Comprehensive Needs Assessment – Technology

During the 2016-2017 school year, we continued the implementation of 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 employs 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 an iPad, laptop, and Promethean board. In addition, computer labs and/or mobile labs are available at each campus consisting of student devices.

During the 2016-2017 school year and the summer of 2017, teachers had opportunities to attend trainings including: Promethean Boards, Classflow, phone systems, Seesaw, EdCamp, Mirroring with iPads, and Google Certified Educators.

High school students can receive dual credit through Weatherford College via distance learning classes at Aledo High School. In 2016-2017, the following courses were offered: Government 2305 (38 students), Economics 2301 (49 students), English 1301 (84 students), English 1302 (76 students), English 2322 Fall/Spring (49/38 students), Psychology 2301 (84 students), and Speech 1311 (76 students).

The district has completed the goals set forth by the 2014-2017 Technology Plan.

The district utilized the Clarity Bright Bytes Technology Survey for the 2016-2017 school year. 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 students in grades 3-12. The district's overall Technology and Learning score was 1067. Based on the survey, the highest ranking category was "Access" of which 98% of teachers have access to internet at home and 95% 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). The weakest area for students within the "Classroom" was Digital Citizenship.

Strengths:
- Teacher access to interactive presentation system with the ability to project, mirror, and create documents to enrich learning
- Aledo ISD Technology / Security Center
- Significant increase in dual credit enrollment
- Help Desk for Technology Work Orders
- 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 information 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
- T-TESS app available through Eduphoria for administrators to use for teacher appraisals and 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
- Wireless printing capabilities from district computers

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
- 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 parent portal options
- Additional technology and instructional technology staff
- Student device additions to what we already have

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)
- Planning of new classroom technology and student devices