
Pennsylvania Department of Education



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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Educational Technology Report **Tuesday, May 13, 2008**

Entity: Hopewell Area SD
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Core Purpose

Mission

The Hopewell Area School District is committed to preparing students to be productive citizens and life-long learners in an ever changing world.

Vision

The Hopewell Area School District will be a united community in which rigorous curricula will be fostered. Students and staff will embrace educational opportunities and experiences in a diverse society.

Shared Values

We believe:

- **The development of personal potential is influenced by a sense of self-worth**
- **Learning is a life-long process**
- **The student, family, school and community all share responsibility for learning**
- **Adaptability is essential for functioning in a changing world**
- **All individuals have a right to be treated with respect and dignity**
- **Responsible behavior is learned by holding students accountable**
- **High expectations promote excellence**
- **The health, safety and welfare of all students is vital**
- **Recognizing and respecting the diversity of all people enriches our school community**
- **Dynamic organizations respond to change in effective ways**
- **Students should be able to work both independently and collaboratively**

Needs Assessment

What developments in technology have emerged that you can take advantage of to improve education for your school or community?

Through a partnership with the Beaver Valley IU, the district has received several PolyCom units that will allow students to take “virtual fieldtrips” to just about anywhere in the world, consult with experts in any field, conduct interviews with authors, and participate in learning with students around the globe through Internet2. Podcasts, webcasts, and wikis are some of the new ideas currently being tested for possible adoption in the curriculum. The Classrooms For the Future grant has brought laptop computers for students and teachers, whiteboard presentation technology, digital still and video cameras and LCD projectors into the science classrooms at the high school; the district will apply for a second grant to provide the same technologies for the math, social studies, and English classrooms at the high school for the 2008-2009 academic year. The district is participating in the RCI (Regional Choice Initiative) project with IU27 and have some teachers working on developing on-line courses using Moodle or Mediacast

How do you identify potentially useful new technologies (e.g., attending conferences, reading publications, and networking with peers)?

The technology coordinator attends monthly meetings at the local intermediate unit and networks with the technology directors of the other 14 school districts within the county to keep abreast of new developments and potential problems with emerging technologies. Each year, the district sends a representative to the Pennsylvania Educational Technology Conference. Teachers and administrators attending state and national conferences are encouraged to bring new ideas to the technology department for possible implementation. The technology department subscribes to many trade magazines and user group websites and works closely with the curriculum director to identify student needs that may be met with emerging technologies

What strengths and weaknesses, related to technology, have been identified by staff, students or parents.

One of the greatest strengths of the district is the network infrastructure. Through an E-Fund grant with the Beaver Valley IU, the district was able to build a fiber network with a backbone of one gigabit connecting all buildings. The fiber connects the district to the IU and to all other schools in Beaver County. Students, from their laptop computers in class, may be able to access the public libraries and government offices in the county through the network. Through the PAIUnet, another initiative funded by the State through the E-Fund, the district will eventually be connected to every other school district in the state of Pennsylvania. The fast Internet connection allows students to use StudyIsland, a test preparation website, and 4sight testing can be given on-line to help teachers identify deficiencies in student learning in math and reading. The high school was recently set up for wireless access in preparation for the CFF laptops. The junior high has some wireless connectivity and currently, only one of the elementary buildings has any wireless access and it is localized in one lab.

The district provides ParentConnect, a web-based portal to view student grades, assignments and attendance; parents surveyed indicate it is a very valuable and useful tool to monitor student achievement.

Some of the infrastructure for technology has become dated and will need replaced. Teachers have indicated they would like to have Smart Boards and LCD projectors in each classroom and lab and the training necessary to use the technologies to their full potential. The televisions and television studio in the high school (TIMS system) will need updated over the next few years. The district plans to replace the outdated telephone system with a VOIP system within the next two years. Currently the Technology Department is understaffed. The department would greatly benefit from the addition of another technician. Finding time to provide training for teachers in technology is very difficult with the current technology staff. The district also has a very limited outreach program for the community. We currently do not offer any evening classes for adults or allow after-school access to the computer labs.

Goals and Strategies

Goal: Attendance

Description: Average daily attendance at all District schools shall be 92% or higher through the 2013 school year.

Strategy: Increase communication with parents

Description: The district will strive to keep the community aware of events happening within the schools. The use of the ParentConnect web portal will be encouraged as a means to provide student information to parents. The school board minutes will be published on the district webpage monthly. A new VOIP telephone system will provide better communication between schools and home by providing new voicemail and messaging options, homework hotline, and student absence notification.

Activities:

Activity	Description	
Continued support of parent web portal	Monitor the server and web portal to insure parents receive accurate and up-to-date information on student attendance, grades, and discipline	
Person Responsible	Timeline for Implementation	Resources
Ed Tech Plan Admin	Start: N/A Finish: N/A	\$0.00

Activity	Description	
District web site	Maintain the district webpage and expand information for individual buildings. Encourage teachers to create personal webpages utilizing TeacherWeb subscriptions.	
Person Responsible	Timeline for Implementation	Resources
Ed Tech Plan Admin	Start: N/A Finish: N/A	\$0.00

Activity	Description	
Publish school board minutes	The technology staff will publish the school board minutes electronically on the district web page	
Person Responsible	Timeline for Implementation	Resources
Ed Tech Plan Admin	Start: N/A Finish: N/A	\$0.00

Activity	Description	
Upgrade telephone system	Installation of a VOIP telephone system	
Person Responsible	Timeline for Implementation	Resources
Ed Tech Plan Admin	Start: N/A Finish: N/A	\$200,000.00

Goal: Four-Year Graduation Rate (for districts and schools that graduate seniors)

Description: Hopewell High School will maintain a graduation rate of 94% or greater through the 2013 school year.

Strategy: Increase use of distance learning

Description: The district will increase student learning by incorporating distance learning into the curriculum. Students will be able to take virtual fieldtrips, consult with experts in various fields, interview authors and take part in scientific simulations all designed to enhance their knowledge of the subject matter.

Activities:

Activity	Description	
Provide network support for PolyCom units	Provide support to the staff in setting up and conducting distance learning events through the use of the PolyCom units.	
Person Responsible	Timeline for Implementation	Resources
Ed Tech Plan Admin	Start: N/A Finish: N/A	\$0.00

Strategy: Offer electives based upon student interest

Description: The district will provide a web portal for on-line learning. Teachers will be encouraged to author on-line courses designed to provide students with subject matter that stimulates their interests based upon student surveys.

Activities:

Activity	Description	
Maintain and monitor on-line learning applications	Support teachers with setting up courses through Moodle or MediaCast and enrolling students. Troubleshoot technical issues with on-line classes.	
Person Responsible	Timeline for Implementation	Resources
Ed Tech Plan Admin	Start: N/A Finish: N/A	\$0.00

Goal: Technology Integration

Description: 100% of students will be exposed to research based technology practices by the time they graduate.

Strategy: Access to Technology Equipment

Description: The Hopewell Area School District will provide equipment and sustain optimum operating capacity and efficiency of technological resources to accomplish the goals and strategies set forth by the district.

Activities:

Activity	Description	
Investigate and implement new classroom technologies	Investigate and purchase electronic white boards, LCD projectors, visual presenters, document cameras and new technologies designed to enhance the curriculum.	
Person Responsible	Timeline for Implementation	Resources
Ed Tech Plan Admin	Start: N/A Finish: N/A	\$90,000.00

Activity	Description	
Maintain and update hardware	Classroom computer workstations, computer labs, servers, associated peripherals and print services will be replaced in a cycle to ensure student and staff ability to access applications that support the curriculum.	
Person Responsible	Timeline for Implementation	Resources
Ed Tech Plan Admin	Start: N/A Finish: N/A	\$300,000.00

Strategy: Maintain Network Infrastructure and Internet Access

Description: The technology staff will maintain and monitor a gigabit backbone throughout the district on leased fiber and provide Internet and Internet2 connectivity through an agreement with IU27. Wireless access will be expanded to all district buildings. Safe web surfing for students and faculty will be maintained by utilizing web content filters and spam filtering for email. Switches and firewalls will be upgraded as necessary by district staff supported by industry providers to ensure adequate bandwidth is available for all classroom activities. The district webpage will be kept up to date and expanded to provide pertinent information to parents and the community.

Activities:

Activity	Description	
Expand wireless network access	Wireless network access will be expanded to the junior high and elementary buildings	
Person Responsible	Timeline for Implementation	Resources
Ed Tech Plan Admin	Start: N/A Finish: N/A	\$40,000.00

Activity	Description
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Network fiber connections	Maintain gigabit fiber connections between district buildings and IU27 using e-rate discounts when available	
Person Responsible	Timeline for Implementation	Resources
Ed Tech Plan Admin	Start: N/A Finish: N/A	\$120,000.00

Activity	Description	
Provide Internet filtering and security	The technology staff will monitor network security and Internet filtering to ensure students are protected from undesirable content. Sophos is currently used for anti-virus protection and SmartFilter is utilized for content filtering.	
Person Responsible	Timeline for Implementation	Resources
Ed Tech Plan Admin	Start: N/A Finish: N/A	\$36,000.00

Strategy: Update software for instruction, academic support and differentiation

Description: The technology staff and the curriculum committee will collaborate to explore, recommend and pilot software that emphasizes proficiency in curriculum areas and supports teacher preparation and administrative effectiveness.

Activities:

Activity	Description	
Maintain and update Microsoft Office suite	The district will continue its subscription to the Microsoft School Agreement Plan to provide the latest versions of Microsoft Office for teachers and students	
Person Responsible	Timeline for Implementation	Resources
Ed Tech Plan Admin	Start: N/A Finish: N/A	\$109,000.00

Activity	Description	
Maintain and upgrade student information system (SIS)	Work with teachers, administrators, PA Department of Education, and vendors to insure that the student information system continues to provide required access to student records	
Person Responsible	Timeline for Implementation	Resources
Ed Tech Plan Admin	Start: N/A Finish: N/A	\$15,000.00

Activity	Description	
Maintain curriculum mapping software	Provide technical support for staff and curriculum director	
Person Responsible	Timeline for Implementation	Resources
Ed Tech Plan Admin	Start: N/A	\$0.00

	Finish: N/A	
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Activity	Description	
Provide support for district-owned academic software	Continue to provide technical support and troubleshoot problems in Successmaker Math, Accelerated Reader, Bridge to Algebra, Cogniive Algebra, Automated Accounting, MicroType Pro and new software as it is incorporated into the curriculum	
Person Responsible	Timeline for Implementation	Resources
Ed Tech Plan Admin	Start: N/A Finish: N/A	\$0.00

Staff Development

Staff development is an essential component for the successful implementation of the educational technology plan. The technology staff will assist the Act 48 Committee and the Professional Education Committee in any capacity requested.

One major focus is to provide professional development so that all educational staff may integrate technology effectively into their jobs. This integration includes using technology efficiently, infusing it into the curriculum, and supporting technology literacy skills development. High school teachers received extensive staff development through the Classrooms For the Future grant by completing on-line courses and participating in one-on-one training with the CFF coach. It is expected that teachers throughout the district will continue to take advantage of the on-line courses offered by PDE. The District has nominated Keystone Technology Integrators who are eligible to participate in state-sponsored activities and pass their knowledge to others within the district. The district will also continue to participate in the annual PAT I technology inventory survey which allows teachers to access their knowledge of technology and identify areas in which they would like additional training.

Staff development sessions will be conducted throughout the year, taking advantage of scheduled in-service days, faculty meetings, and other opportunities before, during, and after school. Faculty are encouraged to take advantage of technology training provided by IU27, local colleges and universities, on-line courses, and various educational technology conferences.

Budget

Summary: Potential Funding Distribution

Funding Source	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	Total
010 - ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET	\$242,000.00	\$433,000.00	\$235,000.00	\$910,000.00
TOTAL	\$242,000.00	\$433,000.00	\$235,000.00	\$910,000.00

Goal: Attendance

Average daily attendance at all District schools shall be 92% or higher through the 2013 school year.

Increase communication with parents	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	Total	Funding Source
Upgrade	\$0.00	\$200,000.00	\$0.00	\$200,000.00	010 -

telephone system					ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET
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TOTAL	\$0.00	\$200,000.00	\$0.00	\$200,000.00	
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Goal: Technology Integration

100% of students will be exposed to research based technology practices by the time they graduate.

Access to Technology Equipment	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	Total	Funding Source
Investigate and implement new classroom technologies	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00	\$90,000.00	010 - ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET
Maintain and update hardware	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00	\$300,000.00	010 - ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET

Maintain Network Infrastructure and Internet Access	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	Total	Funding Source
Expand wireless network access	\$20,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$40,000.00	010 - ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET
Network fiber connections	\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00	\$120,000.00	010 - ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET
Provide Internet filtering and security	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00	\$36,000.00	010 - ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET

Update software for instruction, academic support and differentiation	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	Total	Funding Source
Maintain and update Microsoft Office suite	\$35,000.00	\$36,000.00	\$38,000.00	\$109,000.00	010 - ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET
Maintain and upgrade student information system (SIS)	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$15,000.00	010 - ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET

TOTAL	\$242,000.00	\$233,000.00	\$235,000.00	\$710,000.00	
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GRAND TOTAL	\$242,000.00	\$433,000.00	\$235,000.00	\$910,000.00	
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Monitoring

The technology plan will be monitored by the district technology staff. The district technology coordinator will be responsible for evaluating the impact of the technology goals, strategies, and activities. Periodic reports will be made to the superintendent and school board members.

Building principals will be responsible for evaluating teachers' utilization of technology in the classroom. Computer lab usage will be monitored by the technology staff to determine the need for hardware and software upgrades.

School-level technology professional development topics will be decided by the Act 48 professional development committee that may survey the faculty requesting topics of high interest based upon building needs.

The budget development process will incorporate the necessary expenditures for the execution of the annual goals of the technology plan. The appropriation of funds will serve as a measure of implementation of the plan.

Evaluation

The technology plan will be evaluated on a yearly basis. The goals, strategies, and activities will be reviewed to ensure that the district is meeting the goals and initiatives set forth in the plan and to modify or add to the plan as needed. Each activity within the plan has an associated level of achievement or action. The responsible party indicated will evaluate and adjust as needed.

The technology coordinator will help facilitate technology integration and work with the director of curriculum to monitor and evaluate overall student performance. Teachers will evaluate student technology skill acquisition in technology integration projects.

Critical to the success of the plan will be attention to emerging technologies that may supersede the original aims of this plan or allow for the completion of goals in a more fiscally responsible manner. The ultimate measure of success will be student achievement.