

ANCHORAGE SCHOOL DISTRICT
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

ASD MEMORANDUM #262 (2001-2002)

April 29, 2002

TO: SCHOOL BOARD

FROM: OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY PLAN

RECOMMENDATION:

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

PERTINENT FACTS:

In September 2001 an Instructional Technology Plan Committee was organized at the direction of the Superintendent. The mission of the committee was to revisit the current Instructional Technology Plan, revising it to meet the criteria for the State as well as changes in technology and technology status in the Anchorage School District. The current Technology Plan draft (attached) has evolved through review and revisions provided by committee members made up of technology coordinators, principals, and teachers. In addition, an Advisory Committee consisting of the Chief Information Officer, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction, Executive Directors in Elementary, Middle and High School, Curriculum and Evaluation; members of Information Technology, Facilities and Maintenance departments, and community members, provided comments and revisions.

A draft of the Instructional Technology Plan was distributed to each School Board member on April 22, 2002. A presentation and copies of the draft were given to the Instructional Team on April 9, 2002 for review and suggestions

Areas of Emphasis in the Instructional Technology Plan:

The Instructional Technology Plan will be implemented over a three-year period, June 30, 2002-June 30, 2005. The timeline/action plan includes activities necessary to meet the goals and objectives set forth by the School Board as well as those outlined in the Plan. Emphasis will be placed on:

- Student Achievement
- Public Accountability
- Infrastructure
- Staff Development
- Student Technology Use
- Best Practices - Technology Integration

Student Achievement:

Technology plays an important role in informing teachers, administrators, and parents with the data necessary to drive the decision-making processes pertaining to the new ESEA requirements. The Anchorage School District Information Technology Department in conjunction with the Elementary Education Division is currently working on applications to provide teachers with longitudinal assessment data in the reading content area.

Public Accountability:

Utilizing secured applications through the District intranet, teachers and administrators will be able to use SiteBuilder to create web pages providing calendars, links, and homework assignment information for parents and students. Parents and students can request daily Email updates using MyASD and SiteBuilder. All certificated staff members will receive a half-day of mandatory hands-on training for SiteBuilder and Email.

Infrastructure:

Fifty-one schools currently meet the Electrical and Telecommunication Infrastructure (Appendix J) recommendation for a 5 to 1 student to computer ratio, with thirty-one schools in progress, and six scheduled for renovations

Staff Development:

Effective use of technology depends on the knowledge and skills of the teacher. Staff development is critical to the implementation of this plan. The Instructional Technology Department in conjunction with building technology contact/coordinators will deliver mandatory in-service training on the new Email system and secured applications.

Student Technology Use:

The Instructional Technology Plan Committee has developed a performance standards matrix, aligning performance standards and the Anchorage School District approved student frameworks with projects, software and Internet Resources (Appendix B).

Best Practices – Technology Integration:

The Instructional Technology Department will continue to identify and replicate “best practices” in technology integration, and assist schools with implementation. Indicators for identifying projects in classrooms and staff development models that use innovative technology solutions will be identified. Exemplar School-based projects and programs will be posted on the Instructional Technology web site.

Plan Evaluation:

It is the intent that the review process will occur on an annual basis. A Technology Oversight Committee will be formed at the direction of the Chief Information Officer. An annual report will be presented to the School Board reflecting the status of the goals and objectives set forth by this Instructional Technology Plan, including:

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

Cost of Recommendations/Funding:

The Anchorage School District Instructional Technology Plan calls for funding from a variety of sources, including the operational budget, local bonds and federal/state grants. The Enhancing Education through Technology, Title II D of the Leave No Child Behind Act will be completed as part of the consolidation grant in conjunction with Title I, II, III, IV, and V programs.

The net increase to the operational budget for the first year is \$30,000.00. These funds will be provided through the Title II, Part D State Grant. In Year Two of the plan, the net increase is \$606,000.00, which includes leasing the Phase I Certificated Staff Computers. Year Three, the net increase is \$1,189,000.00 which includes the addition of 2,500 Student Computers.

Critical Issues:

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

- The Anchorage School District currently has 15,303 computers in schools, of which 8,727, approximately 60%, will not support some current applications such as Outlook 2001 and the District intranet. Leasing of computers to update technology and avoid future obsolescence for teachers and students will alleviate this issue.

- Funding for the support of technology hardware, infrastructure and teachers is an ongoing issue. The Instructional Technology Plan Committee will review current levels of support using the “Athena Model” at each building. Recommendations will be made to the Technology Oversight Committee for future support at elementary, middle and high schools.
- More than ever before, teachers and administrators will need to have access to student data to guide their instruction to ensure students are meeting and/or exceeding performance standards. Technology will play an important role in providing student test data required by the Elementary Secondary Education Act. This secured data cannot be accessed on legacy computers. It is imperative that teachers and administrators have access to current technology. The plan calls for replacing certificated staff computers first, with student computers being replaced in the third year of the plan. The annual cost for certificated staff computers is approximately \$426.00 per computer over three years. The annual cost for student computers is approximately \$220.00 per computer over four years.
- Providing teachers with consistent ongoing professional development opportunities to prepare them to use technology effectively to improve teaching and learning.

CC/JW/PL

Attachment

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