

Executive Summary

Beeville Independent School District Technology Plan 2008-2011

Technology is an integral part of any educational program at all grade levels in American public schools. Former Secretary of Commerce, Donald Evans stated, “Rapid advancements in the years ahead can enable new learning environments using simulations, visualizations, immersive environments, game playing, intelligent tutors and avatars, networks of learners, reusable building blocks of content and more. Successful development and deployment of these technologies in education and training could have a profound effect on American competitiveness and our standard of living.” The *Partnership for 21st Century Skills*, an organization representing efforts of thirty-five major technology companies, is considered one of the major national advocacy organizations focused on infusing 21st century skills into education. They list four major competency areas for students: 1) core subjects and 21st century themes, 2) learning and innovation skills, 3) information, media, and technology skills, and 4) life and career skills.[<http://www.21stcenturyskills.org>] Beeville ISD administrators understand and are committed to the importance of technology in all district schools.

To use technology effectively, it is necessary to create plans that reflect trends and current research on student learning and technology usage. This plan is designed to reflect the trends set forth in the *National Education Technology Plan: Visions 2020* (<http://www.ed.gov>), the *Texas Long Range Plan for Technology* (<http://www.tea.state.tx.us/technology/lrpt>), and the *No Child Left Behind* legislation. Using these resources and input from the Technology Committee and other staff members, Beeville ISD has developed a three-year plan. The purpose of this plan is to provide direction and guidance to teachers, administrators, and Board members as they consider the roles of technology in Beeville ISD.

Major initiatives addressed in this plan include:

- Expand the integration of technology into classrooms through the purchase of additional resources.
- Increase parental involvement through specific technology initiatives.
- Provide research-based professional development for all district personnel, with an emphasis on technology integration.
- Implement administrative systems that will ensure that teachers and administrators have effective tools for data-driven decision making.
- Improve the technology infrastructure for the district.

While many of the goals, objectives, and strategies are good and desirable, the Technology Committee and staff recognize that the district must approve the resources for each objective within the budget process. One of the goals of the district is to remain fiscally sound. Since Beeville ISD is declining in enrollment, the result is loss of revenue. Therefore, some of the objectives will have to be reviewed and modified on an annual basis.

The point of contact for this plan is Mr. Lawrence Garcia, Director of Technology, Beeville Independent School District.

Needs Assessment

The Beeville ISD Technology Committee meets throughout the year to represent the various schools in the district. These representatives provide input to the Director of Technology and Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, relating to the needs of individual campuses/departments. In addition, the district hired a consultant to come and administer a short survey to building administrators and additional staff. Each representative was interviewed and results were summarized for the district. The results of the survey targeted major equipment, instructional and professional development needs for the district, by campus. In addition, the staff analyzed the results of the STaR Chart to determine professional and instructional needs. The Director of Technology completed a study of the infrastructure needs in cooperation with vendors and found specific recommendations to update the system.

- Current Conditions

Infrastructure: Beeville ISD has dedicated funds to the development of a robust computer infrastructure to enable students and staff to use technology.

WAN: The WAN uses AT&T leased fiber lines to provide a giga-bit pathway for all communication (voice, data, and video). Cisco provides the actual WAN hardware housed in the district technology office. (Diagrams are available in the Appendix) A Cisco Pix Firewall is used to filter Internet access.

LANs: Each building has a self-contained LAN using Cat 5/6 cabling.

Phone System: The phone system is very antiquated (no features such as voice mail or caller id) and needs updating to voice over IP.

Computer Access: Each teacher and administrator has a lap top computer, networked to the District administrative system. Students have access to computers that are networked and have access to the internet at a ratio of 1:3. The libraries have computers with access to the internet and library automation systems.

Software: All staff and students have access to the Microsoft Office suite. In addition, the following packages are used Study Island, TRIAND, Winschool, NovaNet, Lexia, Symphony Math, Accelerated Reader, and others.

Peripherals: White Boards, Document Cameras, Projectors, and Videoconferencing equipment is available to staff.

Web Sites: each school has a web site, as does the administration building.

- Findings from this process provided the following data:

- Upgrade the infrastructure for the district WAN.
- Update and add equipment at each campus in the district.
- Provide more professional development activities that target integrating technology into classroom instruction.
- Modify existing facilities to meet short and long term commitments to technology.
- Improve the HR software to include additional functions.

Mission

Beeville ISD is committed to providing a positive school climate where all students can successfully reach their maximum potential. All students will have the opportunity to read, write, compute, problem solve, think critically, apply technology and communicate across all subject areas. Realizing that all children can learn and become good citizens, the teachers and administration, and support personnel of the Beeville Independent School District, in cooperation with parents and the community, will focus their resources on providing a quality classroom learning experience.

Parameters

Beeville Independent School District will :

- comply with the state standards for technology use, as described in the Texas Long-Range Plan for Technology (TLPT), E-Rate Requirements (ER), and the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB).
- provide a safe and secure virtual environment for students and all district personnel, including the Children’s Internet protection Act (CIPA) by
 - enforcing the Acceptable Use Policies for children and adult users of Internet-accessible technologies in Beeville ISD.
 - enforcing appropriate security practices to minimize and prevent hacking and other destructive activities.
 - maintaining appropriate filtering technologies.
- integrate technology-based activities that support student learning and improve academic achievement.
- implement systemic strategies to ensure that all students demonstrate proficiency in the use of technology in all subjects as appropriate, with special emphasis on activities in the core subject areas.
- provide research-based professional development activities for teachers, principals, administrators, and school library media personnel.
- inventory, review, and redeploy technology resources to ensure appropriate access for teachers and students, based on instructional and administrative requirements.
- design and implement ongoing infrastructure improvements to ensure that all students and teachers have appropriate and sufficient access to technology at all times.
- communicate technology initiatives and programs to parents and other community members.
- involve parents and community members in planning and technology activities, when appropriate.
- coordinate technology initiatives with all departments.
- participate with other internal and external agencies engaged in supporting the use of technology in the schools and community, including educational service centers, community-based organizations, faith-based organizations, and governmental entities, in support of ongoing basic literacy and information literacy activities for students and adults.
- review and revise the technology plan and supporting documents (including district and campus STaR charts) using both informal and formal accountability measures to determine the effectiveness of other activities described in this plan.

Goals, Objectives, and Strategies

Goal 1: Technology will be deployed and used effectively by teachers and other District staff members to support student academic achievement.

Objective 1.1: 100% of students in all tested grades will meet the state and federal NCLB AYP standards on the TAKS test or objectives of the student's IEP.

- Provide teachers and librarians with access to resources for developing and implementing technology-based lessons aligned to TEKS.
- Integrate technology into classroom activities that support student learning and improve academic achievement.
- Write a plan to use technology (computer-based programs, internet resources, TRIAND, etc.) to improve achievement in targeted areas.
- Increase the use of technology in all subjects/grade levels. (Technology Application TEKS)[Improve the current student ratio of 1:3, with a long-range goal of 1-1. Maintain the current teacher ratio of 1:1]
- Continue the evolution of libraries to media learning centers.
- Expand the use of videoconferencing.
- Purchase additional technologies to improve instructional activities. (Document cameras, projectors, instant response systems, videoconferencing equipment) [Based on input from Campus Improvement plans]
- Review policies and administrative guidelines to ensure safety of students, staff, and parents, including the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), including Acceptable Use Policy, Internet filters, and network security.
- Increase the use of technology to enhance parental involvement with the schools.
- Implement parental/community member programs using technology.
- Increase efforts for alternative funding sources to purchase additional technologies for targeted areas.
- Continue to support computer-based learning through NovaNet and other programs to allow individualized learning opportunities within the District.
- Identify "Approved" instructional sites for students needing work beyond the scope of the District program.

Objective 1.2: 100% of the campuses will identify and integrate curricula, teaching strategies, and technologies that integrate technology into classrooms.

- Use a research-based model for education in Beeville ISD, using TEA information, U.S. Department of Education information, Partnership for 21st Century Skills, and other appropriate sources.
- Continue to implement technology mini-grant programs for teachers, with an emphasis on elements of research.
- Encourage all teachers to visit web sites sponsored by their professional organizations during each school year for the latest research in that discipline. (National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, International Reading Association, National Council of Science Teachers, etc.)
- Use District and Campus reports from TAKS, combined with data from TRIAND, to meet individual student needs for academic achievement.

Objective 1.3: Evaluate the progress of technology integration into classrooms.

- Compare the inventories of equipment over a three-year period.
- Compare the STaR Chart over a three-year period.
- Review end-of-year portfolio assessments at each grade level.

Objective 1.4: Add one new parent/community project per year.

- Develop specific action plans for the following activities to be conducted over the three-year period of this plan:
 - Conduct Parent/Community Learning Activities such as Internet classes, How to Assist Children With School Work, Internet Resources to Assist Students
 - Increase the communication with parents via school web sites by including study hints, homework expectations, and grading and attendance policies
 - Demonstrate integrated technology lessons at scheduled parental meetings at each campus.
- Incorporate action plans into the Campus Improvement Plans submitted to the District Office.

Goal 2: Teachers and other staff members will receive effective support and professional development activities to ensure the optimal integrating of technology in student learning activities.

Objective 2.1: 100% of the instructional staff will master SBEC technology skills so that they might integrate technology into their classrooms.

- Write a professional development sequence that will emphasize the modeling of integrating technology into the content areas. (Content should be based on SBEC Standards, in conjunction with the International Society of Technology in Education Standards for Teachers and Administrators.)
- Provide professional development activities that emphasize active student involvement and project-based learning.
- Allocate 30% of the Technology Allotment to professional development.
- Model the integration of technology into professional development sessions, when appropriate.
- Evaluate the progress of instructional staff using the STaR Chart on an annual basis.
- Encourage participation in
 - state and regional technology professional development opportunities.
 - the Master Technology Teacher program.
 - online and other distance learning opportunities (videoconferences).
- 100% of the teachers will receive training in distance learning capabilities.
- Conduct a minimum of one professional development activity per year, using District videoconferencing equipment.

Objective 2.2: Provide professional development activities to 100% of District staff, based on job requirements.

- Train all staff members to use the technology appropriate to job designation.
- Coordinate training with job descriptions and performance expectations.

Objective 2.3: Ensure optimal integration of technology for 100% of the staff.

- Develop an objective strategy for adding and contracting services to support the efforts of instructional staff. (i.e. add technical staff to maintain an agreed ratio of support to users.
- Hire an instructional technologist to assist classroom teachers with the integration of technology.
- Meet with representatives from Regional Service Centers, other school districts, colleges and universities, and community members and businesses to share ideas and resources.

Goal 3: Appropriate administrative systems will be implemented to ensure that teachers and administrators at all levels have effective tools for data-driven decision-making and management actions.

Objective 3.1: 100% of schools will use technology as a tool to access and maintain student records.

- 100% of the schools will continue to use an on-line grade book to maintain student grades and generate reports for student, parent, and teacher use.
- Upgrade WinSchool to a centralized, server-based product.
- Provide parental access to WinSchool grades and attendance via the Internet.
- 100% of the campuses will analyze data using TRIAND to set instructional goals and make decisions regarding the improvement of student achievement.

Objective 3.2: 100% of the staff will use electronic productivity tools.

- Use and maintain Library automation systems on all campuses.
- Improve the personnel software to include substitute forms, time sheets, automated applications, and other needed functions.
- Integrate the collection of student information from parents. (Beginning of year information completed once for all children)
- Continue to maintain established software such as point of sale and other such programs.

Goal 4: Technology infrastructure will be continuously improved to support instructional and administrative activities.

Objective 4.1 100% of the District WAN structure will be improved to provide for instructional and administrative needs.

- Update the network infrastructure to include a voice over IP phone system.
- Maintain the switched gigabit WAN between the LANs on each site.
- Update the District disaster recovery plan to ensure that critical applications and data can be recovered in a timely manner.

Objective 4.2: 100% Internet connectivity will be maintained from every location in the District.

- Provide direct user internet access for every networked computer at each campus.
- Improve each school and central office departments' web presence.

Objective 4.3: 100% of the campuses will improve the current user to computer ratio.

- Maintain the current student to computer ratio of 1:3 with a student lab ratio of 1:1. Each of the professional staff will be assigned a notebook computer.
- Continue to add computers to improve the student to computer ratio.
- Seek alternative funding to improve the student/computer ratio over the next three years.

Objective 4.4: 100% of the administrative staff will work together to ensure efficient integration of technology.

- Convene a committee with representatives from Curriculum and Instruction, technology, Facilities, and Finance to plan for the next year's technology additions.
- Create a short (1 year) and long-term (3-5 year) plan for facility modifications and upgrades (wiring, air conditioning, furniture, etc.)

Objective 4.5: Annually update the Beeville ISD Technology plan to comply with E-Rate, NCLB, and the TLRPT.