



DATE: October 12, 2026

TITLE: Technology Services

TYPE: Information

PRESENTER: Amy Thuesen, Director of Technology

BACKGROUND:

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

Technology Advisory Team

- At this month's Technology Advisory Team meeting, members attended the public/community AI session offered by Rebecca Bultsma. The team's next meeting is Monday, December 7.

Digital Futures Team

- Our first Digital Futures Team meeting of the year was held on Wednesday, September 23. Topics included:
 - Discussion of AI in education locally, state-wide, and nationally.
 - The need to balance digital work with paper based learning and human expertise
 - Brainstorming on needed technology PD for staff
 - Preview of the Oct 5 AI event with Rebecca Bultsma
 - Testing out Copilot Teaching Tools features.
- Future discussion topics requested by team: Disclosure practices for AI use, reviewing APS standard student/staff/classroom tech and exploring edtech choices in other districts, more Copilot for teaching info.

Support and resources to ensure a safe and welcoming learning environment

- Tech Services continued district cybersecurity work by strengthening remote-access security through Microsoft 365 authentication and multi-factor authentication for off-site vendors who access district systems.
- Together with the district Security Team, we are continuing work on the transition to our new emergency alert system, Raptor. Next steps include Infinite Campus integration, emergency management staff training, and planning for a January all-staff launch.
- A focus for Tech Services this fall is improving proactive support by giving staff clear information and easy steps that help prevent significant technology disruptions. Current projects include:
 - Substitute teacher technology one-pagers have been provided to building secretaries for daily substitute folders.

- By the end of October, The “Fix My Device” website will be linked for staff and students and available on kiosks in the Ellis and AHS Media Centers.
- Improved Knowledge Base in our ticketing system.

Districtwide MTSS & Packer Profile

- We continue to refine student access systems and instructional technology supports so students can more reliably reach the digital tools they need for learning. This includes:
 - Providing professional development on artificial intelligence and Microsoft 365 accessibility features.
 - Fine-tuning ClassLink LaunchPad.
 - Ed Tech Specialist work with instructional coaches and teachers.
- Artificial intelligence has been a major focus for staff professional development this past month. Rebecca Bultsma, an AI expert, spent October 5 at APS and shared her knowledge with students, staff, and community members. Tech Services also delivered Microsoft Copilot-specific professional development to AHS staff on September 28.

Excellence in Resource Management

- A deployment plan has been developed for updated network infrastructure purchased with FY26 eRate funds. If equipment arrives on schedule, the plan is:
 - October: Southgate and Woodson network cores
 - Winter Break: Deploy new wireless controllers in a high availability pair
 - Spring Break/Summer: 200 new wireless access points, mostly at AHS, IJH, Neveln, Woodson
 - Summer: District network core