



DATE: 3/10/2025

TITLE: Technology Services

TYPE: Information

PRESENTER: Amy Thuesen, Director of Technology

BACKGROUND:

Technology Services designs, implements, and supports the technology infrastructure and resources in this district. This includes network and communications, hardware and software, and technology training and integration.

Technology Advisory Team

- This group does not meet in March.

Support and resources to ensure a safe and welcoming learning environment

- A main goal of the 24-27 Technology Plan is to convene regular meetings of district personnel to review and update data governance practices. This group has now met three times this year, and is made up of staff from Human Resources, Finance, Info Services, and Technology Services. A major accomplishment this year has been the consolidation of vendor lists so that we know their access levels and contact information. The next main focus will be developing documentation of access controls – this will allow the district to ensure that all student and staff data is only viewable by the appropriate people and that the management thereof is consistent.
- With the guidance of our Cybersecurity partners at SWWC, the Technology Services is drafting an updated version of the Technology Disaster Plan. This plan will include clear documentation of network protection measures, response steps in the event of a significant technology outage or event, and guidelines for recovering for that event. Technology Services will be working closely with the District Security Team to revise and finalize the draft.

District-wide MTSS & Packer Profile

- Continuing our focus on digital literacy and skills development, Technology Services has been collaborating with the Teaching and Learning department on online skill supports for staff and students. This work will fall into three categories: Digital Skills (knowing how to use technology), Digital Literacy (knowing how to leverage technology for teaching and learning, and Digital Citizenship (knowing how to be safe and appropriate with technology). By dividing online skills into these three categories, we can ensure that online skill supports are part of our day-to-day life at APS – just like the technology tools we use.
- Technology Services will now be holding quarterly “info sessions” for all staff, and the first topic focused on the laws, statutes, and policies that protect staff and students. In this session we discussed federal laws like FERPA and CIPA, Minnesota statutes like the Bullying Prevention and Student Data Privacy Acts, and school board policies such as the Acceptable use Policy.

These meetings are held virtually with a morning and afternoon session, and the meeting recording is also shared with all staff.

Excellence in Resource Management

- A main goal of the 24-27 Technology Plan is to ensure that technology tools are managed in a way that aligns with the district's strategic priorities. The Technology Department has been drafting a document that outlines the standards for hardware and software cycles, purchasing, and management. This guide will make clear how and where funds will be used for technology tools along with how those tools will be managed and supported.
- Technology Services has been working closely with vendor partners to plan purchasing that is impacted as little as possible by tariffs. By purchasing our 25-26 student devices by the end of December, we were able to avoid increased costs on the vast majority of our new hardware. We have also formed relationships with two new parts vendors in hopes that we will be able to have more timely shipping of repair parts for student laptops. This also gives us more freedom to choose the vendor whose prices match our needs.