

Technology Plan:  
Todd County Schools  
Elkton, Kentucky



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## **Acknowledgments**

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### **School Library Media Specialists**

### **Technology Resource Teachers**

### **Additional District Contributors**

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### **Students**

### **Other**

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## **Executive Summary**

Facing the challenges of educating the 21<sup>st</sup> Century learner, Todd County strives to stay on the cutting edge in Technology. By building and maintaining a strong infrastructure, as well as staying ahead of continually changing standards, the challenge is in advancing with the technology and education industry simultaneously. With the need of 350+ employees and 2,100+ students, advances are being made to prepare students and staff to face the changing world and to be prepared for the challenges in the next decade and beyond.

The days of the technology being left in the classrooms are fading away. With interactive classrooms in every school the students are being able to interact with the technology on a new level. In Spring of 2008, we moved to the next generation student information system. Staff and parents will have real-time access, both on campus and from home, to student information. With the migration to web-based applications, students now have the ability to continue their learning from home. During the 08-09 school year our staff and students took another step into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century with Project 21c. This project has four phases – phase one: wireless connectivity on all five campuses; phase two: teacher laptops; phase three: mobile carts at middle school and elementary schools and phase four: 1:1 laptop initiative at the high school.

With the advances in technology that our students and employees are experiencing, it requires the support of the Technology Department in cooperation with the administration and staff, as well as the students and parents. Being able to advance in these areas will determine the success of this technology plan.

## **Planning Process / Methodology**

Our District Technology Committee meets quarterly throughout school year to define and develop our District Technology Plan. There are also site based technology committees that meet at the school level regularly to establish their goals and objectives to correlate with the District's vision. We are continually assessing our technology and professional development to ensure that we are staying inline with the standards for students and teachers.

# Technology Vision and Goals

## Goal 1

Maintain and upgrade a state-of-the-art network infrastructure to ensure reliable and secure connections for all locations with sufficient technical support to extend, further develop, and keep the network operational

- Monitor and assess the bandwidth requirements to optimize the performance of our Wide Area Network and Local Area Networks
- Upgrade network cabling needs and wireless access points in our district according to Kentucky Education Technology System (KETS) guidelines
- ISA server and content filtering appliances will be monitored and updated in accordance with the federal legislation, Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA: 47 U.S.C. 254), KY Senate Bill 230, and KY KAR 5:120
- Maintain and update e-mail accounts for staff and students
- Review and update the district Acceptable Use Procedures form annually
- Hire and retain sufficient technical support to maintain hardware, software, and the wide/local area networks

## Goal 2

Utilize technology to support the curriculum and provide student with equitable access to rich, diverse and high quality learning opportunities to improve student achievement with an emphasis on classroom integration to facilitate implementation of the Kentucky Program of Studies Core Content for Assessment and ISTE's National Educational Technology Standards for Students

- Evaluate and purchase emerging technologies such as multimedia projectors, interactive solutions for classrooms, video conferencing equipment, scanners, digital cameras, and Assistive Technology to create and maintain expansive programs that challenge all learners
- Survey and research the most effective practices for technology integration in schools
- Provide adequate technology resources to support students, staff, and community to provide for learning anytime and anyplace

## Goal 3

Provide adequate and efficient telecommunications services and network services for internal communication between staff members, as well as effective communication with parents/guardians, community leaders, state officials, etc.

## Goal 4

Assist in the infusion of technology into the curriculum. Developing an environment where technology is used as a daily tool rather than a remediation resource.

- Provide ongoing professional development for staff
- Assist staff with curriculum integration
- Gather resources to provide a gallery of information for staff

## **Staff Training/ Professional Development Goals**

The district will continue to provide all school personnel with a variety of professional development opportunities to support instructional improvement and overall efficiency. The staff development program will facilitate and evaluate the relevant use of technology with the highest standards of professionalism and training in order to empower our staff to embrace technology as a tool that can be utilized effectively across the curriculum and in their daily job tasks. Various forms of professional development will be provided to help meet the expectations of the Kentucky Department of Education's (KDE) Kentucky Teacher Technology Standard 6.

Training will be offered in four modes. In the form of one-on-one training, small/large group training, train the trainer and training that is delivered via electronic means such as online tutorials. Training will ensure that staff members are competent in the use of the district's telecommunications, hardware, software, and technology-based services. Our district has implemented a program call Early Release Fridays (ERF) to provide job-embedded professional development and training for staff on Friday afternoons. A number of different sources are used to provide this type of training. Each site has a School Technology Coordinator (STC) and members of the District's Vanguard Team which receive professional development that they bring back to their staff.

Several full-days are included in the school calendar for professional development opportunities throughout the school year. In addition to these full-days, training is also conducted in after school sessions, especially ERF. Faculty/department meetings during the school day, and in one-on-one training sessions during teacher planning periods will be used to provide job-embedded training. The district's professional development program is ongoing, and a number of references to professional development are found in the Comprehensive District Improvement Plan.

Funding for professional development is from local and state funds as well as Federal Title II funding.

## **Current Technology and Resources**

Todd County Schools are truly evolving into a high tech School District. Project 21c has pushed the District to the next level. With teachers having MacBooks, middle school and elementary schools having mobile carts and the 1:1 initiative at the high school, we are excited to see the changes in instruction and the evolution of a true 21<sup>st</sup> century learning environment. The district seeks to meet the standards, policies, and management recommended in the KETS Master Plan.

Resources and funding have been committed to providing a strong infrastructure to support the District. All schools and facilities in the district are networked with full telecommunication and internet access. The district's network is on fiber optic backbone running at 1Gbps, plus all five sites have full wireless saturation. The Technology Department in the District is made up of many positions. The School Technology Coordinator (STC) serves as the first line of technical support for users. In addition to the STCs, each school has a site-based technician assigned to them two days a week. They are responsible for the daily maintenance and hardware support to keep their systems up and running. The Chief Information Officer (CIO)/District Technology Coordinator (DTC) is responsible for the administration side, network and security administration, as well as supporting teachers and staff with professional development.



## Evaluation

The Commonwealth of Kentucky has a very detailed planning process to evaluate all phases of K-12 education in each district. KDE has declared, "School Improvement provides a data-driven, research-based framework for defining goals and objectives for improving student learning and for selecting and implementing strategies to improve the instructional and organizational effectiveness of every school." It continues to note, "The process of Improvement Planning in Kentucky is used as the means of determining how schools and districts will plan to ensure that students reach proficiency and beyond by 2014. The process focuses school and district improvement efforts on student needs by bringing together all stakeholders to plan for improvement, by focusing planning efforts on priority needs and closing achievement gaps between subgroups of students, by building upon school and district capacity for high quality planning, and by making connections between the funds that flow into the district and the priority needs in schools."

At the district level, this planning process involves months of preparation as administrators, teachers, support staff, and others are involved in reviewing current practices and making recommendations for improvement. The scope of planning looks at all areas instruction and support, including but not limited to the integration of technology into the curriculum, increasing the ability of teachers to teach, and enabling students to reach the challenges of the state's academic standards. As this procedure finally produces its Comprehensive District Improvement Plan (CDIP), there is a look at how technology can meet the goals outlined in the plan. Section B of this document addresses some of those goals. The CDIP is reviewed on an annual basis and adjustments made as needed. The role of technology is also reviewed during this procedure.

In addition to the above planning process, the district's network and technology needs are evaluated on an ongoing basis to provide the very best possible support for the school system. Network traffic is monitored on a weekly basis, technology work orders are reviewed in monthly meetings of the technology department to track any problem areas relating to technology equipment, including telecommunication services. Newer equipment and processes are tested and evaluated on an ongoing basis to see if improvements to network and telecommunication services can be made. As newer and better ideas and equipment are found, plans are made to incorporate them into the budget process and into the application process for e-rate funding during the e-rate application window that occurs each year.

## Budget

The technology budget comes from local funds, KETS funds, federal programs (i.e. Title IID), and occasional grants. These funds are also supplemented through the budgets of individual schools and other departments. Likewise, the district depends heavily on the federal Universal Service Fund for assistance with funding telecommunication costs, Internet access, and internal connections on an annual basis. Specific funding needs have been cited in previous sections for the acquisition and maintenance of hardware and software, personnel, and for professional development. In addition to these items, the district also has a maintenance department that provides indirect support to the technology department by installing and maintaining electrical lines, air conditioning, construction of server closets, etc.

Professional Development	\$25,000.00
Telecommunications	\$50,000.00
KETS Offer of Assistance	\$41,682.00
Non-discounted portions of USF and other technology equipment	\$542,070.00
Salaries (CIO, STCs, Site Based Technicians)	\$141,986.00