



DATE: April 13, 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 the district. This includes network and communications, hardware and software, and technology training and integration.

Technology Advisory Team

- This group will meet for its final meeting this spring.

Support and resources to ensure a safe and welcoming learning environment

- This past month, we have had a few instances of compromised district accounts. The good news is that our security systems have detected these events, and we've been able to remediate them quickly and efficiently. The concerning news is that educational institutions are increasingly high-value targets for bad actors. Through our security partnerships, we continue to find ways to improve our security posture—and it's something we will need to keep improving.
- Two big projects in this area are still underway:
 - Identity automation— Info and Tech Services are working together to deploy a new tool that better manages Microsoft account identities and rostering for some of our online learning tools. The impacts of this will mainly be seen in the accuracy of Microsoft profile information and our ability to create, change, and delete district accounts in a timely manner.
 - Microsoft optimization— This project is a work in progress and will be a multi-year endeavor. By the start of 2026, we expect to complete Microsoft Teams management updates and implement dynamic groups made possible by our work to improve identity automation. A large part of this project is a behind-the-scenes change in how we manage identities—moving to more cloud-based management.

Districtwide MTSS & Packer Profile

- The district focus on Artificial Intelligence (AI) guidance and strategy is really starting to gain speed.
 - The School Board is playing a large part in that with its review and approval of a brand new board policy around AI. Luckily, work completed in the spring of 2025 puts us in a very good position for implementing this policy and we were already doing much of the work that this policy calls for.
 - The new AI board policy recommends convening an AI Committee that oversees and evaluates the district's use of AI. A new team of instructional staff will be established this spring to address the needs of this committee as well as the future needs of the district as we encounter new and updated technologies.
 - The Teaching and Learning department is leading the charge in developing high-quality professional development in Artificial Intelligence during the 2026/27 school year.
 - In last month's report, I mentioned AHS Language Arts 9 teacher Autumn Hamburg and her work with students on a project that included guided use of AI. That unit is now complete, and data gathered during pre- and post-surveys of students shows some important learnings. There was a clear shift in AI perception from 'AI does the work' to 'AI helps me think'. Some direct student quotes from the post-survey:
 - *"Even if I use AI, I still make the final choices about my words and ideas."*
 - *"If I use AI too much, my writing feels less like it's really mine."*
 - *"AI can help me get started without taking over my whole paper."*

Excellence in Resource Management

- This past month saw the completion of the district's copier refresh and upgrade.
- This is the time of year when we start to plan laptop collection and summer device reset procedures.
 - All grade 5–12 laptops will be collected from students and refreshed for the new 2026–27 school year.
 - Staff with laptops no longer need to turn their laptops in each summer for refresh. Technology Services made some management changes in the last two years that allow for "only as needed" device refresh.
 - We will be refreshing all staff desktops this summer, as those are often shared devices. About 15 of those devices will also be replaced as part of the regular device refresh cycle.
 - The AHS Computer Science Lab will be replaced with new devices as part of our regular refresh cycle, and all other computer lab devices will be refreshed for the new year.