

Petersburg School District

Technology Department Board Report – October 2025

“Each click, tap, and swipe — make it count. Use technology to build a better world.”

As we enter this part of the school year, this report reflects the current status of the District technology systems and continued efforts to support teaching/learning, student safety, and intentional use of technology across the district.

Special Thanks

A heartfelt thank you to Petersburg School District leadership and our community partners Share Coalition, **WAVE**, **Petersburg Police Department**, **Petersburg Medical Center**, & **PiE** (Partners in Education)* for supporting the Katie Greer digital safety event.

Infrastructure & Systems Updates

- **SmartBoard AM60 Rollouts:** Teachers continue to adapt to the new Smart Modules (AM60s) installed on legacy boards, now featuring SmartMirror for wireless connections.
- **District-Wide Switch Upgrade:** The project is progressing well. A few more components are pending delivery; configuration/ installation is being planned. The majority of the cost is offset by Category 2 E-rate funding.
- **Printer Cost Management:** Following an overage last year, the department introduced monthly Kyocera usage updates and contract reminders through signage. Staff are more aware of shared print responsibility.
- **Rooms Communication Platform:**
 - **Launch & Training:** Launched district-wide in August/September with help guides, video walkthroughs, and drop-in support sessions.
 - **Data Cleanup:** Collaboration with office staff continues to clean up PowerSchool data for parents and guardians.
 - **Parent Engagement:** The Petersburg App will eventually be used as the district's primary messaging hub for teacher/guardian communication. Currently, we have a mixed communications system including RingCentral text messaging and email. In the long term, we aim to transition communication to the Petersburg App.

Devices & Student Access

- **Amplify Tutoring Support** (Grades 2 and 5): These virtual coaching sessions require technical support—especially for 2nd grade. We are working closely with teachers to ensure access and troubleshoot connectivity issues.
- (Chromebook/Backpack/Charger) are available to families in grades 6–8 (\$25 insurance).

Cybersecurity & Safety

- **CISA Cyber Hygiene Scans:** Ongoing web application and vulnerability scans continue, supported by the DHS State and Local Cybersecurity Grant (SLCGP). Final reporting to be submitted by October 20.
- **Solutionz Partnership:**
 - Ongoing network hardening, VLAN segmentation, firewall improvements, and endpoint visibility.
- **Hook Security:** Staff phishing simulations and short monthly training videos are now live via Hook Security.

- **KillPhish Icon:** All phishing attempts (real or simulated) should now be reported using the Gmail-integrated hook icon. Reported senders are blocked to help protect staff and students.
- **Endpoint Protection:** The district has moved all macOS security coverage to Mosyle's (The School's Mobile Device Management System) integrated solution. PC systems continue using Webroot Endpoint Protection.

Digital Wellness & Instructional Impact

- **Katie Greer Visit (Sept. 17–18):**
 - Ten sessions were held for students, staff, parents, and community members.
 - Topics included cyberbullying, screen time, social media boundaries, and digital balance.
- **Digital Wellness Webpage:**
 - Now live in draft form: <https://www.pcsd.us/page/draft-wellness>
 - Includes screen time tips, device-free alternatives, router controls, and vetted podcasts for parents.

Professional Development & Support

- **Ongoing PD & Coaching:**
 - Weekly drop-in support and availability for teachers.
- **Technology Expectations PD — Elementary (Sept. 26):**
 - Covered screen time for students, monitoring expectations using GoGuardian (staff are expected to actively monitor student activity whenever students are online), AI best practices, and safe search modeling.
 - A secondary staff version is currently being developed.

Software & Instructional Tools

- **Renaissance Accelerated Reader (AR):**
 - Staff feedback is being gathered in October regarding continued use in Grades 2–5.
 - Target comprehension levels, participation rates, and value for instruction are being reviewed to inform renewal decisions.
 - Professional development offered through Renaissance will be a part of the renewal plan.
- **BrainPOP:**
 - Elementary School staff have been surveyed to gauge interest
 - State-provided funding has ended; the district is in discussions with the vendor.

Helpdesk & Support (Sept 10 – Oct 15)

- 150 total tickets submitted
- 131 resolved | 19 in progress

Common Themes:

Category	Count
Printing (Kyocera, etc.)	15
Device Issues (MacBooks, iPads, etc.)	13
SmartBoard Support	8
Software/Systems (Canvas, PS, etc.)	7
Login / Account Access	4
General Support	103

Special thanks again to **JaKYLE Williams**, whose ongoing presence across buildings has been essential during this high-volume period.

Upcoming / In Progress

- Secondary tech expectations training (Rooms, AI, GoGuardian)
- Continued PowerSchool/Rooms sync work
- BrainPOP/Budeting
- Final SLCGP paperwork and security audit wrap-up