

Avon Grove School District Technology Plan 2008-2013

Core Purpose

Mission

Through a collaborative effort with students, parents, and the community, students are provided with a safe learning environment where they are individually challenged to acquire the knowledge, skills, and experiences to personally succeed and become responsible citizens in our global society.

Vision

All students will achieve individual excellence, become socially and ethically responsible, and they will become self-directed learners through a high performing and unified learning environment.

Shared Values

Expectations for student learning...

- Every student will learn through high quality teaching and each student will be given opportunities for individualized success every day.
- Students will become self-directed learners and respond positively to expectations for high achievement in scholarship and citizenship.

Expectations for professional practices...

- Teachers will engage students in high-quality, student centered teaching and learning.
- Teachers will be mentors and role models who positively affect students.
- Administration will support the staff in order to create high quality opportunities for every student.

Relationship among stakeholders...

- Parents and the community are responsible to assist the school in providing students the support needed to succeed.

Needs Assessment

It is our belief that the appropriate integration of technology is critical to the advancement of the students and faculty at the Avon Grove School District. To be successful in our increasingly complex society requires the ability to use technology effectively and efficiently. When used in this manner, students have the opportunity to make the best of the world around them.

Parents expect their children to be prepared with skills that will help them advance in today's society. Employers want to hire employees that are reliable, honest, able to reason, and who can communicate appropriately. Communities want schools to prepare students for the technological world that surrounds us.

To take advantages of emerging technologies, the Avon Grove School District will work to expand the secure wireless network currently under development. It will utilize Web 2.0 tools by developing curricula related to digital literacy, as well as processes/ procedures for social networking/ digital communication within the school district's community. The District will utilize technology for formative assessments. The District will increase the acquisition/ utilization of handheld technologies. The District will increase the use of collaborative/ distance learning technologies through both internal and external opportunities.

The Avon Grove School District will identify potentially useful new technologies through sending designated staff members to local, state, and national conferences, as well as county peer meetings, workshops, and vendor training opportunities. The District will provide opportunities for teachers to participate in webinars and distance learning sessions that promote and describe new technologies and instructional practices. The District will maintain memberships in professional organizations for designated staff members. The District will organize leadership teams and provide instructional coaches who will explore and share new technologies appropriate to the needs of Avon Grove.

Teachers can utilize technology to individualize instruction for students, engage students in learning, and expand communication with the community and parents. Teacher webpages are available to display current classroom news and important information. The district has utilized programs such as Kidspirations, Accelerated Reader, Compass Learning, Read Naturally, and Inspiration, among others to support the students reading and writing abilities. Some teachers are equipped with large screen projection units, interactive whiteboards, and computers can access and develop instructional lessons that will create student centered learning. Teachers can setup and administer online discussions with students through blogs or wikis. Teachers can also use the web quest model to create curriculum and Internet based self-paced learning for students.

The Avon Grove School District will utilize the results of the 2008 PaTI survey to further determine the district's strengths and weaknesses related to technology. The following strengths and weaknesses have been identified through observation and informal feedback.

Strengths: The Avon Grove School District recognizes the dedication of its current staff as they support technology initiatives. The District has participated in substantial grants, which have provided the opportunity to acquire a significant amount of new technology. The teaching staff and administration recognize the value of technology-rich instruction that has resulted in increased student engagement. The District website provides for communication with all stakeholders through the use of interactive feedback forms.

Weaknesses: The Avon Grove School District needs to develop a form of assessment that will measure the proficiency and engagement levels of the students and staff. The District needs to develop the means to support the funding of a six-year replacement cycle for technology equipment, as well as funding a continuous growth cycle for expanding emerging technology. Additionally, the District must look to increase and improve the student to equipment ratio and the technology staff necessary to support the infrastructure and curricular programs.

Goals and Strategies

Goal: Curriculum and Learning

Description: The curriculum and learning goals and objectives will improve student learning by improving the quality of the curriculum used by students and teachers. This improvement will lead to increased opportunities for all students to prepare them for the world of work and higher educational experiences.

Strategy: Introduction to 21st Century Teaching Tools Description: Leverage the use of tools such as

SmartBoards, digital course management systems, Web 2.0, and videoconferencing to enhance learning.

<p>Activity: Creating New Options to Demonstrate Learning</p>	<p>Description: Web 2.0 tools along with hardware and purchased technologies will be utilized in the classroom to enhance student-learning experiences.</p>	<p>Evaluation Procedure: The district will monitor the use of technology equipment in the classroom. Student involvement and use of current programs, equipment, blogs, wikis, and other web2.0 tools will be evaluated to analyze the usefulness and need of resources.</p>
<p>Person Responsible:</p>	<p>Timeline for implementations: By the end of 2009 curriculum lessons will be written to integrate these technologies. By 2013, teachers will all be using the appropriate technologies for their area of curriculum.</p>	<p>Resources: \$80,000.00</p>

<p>Activity: Provide training in the integration of technology skills.</p>	<p>Description: At the beginning of each school year, teachers will be expected to attend a technology professional development day to choose a technology skill that they would like to utilize in the year. Professional development would give teachers time learn, design, and implement technology tools in the classroom.</p>	<p>Evaluation Procedure: At least once a month teachers would meet to discuss the success or failure of technology integration and share lessons. A blog would be setup for teachers to interact before and after meetings for troubleshooting and sharing of information.</p>
<p>Person Responsible:</p>	<p>Timeline for implementations: By 2013, teachers should have acquired at least 7 technologies that are consistently and effectively being utilized throughout their curriculum.</p>	<p>Resources: \$ 50,000.00</p>

<p>Activity: Curriculum review of national educational technology standards.</p>	<p>Description: Incorporate the NETS into the planned course outlines and pacing guides for the four core content areas (Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies).</p>	<p>Evaluation Procedure: As a part of teacher evaluation procedures, teachers will be required to include the NETS into their lesson plans just as the content area standards are listed.</p>
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		Teachers will be held accountable for including technology into their lessons when relevant. A lesson exchange will be held every other month for teachers to exchange technology-enhanced lessons with their grade level partners.
Person Responsible:	Timeline for implementations: At the end of 2010, every curriculum area will be expected to include NET standards into the PCOs and pacing guides. At the end of 2011, teachers will be held accountable for integrating technology within their lesson plans. At the end of 2013, teachers will have exchanged multiple lessons and implemented them into their lessons.	Resources: \$6,000.00

Goal: Use of Modern Technology Tools

Description: The district will continue to provide students and teachers updated computer equipment labs and classrooms.

Strategy: Hardware Replacement Cycle

Description: As well as the continued installation of the wireless infrastructure, the creation of a 4-5 year replacement cycle of computer hardware and management of current productivity tools.

Activity: Annual technology equipment inventory program	Description: Technology will be inventoried each year to determine needs.	Evaluation Procedure: Students and staff will be surveyed about the need for new or better technology. Decisions will be made on the replacement of technology based on the effectiveness of current technology integration.
Person Responsible:	Timeline for implementations: continuous	Resources: \$500,000.00

Activity: Technology equipment	Description: Design and implement a program to acquire new technology to support growth in student enrollment,	Evaluation Procedure: As student enrollment increases, technology
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acquisition program for growth.	student needs (student to computer ratio should be 2:1 by then end of 2013) and an increase in professional staff to support the increased technology.	should also increase. Budgets will be put in place to order new computers each year to lesson the student to computer ratio.
Person Responsible:	Timeline for implementations: By 2013, there should be a 2:1 student to computer ratio.	Resources: \$ 500,000.00

Activity: Wireless infrastructure	Description: Continued acquisition, installation, and implementation of the secured wireless infrastructure within each building.	Evaluation Procedure: We would anticipate the demonstration of using the secured wireless infrastructure at anytime and anywhere in the building. We would expect to see an increase in the use of mobile labs and an increase in the availability for professional development.
Person Responsible:	Timeline for implementations: By the end of 2009 the wireless infrastructure should be in place.	Resources: \$20,000.00

Strategy: Leveraging Classrooms for the Future

Description: We are using the Classrooms for the Future Grant to create a smaller student to computer ratio at the high school level.

Activity: Laptop Computers and Interactive Classroom Technology	Description: Utilization of computers inside the classroom to deliver quality instruction to the students.	Evaluation Procedure: We use a variety of tools to assess changes in instructional delivery and student involvement. Teachers would use technology to deliver instructional assessments to the students.
Person Responsible:	Timeline for implementations:	Resources: \$347,300.00

Goal: Effective Student, Parent, Community, and School Collaboration

Description: The district will take steps to engage parents, families, civic leaders, and business leaders to join administrators and teachers in working to meet the needs of the learning community and ensure the success of the students

Strategy: Introducing First Class

Description: We will purchase and introduce First Class as the district wide email program. Through this program, teachers and administrators will have access to email at school and at home.

Activity: Introduction of First Class	Description: During the back to school in-service days in August, teachers will attend a workshop training them on the use of First Class for email. They will be provided with a manual for reference.	Evaluation Procedure: The success of the introduction of First Class will be determined by monitoring usage patterns.
Person Responsible:	Timeline for Implementation: By 9/2/2008, all teachers and administrators will use First Class for email.	Resources: Purchase \$50,000 Upkeep \$2,000/year Training \$5,000

Strategy: Utilizing PowerSchool to Increase Home/School Partnerships

Description: The district will convert its grading system to PowerSchool (PowerGrade), which includes a web based system that can be accessed anywhere. This will replace InTouch Online and create a standardized grading program for teachers and access center for parents. With this new system in place, parents and students will be provided with a password that enables them to access their grades and schedules at home.

Activity: Introduction to PowerSchool	Description: Teachers will be introduced to this new system at a building level faculty meeting during the August in-service days. All teachers will use PowerGrade to record their grades into the computer. In the meantime, a randomly selected group of students and parents will pilot accessing PowerSchool. After one semester all students will receive access to the PowerSchool home portal.	Evaluation Procedure: Teachers will be periodically asked to give feedback about the use of PowerGrade as their sole grading program. The success of the home portal, PowerSchool, will be determined by regularly getting feedback by the families piloting the program.
Person Responsible:	Timeline for Implementation: August 2008 – PowerGrade instituted as district wide computer grading program; Training provided to all staff August 2008 – January 2009 – A randomly selected group of parents and students will be able to use PowerSchool	Resources: \$6.00 per student, per year \$5,000 training Total: \$203,000

	to access their grades at home October/November 2008 - Public meetings will be held at each school to inform parents about the system. January 2009 – All students in the district will receive pass codes to access their grades.	
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Strategy: Implementing an Automatic Phone Calling System

Description: The district will purchase and utilize an automatic phone calling system that will notify every household of every student of important school related messages within a certain period of time.

Activity: Researching and implementing an automatic phone calling system	Description: The technology director will work with the assistant superintendent to research potential phone calling systems. An appropriate system will be selected and ready for use during the 2009-2010 school years.	Evaluation Procedure: The district will create a committee of parents, board members, and administrators to review the top 3 choices for phone calling systems.
Person Responsible:	Timeline for Implementation: January 2009 – School board votes to authorize the purchase of a home calling system September 2009 – Home calling system is instituted	Resources: \$22,000

Strategy: Teacher Created Web Sites

Description: Using FirstClass, teachers will create websites for all of their courses to help improve communication with parents and students.

Activity: Development of Websites	Description: During the first two months of school, teachers will attend an hour training session on creating websites that will take the place of a department meeting. Then, teachers will be given one-hour of paid preparation time to work with colleagues to generate a website for at least one class.	Evaluation Procedure: The district will view the websites of randomly selected teachers to ensure the sites are being created.
Person Responsible:	Timeline for Implementation: September/October 2008 – teachers will attend an hour of training in place of a department/grade level meeting November 2008 – Teachers will use one of their professional learning community	Resources: Training - \$5,000

	<p>meetings to develop a basic website for one course.</p> <p>By December 1, 2008, all teachers will have developed at least one website.</p> <p>By September 1, 2009, all teachers will have developed a website for all of their courses.</p>	
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Goal: Staff Accountability

Description: The district will make use of technology to better report and track staff absences and substitute recruitment.

Strategy: Use of a Web Based Absence Reporting System

Description: The district will purchase Aesop, a web based absence reporting and substitute calling system. This system will allow teachers to log into Aesop, report an absence, and submit lesson plans. Substitutes can log on to sign up for coverage, or the system will automatically notify substitutes by phone.

Activity: Implement Aesop	Description: The district will introduce the system to teachers during the August 2009 in-service days. Teachers can begin using the system immediately.	Evaluation Procedure: The district will survey substitutes, administrators, and teachers six months after implementation to get feedback on the use of Aesop.
Person Responsible:	Timeline for Implementation: September 2009 – Aesop is implemented	Resources: \$20,000

Goal: Data Management

Description: The district will use the new tools it has instituted to better track and manage student data. The district will take steps to encourage teachers and administrators to use that data for planning purposes to help ensure the success of all students.

Strategy: Improving Back Up Protocols

Description: Administrators evaluate and improve the districts daily back up of information to the central server.

Activity: Grade level failure reports	Description: A committee consisting of the technology director, superintendent, and building principals will be formed in order to evaluate the performance of backup protocols (speed, restoration of files). Necessary improvements as determined by the committee will be made.	Evaluation Procedure: The committee will conduct a yearly evaluation of the backup protocols.
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Person Responsible:	Timeline for Implementation: Continuous 2008-2012	Resources: \$15,000
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Strategy: Integrating Special Education Data

Description: Teachers will report data on their special education students to the special education teachers using electronic spreadsheets created from PowerGrade, rather than using the current, tedious paper forms.

Activity: Generating Electronic Spreadsheets about Students with IEPs	Description: On a bi-weekly basis, teachers will export a list of grades from PowerGrade for their students with IEPs. The list will be converted to Excel and electronically sent to IEP teachers.	Evaluation Procedure: Special education teachers will be surveyed three months after beginning this reporting system to evaluate its usefulness.
Person Responsible:	Timeline for Implementation: February 2009 – Teachers will begin reporting special education data using electronic spreadsheets May 2009 – Special Education Teachers will be surveyed	Resources: <i>Cost is Part of PowerSchool Training Cost (see above)</i>

Overview of District Priorities and Practices for Professional Development in the Area of Technology

With respect to technology initiatives and larger District goals supported by these initiatives, the Director of Technology and the Instructional Technology Specialists will provide or coordinate professional development in the following areas:

1. Effective use of the new grading system and the reports that will be generated using PowerGrade
2. Effective use of First Class email system including the creation of a teacher website.
3. Effective use of Aesop absence reporting system.
4. Effective use of SmartBoards, Web 2.0, and videoconferencing.
5. Incorporation of NETS into teachers' lesson plans.

The school district's core philosophy about professional development is to follow the professional learning communities model. In this model, teachers work together to share tips about using technology and develop lesson plans in line with the National Education Technology Standards. In addition, the district believes in training instructional coaches who will then impart their knowledge to their colleagues in collaborative work sessions. The technology director will take volunteers to serve as these teacher trainers. To support this type of professional development, teachers will be provided with one hour of time per month to meet in departments or grade levels to work on lesson plan development related to the district's initiatives, including technology.

To prepare the instructional coaches, a consultant from the group Total Training Solutions will be brought in provide training on SmartBoard and electronic White Board use, Web 2.0, creating and using blogs and wikis, and developing NETS based lesson plans. The instructional coaches will work with this consultant for ½ day every other month. In addition, the technology director will develop curricula related to the 21st century skills developed by the Metiri Group in partnership with the North Central Regional Education Laboratory and train the lead technology teachers in this curriculum.

Our district also offers the opportunity for a limited number of instructional coaches to travel to workshops and conferences during the school year and then bring what they've learned back to the district to share with their colleagues. The district will maintain memberships in professional organizations related to technology and will attend local, state, and national conferences and take advantage of vendor training opportunities for designated employees. Finally, the district supports teacher enrollment in college and university level courses and summer workshops.

Another opportunity for teacher collaboration in professional learning communities is during the beginning of the year in-service days in August. During these days, teachers attend meetings to learn about new tools, such as First Class, PowerGrade, and SmartBoards. These days will provide the launching point for some of the district's technology initiatives.

For new teachers, the district offers new teacher induction. The technology director and/or the instructional technology specialists will design and provide training to introduce the new teachers to the administrative and basic technology skill sets as determined by the district. This will ensure that

new teachers coming into the Avon Grove district will have the skills required to carry on the district's technology initiatives.

Budget**Summary: Potential Funding Distribution**

Funding Source	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	Total
10-Administrative Budget	\$463,800	\$282,260	\$281,260	\$281,260	\$281,260	\$281,260	\$1,871,100
Grants	\$40,000	\$37,460	\$37,460	\$37,460	\$37,460	\$37,460	\$227,300

Goal: Curriculum and Learning

Description: The curriculum and learning goals and objectives will improve student learning by improving the quality of the curriculum used by students and teachers. This improvement will lead to increased opportunities for all students to prepare them for the world of work and higher educational experiences.

Curriculum Integration	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	Total	Funding Source
Development and Implementation	\$55,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$80,000	Administrative Budget
Training	\$20,000	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$50,000	Administrative Budget
NETS	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$6,000	Administrative Budget

Goal: Use of Modern Technology Tools

Description: The district will continue to provide students and teachers updated computer equipment labs and classrooms.

Technology Tools	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	Total	Funding Source
Technology Replacement Program	\$100,000	\$80,000	\$80,000	\$80,000	\$80,000	\$80,000	\$500,000	Administrative Budget
Technology Acquisition Program	\$100,000	\$80,000	\$80,000	\$80,000	\$80,000	\$80,000	\$500,000	Administrative Budget

Wireless Technology	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	Total	Funding Source
Installation and implementation/upkeep	\$15,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$20,000	Administrative Budget

Classrooms for the Future	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	Total	Funding Source
Laptop computers and interactive classroom technology	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$120,000	Administrative Budget
Laptop computers and interactive classroom technology	\$40,000	\$37,460	\$37,460	\$37,460	\$37,460	\$37,460	\$227,300	Extra Grants

Goal: Effective Student, Parent, Community, and School Collaboration

Description: The district will take steps to engage parents, families, civic leaders, and business leaders to join administrators and teachers in working to meet the needs of the learning community and ensure the success of the students

First Class	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	Total	Funding Source
Acquisition and training	\$55,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$65,000	Administrative Budget

Power School	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	Total	Funding Source
Acquisition and training	\$38,000	\$33,000	\$33,000	\$33,000	\$33,000	\$33,000	\$203,000	Administrative Budget

Phone Auto Calling Program	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	Total	Funding Source
Acquisition and training	\$12,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$62,000	Administrative Budget

Goal: Staff Accountability

Description: The district will make use of technology to better report and track staff absences and substitute recruitment.

Aesop	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	Total	Funding Source
Acquisition and training	\$3,000	\$2,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$9,000	Administrative Budget

Goal: Data Management

Description: The district will use the new tools it has instituted to better track and manage student data. The district will take steps to encourage teachers and administrators to use that data for planning purposes to help ensure the success of all students.

Improving Backup Protocols	2008-2009	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	Total	Funding Source
Acquisition and training	\$4,800	\$4,800	\$4,800	\$4,800	\$4,800	\$4,800	\$28,800	Administrative Budget

Monitoring

The Director of Technology and Assistant Superintendent, with the assistance of the District Technology Advisory Committee, will oversee the implementation of the technology initiatives and action steps. We will communicate progress on the goals and objectives in the Technology Plan through E-Strategic Planner and to the superintendent, administration, faculty, school board and community on an annual basis. This communication will take place at budget presentations at school board meetings, at school open-house meetings, through district newsletters, and through the district's web page and cable television programming.

We will keep updated data on laptop cart usage and computer lab usage, which will enable us to compare data over the six years and make informed decisions. We will continuously monitor email usage patterns, PowerSchool access patterns, and teachers' usage of First Class web sites. We will present this data to the school board at the last meeting every year and use comparisons to make informed decisions about software purchasing and renewal.

Teachers will be given an integrated curriculum to implement in their classrooms. Administrators will monitor the success of this curriculum through observations, teacher input, and student input. Based on the use of technology, decisions will be made to determine how the technology is given out and what new technology is needed.

Evaluation

EVALUATION STRATEGIES

The Director of Technology with the support the committee will be responsible for conducting surveys and compiling data to evaluate the success of the technology. The data will be collected through peer observation, feedback from peer coaches and administrators, suggestions from department heads and grade level leaders, feedback from curriculum consultants working with faculty, and feedback from parents and students. We will gather data using a variety of methods, including classroom observation, tracking the level of use of software, and analysis of student performance on standardized testing.

To ensure that technology is implemented smoothly, the district will evaluate at the conclusion of each school year. Teachers and other staff members will be asked for their input regarding the effectiveness of the new curriculum and the productivity of the technology tools that have been implemented.

Because the plan covers all grade levels and different buildings, we will utilize a variety of evaluation tools. To evaluate the implementation of First Class, PowerSchool, and Aesop, we will monitor usage patterns and conduct surveys of parents, teachers, and administrators. To evaluate the data back up protocols, we will monitor speed and restoration of data averages over the six years to ensure the back up protocols are improving. To evaluate the integration of special education data, we will survey parents of special education students, regular education teachers, and special education teachers. Finally, we will monitor the creation of teacher web pages. This data will be tallied by the technology committee under the supervision of the director of technology and reported to the school board and the superintendent.