER Library, Groliers, Nettekrs, United Streaming, CultureGrams, BrainPop)

On line access to textbook supplements, as well as an on line library circulation system

Recommended Improvements

Technology

Increase availability of electronic versions of textbooks and reference material

On-line material, both in interactive and "move at your own pace" format

would facilitate the student being able to learn "at the right moment"

II Immediate Projects

A Area of Improvement

Create a Technology Coach position at the High-School level

Solution

Prepare job qualification requirements; Candidate should have 5 years of experience

Duties of coach to include:

Mentor the faculty in the execution of teaching using the technology and media every day in the classroom

Integrate the use of training workshops for faculty on a consistent and frequent basis

Assist the district with baseline evaluation and review of existing technology curriculum

Research, write, and maintain relevant grants

Research and integrate school and student-based awards for technological achievement

Value to District

This coach is essential in planning for successful integration of technology and media literacy in the classroom.

B Area of Improvement

Increase number of "Classrooms for the Future" (C4F)

Solution

Addition of 7 C4F in the High School (total of 35 in 5 years)

Value to District

Each classroom used for core content instruction is properly outfitted with laptops

Classrooms should also be outfitted with projectors, Internet access and Smart Boards.

C Area of Improvement

Review of Technology/Media/Research curriculum to enhance student proficiency in technology

Solution

Technology

Curriculum review should be based on best practices established by educational authorities such as:

PA Department of Education, International Society for Technology in Education,

Partnership for 21st Century Skills and International Center for Leadership in Education

Technology instruction should be "pushed down" into the Middle School so that 9th grade

computer instruction can expand to include web page development and video production

Develop "mastery of touch" keyboarding skills; this provides a foundation for successful use of a computer.

Establish baseline "exit" metrics for technology proficiency for students finishing 8th grade

Establish a remediation program (to be completed before entering High School)

for those students who do not meet the baseline metrics.

Integration of computers and other media technologies into everyday instruction

Begin in kindergarten and continue through High School.

Value to District

Students need to become more fluent in basic computer skills including:

MS Office, Linux, as well as web page production, network fundamentals, video production,

research, analysis, and presentation skills.

Baseline would identify those students who need help in learning critical technology skills

Remediation program would eliminate the need for students to "catch up" during class time.

III Short Range

A Area of Improvement

Increase number of C4F

Solution

Addition of 14 C4F in the High School (total of 35 in 5 years)

Value to District

Each classroom used for core content instruction is properly outfitted with laptops

B Area of Improvement

Develop focus groups with stakeholders

Solution

Involve parents, teachers, and other pertinent stakeholders

Value to District

Fosters essential communication among stakeholders in establishing continued support of the C4F's.

C Area of Improvement

Provide total wireless coverage in the High School

Solution

Provide total wireless coverage in the High School

Value to District

Would facilitate collaborative teaching efforts

D Area of Improvement

Explore the use of Kindles preloaded with textbook material

Solution

Purchase if applicable and cost effective

Value to District

Updated versions of textbooks would be readily available

The convenience of Kindles fosters a "move at your own pace" format that would facilitate the student's learning

IV Long Range

A Area of Improvement

Increase number of C4F

Solution

Addition of 7 C4F in the High School (total of 35 in 5 years)

Value to District

Each classroom used for core content instruction is properly outfitted with laptops

Once implemented, continue regular review program and refinement

B Area of Improvement

Technology

Create a 2nd Technology Coach position at the High-School level

Solution

Prepare job qualification requirements; Candidate should have 5 years of experience

Value to District

This coach is essential in planning for successful integration of technology and media literacy in the classroom, .
plus the duties described above

C Area of Improvement

Increase number of mobile labs in the Middle School and Elementary Schools

Solution

Create budget line item for expansion of mobile labs

Value to District

Each classroom used for core content instruction is properly outfitted with laptops

D Area of Improvement

Create a 3rd Technology Coach position at the Middle-School and Elementary-School levels

Solution

Prepare job qualification requirements; Candidate should have 5 years of experience

Value to District

This coach is essential in planning for successful integration of technology and media literacy in the classroom,
plus the duties described above

E Area of Improvement

Expansion of High-Tech Classrooms into McMurray Elementary

