



**DATE:** February 9, 2026

**TITLE:** Technology Services

**TYPE:** Information

**PRESENTER:** Amy Thuesen, Director of Technology

**BACKGROUND:**

Technology Services designs, implements, and supports the technology infrastructure and resources in this district. This includes network and communications, hardware and software, and technology training and integration.

**Technology Advisory Team**

- This month, the Technology Advisory Team reviewed the draft of an updated Acceptable Use Policy 524. This draft was comprised of updates made in the most recent MSBA model policy as well as updates recommended by the Technology Advisory Team through their work during Fall 2025. This draft will now be moved to the Superintendent for review. The goal is for the School Board to approve an updated Policy 524 in the spring/summer.
- The remainder of this month's meeting focused on a discussion of the upcoming Microsoft 365 Tenant Audit, a Cybersecurity update, and a discussion and feedback gathering on technology barriers and workable solutions.

**Support and resources to ensure a safe and welcoming learning environment**

- The Systems and Network Administrators for the district have spent concentrated time this past month working with our Cybersecurity partners at Southwest Services Cooperative. The focus of this work has been on:
  - Reviewing and adjusting organizational groups in preparation for our move to a role-based access system.
  - Addressing tasks determined by Part I of our annual Cyber Review.
  - Walking through Part II of our annual Cyber Review.
  - Beginning stage plans for our annual Cybersecurity Table Exercise, the first of which will be held in the fall of 2026.
- Each month the Technology Department works with Infosec IQ to assess and train district staff on digital safety behavior.
  - Because human error is the #1 cause of cyber-attacks, the district sends phishing simulations emails each month to assess this risk level among district staff. During the last 60 days, 78 unique district staff members were phished – meaning they received a simulated phishing email and clicked on a risky link within that email. Of that group, 4 district staff members both clicked AND entered sensitive data. Because these were phishing tests, no real data was compromised. However, it tells us that there is a very real risk of APS staff members phished in real scenarios.

### **District-wide MTSS & Packer Profile**

- Because of the 2022 Student Data Privacy act, all applications that gain access to student data must be reviewed annually and a list of those applications shared with families within the first 30 days of the start of school. This timeline can be challenging when it comes to high need Special Education tools that are required for accommodations. This past month, we collaborate with the Special Education Department to develop a unique form that allows for approval of needed apps outside of that annual timeline.

### **Excellence in Resource Management**

- The eRate 2026 application has been posted it includes the following hardware projects to be completed in 26-27:
  - Replacement of the two wireless access controllers
  - Upgrading 200 wireless access points (with another 200 to be updated in eRate 27). This will bring our district to full Wifi 6 compatibility.
  - Upgrading outdoor wireless access points at Wescott Field.
  - Maintaining our regular replacement cycle of district and building core switches.
- We have been notified by our laptop vendor that prices of laptops will be rising by \$200-\$300 dollars at the end of February due to the shortage in RAM. This is something we have been expecting and planning for and accelerating our need to purchase replacement devices for staff.