

OAK PARK SD 97

Technology Update



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During the last few years, technology has played an increasingly important role in our efforts to enhance the educational experience for our students and help them reach their full potential. This was highlighted by the creation and implementation of our iLearn 97 initiative, which we launched in January of this year. This initiative, which aligns with the district's strategic direction and supports the promises we made during the referendum in 2011, has four primary instructional goals:

- To increase student achievement through the successful implementation of a 1:1 initiative and other technology enhancements
- To create and provide supported and equitable opportunities for student learning through the use of technology tools that enhance the educational experience
- To implement a successful technology professional development program that increases confidence and improves technological pedagogy
- To continuously evaluate technology initiatives, programs and infrastructure

We have spent the last five months performing a comprehensive evaluation of the district's technology plan, which included a thorough assessment and analysis of iLearn 97. We have reviewed all aspects of this plan—implementation of projects, programs and initiatives, utilization of equipment and software, expenditure of resources, etc.—to ensure that our efforts continue to contribute to the success of our students and staff.

Through the course of this evaluation, as well as the strategic planning and vendor negotiations the technology department has undertaken, we identified \$688,708 we can invest in student and staff devices. This funding is available due to efficiencies in the usage of DSEB (\$170,777), as well as changes to the technology plan that included redefining the 2013-2014 portion of it (\$217,931) and repurposing dollars for the 2014-15 portion of it (\$300,000).

The technology department believes these funds will contribute to the continued success of the district's technology plan if they are used to make the following investments:

1. Purchase 380 iPad Minis for shared utilization in first and second grade classrooms in conjunction with the the iLearn 97 initiative
2. Purchase 370 Chromebook devices that will be utilized by all buildings for various educational and testing needs
3. Pay off the third and final year of the lease for staff devices, which will result in the district having ownership of all these devices.

In addition to these investments, the technology department is recommending the purchase of 2,550 iPad devices for third, sixth, seventh and eighth grade classrooms that will be used in conjunction with the implementation of the final stage of iLearn 97.

It should be noted that the current technology plan ends after the 2014-2015 school year. With this in mind, work has begun on the creation of a new three-to-five-year plan that will include a refresh strategy for devices.