

Technology Safety and Security Initiatives

Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) Rollout

- **Goal:** Require MFA for all employees by December 31st, 2025.
- **Current Status:** Fully deployed across all staff accounts; significantly strengthened district cybersecurity and preventing unauthorized access.
- **Next Steps:** Continue to adjust configuration to enhance the end user experience while also improving security levels.

Managed Detection & Response (MDR) & Endpoint Management

- **Partnership:** Arctic Wolf (24/7 Security Operations Center (SOC) monitoring, rapid incident response) and Aurora Endpoint Management (automated actions, advanced threat protection).
- **Impact:** Actively protecting district systems and devices.

Formalized Information Security Program

- **Purpose:** Establish a comprehensive, formalized information security program.
- **Status:** Completed initial assessment and established foundational security standards aligned with industry frameworks (CIS Critical Controls) for long-term compliance and maturity.

Future Considerations/Goals

- Active Risk Management
- Continual Internal Audit/Validation

Infrastructure & Equipment Modernization

Network Overhaul

- **Status:** Upgraded wireless density, inter-building connections, and internet uplink.
- **Service Model:** Transitioned to a managed network service for increased uptime and performance, backed by proactive monitoring and expert engineering.

Phone System Replacement

- **Status:** Implemented a modern, virtualized VoIP system.
- **Features:** Softphones, text messaging capabilities, and improved reliability across the district.

Server Hosting Transition

- **Strategy:** Migrated hosting to ECMECC to transition from hybrid/on-site hosting to a fully hosted solution.
- **Financial Impact:** Reduced annual hosting costs from \$120k–\$150k down to \$32k.
- **Benefits:** Fixed pricing model, eliminates need for costly on-site equipment, reduces internal support needs, and includes robust data backup/recovery.

Print & Copy Management

- **Status:** Inventoried district printing fleet to remove underutilized devices and created a refresh plan.
- **Next Steps:** Evaluating print center managed service options for better tracking, management, and cost reductions.

Effective & Efficient Technology Operations

System Consolidation

- **Strategy:** Streamlining software tools by unifying LMS platforms and merging helpdesk/request tools into one system.
- **Efficiency:** Reducing redundant vendor contracts.

Budget Optimization

- **Strategy:** Restructured middle school student device models to lower total device counts.
- **Financial Model:** Adopting as-a-service options for predictable budgeting and actively pursuing grant funding to support technology investments.

AI Evaluation & Adoption

- Standardized on Google Gemini as the district's generative AI platform for staff.
- Teaching staff are actively testing to develop instructional and operational use cases.
- District leadership is piloting advanced features to evaluate broader applications and guide future adoption.

Operations & Personnel

- **Staff Redundancy & Cross-Training:** Working to formalize a cross-training plan to reduce reliance on specific individuals, ensuring service continuity.
- **Knowledge Management:** Develop a centralized "source of truth" documentation system for all services, licenses, and contracts to improve budget forecasting and troubleshooting.