

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT

ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #173 (98-99)      January 25, 1999

TO:            SCHOOL BOARD

FROM:        OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT:     Anchorage School District Instructional Technology Plan

RECOMMENDATION:

It is the Administration's recommendation that the School Board approve the Anchorage School District Instructional Technology Plan.

PERTINENT FACTS:

In May 1995, an Instructional Technology Committee was organized at the direction of the Superintendent. The mission of the committee was to develop an Instructional Technology Plan for the District. The committee included both District and community members with a wide range of backgrounds and expertise. The current version of the plan (attached) has evolved through review and revisions over the past three years. Curriculum Coordinators and instructional program directors provided revisions in their areas. Changes in technology and technology status in the Anchorage School District are reflected in the current version.

A draft of the Instructional Technology Plan was reviewed and discussed by the School Board at a work session in November 1998. Copies of the draft plan were distributed to ASD Schools for review and suggestions.

Areas of Emphasis in the Instructional Technology Plan:

The Anchorage School District, in order to prepare students for success in the 21st Century, is dedicated to the effective use of current technologies for teaching and learning. This involves a need to provide for all students and staff:

- powerful technology tools for learning and instruction in all curricular areas;
- integration of technology and content standards at all grade levels;
- network connectivity to resources in and beyond the District;
- training and support in the use of current technologies and teaching strategies;
- on-going assessment and updating of technology to enhance learning.

In a world where technology is the primary tool for communication, collaboration, and production, one of the basic skills that students need is that of using computers effectively. As learners in the classroom, students must have both instruction and hands-on experience in using computers to access and understand information, to diagnose and solve problems, and to collaborate and communicate with various audiences. As they are working to learn these skills, they are also learning to work in a world where technology is becoming an increasingly more prevalent and powerful tool. Whether it be language arts, science, math, social studies, health and physical education, cultural arts, or any other curriculum area in the District, technology has the power to enrich learning while engaging and empowering classroom learners to be life-long learners.

The Anchorage School District, in alignment with local, state, and national standards related to curriculum, has developed teacher and student competencies in the area of technology. These competencies serve as a framework for integrating technology and curriculum at all grade levels.

By the end of the 1999-2000 school year, all schools in the District will be connected to the District network, providing access to District resources as well as to the Internet resources for information and communication. This connectivity will be increasingly valuable as classrooms acquire, primarily through leasing, the current technologies which enable full utilization of these resources, and as teachers and students have the training, experience, and expertise to use the resources in efficient and effective ways to increase learning.

In anticipation of total connectivity for classrooms, the Anchorage School District has already embarked on widespread staff training in the use of technology and its integration into curriculum. This effort, along with increased technical support for technology, must be augmented as current technologies are more prevalent in classrooms.

The Technology Plan for the Anchorage School District is a working document, always subject to review by staff and community members. This review includes an assessment of the following:

- integration of technology into the curriculum to meet standards;
- instructional support and training;
- technical support;
- network status and needs;
- hardware and software standards;

- implementation of the Technology Plan.

It is the intent that the review process will occur on a regular basis. Periodic updating ensures that as technologies and the world change, students will continue to have the necessary tools and experiences to prepare them for success in the 21st Century.

Cost of Recommendations:

This plan contains specific recommendations addressing critical needs identified in the planning process. These needs are:

- Leasing of computers to update technology and avoid future obsolescence;
- Expansion of Building Technology Coordinators to middle schools, elementary schools, and alternative schools and programs;
- Provision of additional personnel required for network and microcomputer systems support.

The net increase to the operational budget for the first year is \$1,468,000 and \$1,226,000 for the second year. The net increase to the operational budget would be \$2,694,000 annually. This will be an on-going cost. The first year costs have been included in the preliminary 1999-2000 budget.

BC/CC/NDH

Attachments

Prepared by: Norman Holthouse, Executive Director, Technology/MIS

Approved by: Carol Comeau, Assistant Superintendent, Instruction