

Comprehensive Needs Assessment – Technology

During the 2014-2015 school year, we implemented Google Apps for Education (GAFE) district wide. GAFE is a FREE suite of secure tools that include cloud based storage, email, and unified messaging to students from home. It also has built in web applications that offers word processing, presentations, and spreadsheets.

Aledo ISD employs one Instructional Technology Specialist to facilitate the effective use of educational technology district wide, and to provide ongoing staff development for technology integration. Aledo ISD contracts with Dallas County Schools to provide a Director of Technology, a Systems Administrator, a Network Security Engineer, and four Help Desk Technicians to manage and maintain technology services across the district.

Every classroom has a teacher presentation system that includes a laptop, projector, document camera and interactive board. In addition, computer labs and/or mobile labs are available at each campus consisting of thin clients allowing old equipment to be reintroduced into the classroom.

Various campuses were awarded iPads, charging stations, STEAM Studio and Google Chromebooks from Aledo Education Foundation for instructional purposes. Nineteen out of the forty-one grants were technology related.

During the 2014-2015 school year and the summer of 2015, teachers had opportunities to attend trainings for Success Maker, CTE Training for Career and Technology Education Teachers, Setting up Google Drive, Bookshare, Innovative Connected Educators Academy, SAMR Model, Above and Beyond with Google Extensions, Google Drive for Beginners, Blasting into the Blogosphere, Let's Chat #aLEADo! Twitter Chat, MS Office for Office Personnel, Digital Tools for Coaches, PBL Academy, Going Google Part 1 and Part 2, An App a Day Keeps the Kids Engaged, iRead, iWrite, iCreate Digital Storytelling, Lecture Apocalypse, Digital Leadership, STEAM Up Your Classroom, BYOD Using Assistive Tech in the Classroom, Flip My Room, Google Classroom, Innovative Teaching Strategies for Math, Student Centered e-Portfolios, Aurasma, Teaching Wizard, Tweet Your Story #aLEADo, 3-2-1 iPads are Fun, Managing Your Classroom in the Cellphone Era, Differentiating with Google Classroom, and Online Resources Simplified.

High school students can receive dual credit through Weatherford College via distance learning classes at Aledo High School. In 2014-2015, the following courses were offered: Government 2305 (85 students), Economics 2301 (93 students), English 1301 (143 students), and English 1302 (128 students), Psychology 2301 (50 students), Speech 1311 (43 students).

The district continues to work towards the goals set forth by the 2014-2017 Technology Plan.

TEA did not require the STaRChart during 2014-2015 but recommended the Clarity BrightBytes Technology Survey. Clarity uses the "CASE" (Classroom Access Skills Environment) Study to measure the use and access of technology at home and school. The survey was taken by all district teachers and all 3-12 grade students. The district's overall Technology and Learning score was 1054. Based on the survey, the highest ranking category was "Access" of which 99% of teachers have access to internet at home and 96% of students have internet access at home. The weakest area for teachers, according to the survey data, was "Classroom" of which teachers' use of the 4 C's (Communication, Collaboration, Critical Thinking and Creativity) was the lowest component. The weakest area for students within the "Classroom" was Digital Citizenship.

Strengths:

- Teacher access to presentation system (laptop, projector, document camera, and interactive board)
- Aledo ISD Technology / Security Center
- Help Desk for Technology Work Orders
- School Fusion has provided a mainstream website across the district and all campuses
- Centralization of printers at most campuses
- Virtualization of desktops and servers
- Aledo ISD app is updated regularly and provides stakeholders with an instant communication system
- Parent Link system is utilized for administrators to send mass messages to parents via text, voicemail, and/or email
- Parent Link app for administrators to access student and parent info instantly
- Summer professional development provides staff with opportunities to receive training to integrate instructional technology
- Instructional technology specialist provides training opportunities and support
- Help desk technicians are campus-based which has minimized the delay in response time for technical issues
- PDAS app available for administrators to use for teacher appraisals and Dana Center walk-throughs
- Google Apps for Education adoption district-wide with an increase in Google Classroom implementation
- Growth of the Career Technical Education department is growing; thus, increasing the number of technology courses students can take
- Aledo Education Foundation supporting educational technology through large numbers of classroom grants
- Staff laptop replacement
- Implemented “Campus Teacher Techs” to provide immediate point of contact for technology issues with the teacher presentation system
- Parenting University provided parents with an opportunity to learn tips for raising digital natives

Needs:

- Continuation of technology staff development
- Curriculum guides and resources for educational technology integration aligned with Technology Application TEKS (K-12)
- Distance learning alternatives to allow students to participate in virtual environments and/or simulations
- Additional access points to strengthen Wi-Fi access at all campuses
- Wi-Fi access to all stakeholders (students, teachers, staff, and parents) at all campuses
- Online baseline technology assessment for teachers and staff
- Online advanced technology assessment for teachers and staff
- Set a minimum number of mandatory instructional technology trainings
- Raise minimum teacher webpage requirements (requirements beyond profile information and schedule)
- Access to training for parents to learn and access School Fusion and parent portal options
- Additional technology and instructional technology staff
- Student device refresh/replace
- Network refresh/replace
- Wireless printing capabilities
- District Server infrastructure refresh/replace
- Teacher presentation refresh (SMARTboard/projector/document camera)
- Physical security refresh (access control and security cameras)
- Voice over IP phone system
- Wired infrastructure refresh/replace

- Two-way communication between classrooms

In-Progress

- Continuation of district, campus, and teacher website improvement through professional development as well as guidance and maintenance from campus and district webmasters
- Technology integration curriculum development beginning with the elementary English/Language Arts Year At Glance (YAG)