



Weymouth Public Schools

Technology Plan

SY2010-2011

SY 2011-2012

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District Vision for Technology Use:

Our students' world is a world of new and emerging technologies. To best prepare our students for their future, it is imperative that we take time to effectively integrate technology into the daily classroom environment. This effort calls for effective maintenance and helpdesk systems, flexible and expandable infrastructure, efficient classroom management applications, dynamic classroom multimedia presentation techniques, and effective professional development. These elements provide the basis for the outline of the Weymouth Public School's technology plan, which is intended to promote technology as an essential component to every child's learning.

This technology plan is envisioned to guide the district for the next two years.

District Goals for Technology Use:

1. Infrastructure for Connectivity

District will phase out old and inadequate hardware and establish a technology replacement cycle for all equipment based on local, capital, ERATE, and grants to ensure computers, software and connectivity will function 100% of the time.

2. Accessibility of Technology

District will continue to increase student access to technology learning resources and improve their mastery of the curriculum as measured by the Massachusetts Standards and other local assessment methods. Students and teachers will be both confident and comfortable using technology to enhance the classroom learning experience.

3. Professional Development

District will continue to develop a structured professional development program to ensure that teachers will acquire the confidence and skill to use technology for classroom management and instruction.

4. Technology and Curriculum Integration

District will continue to develop and align local curriculum benchmarks to the Massachusetts recommended Instructional Technology Standards. Students will be both confident and comfortable using technology to enhance the classroom learning experience.

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6. Budget

The Weymouth Public Schools will fund technology initiatives by utilizing monies that are part of the federal stimulus funding for education as well as local operating budgets, capital, e-rate, and grants.

In the 21st century, understanding and using technology will be an integral part of virtually every aspect of daily life. It is the school system's responsibility to prepare students for this future. The Weymouth Public Schools is committed to engaging students in a stimulating academic environment that is student-centered, focuses on inquiry-based learning and provides access to the tools and technologies needed for success.

Students must be engaged in meaningful activities that incorporate new technologies to enhance communication, refine critical thinking skills and foster global awareness. In a technology-rich, learner-centered classroom, the teacher serves as a mentor, facilitator of instruction, and coach. Every teacher must be knowledgeable and skilled in the use of diverse technologies that support student learning and provide a platform for students to share their work beyond the walls of the classroom.

To that end, our schools must be equipped to provide both access to information and the tools necessary to utilize that access. In addition, teachers and students must be immersed in high-quality learning experiences that will improve their ability to navigate a world that is becoming increasingly dependent upon technology.

Although rapid changes in available technologies make long term projections a challenge, we believe that physical learning environments should include:

- Wireless access to the Internet as well as access to a rich library of instructional materials.
- Appropriate display and presentation equipment to facilitate instruction.
- Laptops, net books, video conferencing and other devices that will provide students with the means to communicate, create, produce and publish in a web-based environment.
- Access to and instruction in the use of Web 2.0 tools that promote collaboration, problem-solving, and awareness of cultural diversity.

To facilitate the optimal use of these technologies, our educational programs should include:

- On-going and sustainable professional development for all staff with a focus on teaching approaches designed to foster 21st century skills.
- Integration of technology skills as a key component of instructional design for students.
- A requirement to demonstrate mastery of the technology skills identified by the International Society for Technology in Education for both staff and students.

Utilizing operating budget, grant, and any anticipated monies that are part of the federal stimulus funding for education, the district proposes the following:

- Install hardware at our eight primary schools to provide wireless access.
- Install interactive projectors in all second to fourth grade classrooms.
- Acquire eight netbook carts to pilot use in all K-4 and 5-8 buildings.
- Acquire netbooks and ipads to be distributed out of the WHS Library.
- Refresh instructor computers in grades 5-12.
- Refresh network switching hardware.
- Standardize on an interactive whiteboard application for content development and delivery.
- Provide time for building staff to collaborate, design and share best practices in the use of newer technologies.
- Continue building-based support, through fundraising, for equipment such as interactive whiteboards, document cameras, video cameras and other tools that support and enhance student learning.
- Provide a virtualized environment for our students and teachers, allowing any wireless connected device to participate in a “standard” desktop environment. This environment will allow consistent instruction to take place no matter what application, platform or device is being used.

At this end of this initiative, the Weymouth Public Schools will assess each technology initiative and determine which initiative impacts student learning the most. Moving forward, as additional funding becomes available, we will use this data to resources provide technology-rich learning experiences for all of our students.

EXPECTED TECHNOLOGY OUTCOMES

Expected student outcomes as a result of technology use:

- Weymouth Schools technology program ensure our students to be both confident and comfortable using technology to enhance the classroom learning experience.
- Increased student access to technology learning resources will improve their mastery of Massachusetts Standards as measured by STAR and other local assessments methods. Students will be proficient in essential computer skills and applications.
- Students will increase their use of the Internet for research purposes.
- Proficient information literacy skills will allow students safe and relevant use of technological learning resources.
- Selected students will provide basic computer trouble-shooting and tech support for computers at school.

Expected staff outcomes as a result of technology use:

- Upon completion of a structured training program our staff will have acquired the confidence and skill to use technology for classroom management, instruction, and personal use.
- Teachers will triple their use of technological learning resources to organize, teach and assess student learning in Massachusetts Technology Standards.

Expected technology outcomes: infrastructure, hardware, tech support and software:

Infrastructure:

- Continue to provide essential services at within an appropriate time frame to all users of the Weymouth Public Schools.

Hardware:

- The classroom student to computer ratio will continue to improve.

Expected monitoring and assessment outcomes:

- Annual increase in teacher technology proficiencies.
- Annual increase in teacher use of technology to enhance curriculum.
- Students' progress in mastering the Massachusetts Technology Standards in the core curriculum.
- Students' progress in acquiring information literacy skills.
- Annual maintenance and infrastructure upgrade activities are reviewed and adjustments made as indicated.

Evaluation process to monitor progress:

	Hardware	Software	Infrastructure	Tech Support
Monitor and Evaluation	Annual review of computer to student ratios, replacement cycle, needs assessment of hardware.	Annual review of types, applicability to curriculum, alignment to standards and compatibility to hardware and professional development for teachers and staff.	Annual review of network security, reliability, and performance	Annual review of technical support/helpdesk, security, network & software maintenance and potential upgrade paths if necessary.
Person Responsible	Director of Technology & Superintendent	Director of Technology, Asst. Superintendent of Curriculum , Principals K-12, Technology Integration Specialists	Director of Technology & Superintendent	Technology Committee, Director of Technology, Superintendent