Texas Long-Range Plan for Technology, 2006-2020

Highlights of Recommendations for K-12 School Districts

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Background

- Replaces the Texas Long-Range Plan for Technology, 1996-2010
- New plan developed over a two year period by the Educational Technology Advisory Committee, appointed by the Commissioner of Education
- Plan includes funding requests to the Texas Legislature

Background

- **Communication Timeline**
  - November: TEA submitted the 110-page plan to the State Board of Education
  - December: Plan will be submitted to Texas Legislature
  - January: Plan will be submitted to the U.S. Department of Education and distributed to schools

Background

- **Includes recommendations for:**
  - State Board of Educator Certification
  - Education Service Centers
  - Local Education Agencies
  - Higher Education
  - Parents, Community, and Private Sector
- **Recommendations in four categories:**
  - Teaching and Learning
  - Educator Preparation and Development
  - Leadership, Administration and Instructional Support
  - Infrastructure

Long-Range Plan for Technology 2006-2020

Promote Academic Excellence

Teaching and Learning

All learners:

- have access to relevant technologies, tools, resources and services for individualized instruction 24/7.
- use information and communication technologies to collaborate, construct knowledge and provide solutions to real-world problems.
- use research based strategies in all subject areas to improve academic achievement.
- communicate effectively in a variety of formats for diverse audiences.

Educator Preparation and Development

All educators:

- graduate from an educator preparation program that models current technology in instructional and administrative practices PreK-12.
- exit educator preparation programs knowing how to use technology effectively in the teaching and learning process.
- develop new learning environments that utilize technology as a flexible tool where learning is collaborative, interactive and customized.
- ensure integration of appropriate technology throughout all of curriculum and instruction.

Leadership, Administration and Instructional Support

All leaders:

- develop, implement, budget for and monitor a dynamic technology plan to meet the needs of a changing workforce and economy.
- create innovative, flexible and responsive environments to maximize teaching and learning and community involvement.
- Offer expanded curricular and instructional opportunities to students via online, digital technology, and a variety of distance learning technologies
- provide opportunities for sustained, relevant and timely staff development in a variety of formats.
- expect and plan appropriate technology use throughout the teaching and learning process as well as throughout administration.
- Use data effectively and appropriately in decision making.

Infrastructure

An infrastructure system provides:

- access to all e-learning technologies through ubiquitous broadband resources available 24/7 for all users.
- just-in-time technical assistance to support teaching and learning.
- measures to ensure all data is secure and accurate.
- data standards to support interoperability and accessibility for all users.

Recommendations to Local Education Agencies
Texas Long-Range Plan for Technology, 2006-2020

Assessment of Northside ISD Generally, doing we

Teaching and Learning

1. Integrate the Technology Applications TEKS within the foundation curriculum at each grade level and provide specialized courses in Technology Applications.
2. Offer and provide the Technology Applications high school courses to meet the curriculum and graduation requirements specified in 19 TAC Chapter 74.
3. Use the Technology Applications adopted instructional materials at all grade levels.
4. Use digital diagnostic tools for formative evaluation to monitor progress toward the mastery of instructional objectives.
5. Implement research-based strategies to improve the academic achievement, including technology literacy, of all students.
6. Develop strategies to monitor and document progress of integration of technology into curricula and instruction and to monitor and report student mastery of the Technology Applications TEKS to TEA.
7. Integrate student performance data from district/state assessment instruments with electronic curriculum resources to inform and differentiate instruction for every child.
8. Support the use of emerging technologies aligned with state standards for developing greater levels of collaboration, inquiry, analysis, creativity and content production.
9. Ensure anytime/anywhere access to technology-based learning for all students by providing appropriate devices, services, and support.
10. Ensure that school libraries have the latest technology and online resources for student research and curriculum integration.
11. Support school library programs and use library standards to ensure that school libraries assist classroom teachers in teaching information literacy and Technology Applications knowledge and skills.
12. Support the use of technology to promote student-centered learning across geographic and cultural boundaries that includes business and industry.
13. Utilize innovative strategies for the 24/7 delivery of specialized or rigorous courses and expanded curricular and instructional offerings through the use of technology, including online and other distance learning and digital content services to meet the diverse and personal learning needs of all students.

14. Provide curriculum to ensure personal safety for students in a digital world and Acceptable Use Policies that specify expectations and rules for students, parents, and teachers.
15. Implement innovative programs that promote parental involvement, increased communication with parents and community members, and community access to educational resources.
16. Support teachers in developing classroom websites and online resources to share lessons, monitor student progress, and establish regular communications with parents and students.

Educator Preparation and Development

1. Provide professional development for teaching and integrating Technology Applications into the foundation and enrichment TEKS through multiple delivery methods.
2. Provide professional development for Technology Applications courses as identified in SBEC Technology Applications standards VI - XI.
3. Provide training on the use of electronic tools and information to support sound, data-driven decision-making.
4. Develop strategies for all educators, including campus administrators and librarians, to master the Technology Applications Educator Standards I-V as access to technology and professional development becomes available.
5. Document progress of teachers towards mastery of Technology Applications Educator Standards I-V using the Texas STaR Chart.
6. Encourage participation in statewide, technology professional development opportunities.
7. Encourage educator participation in the Master Technology Teacher program.
8. Utilize innovative strategies for the 24/7 delivery of ongoing professional development through the use of technology, including online and other distance learning and digital content services to meet the diverse and personal learning needs of all educators.
9. Provide instructional coaches and mentors to support classroom efforts in using technology to improve learning in core curriculum areas.

Recommendations to Local Education Agencies
Texas Long-Range Plan for Technology, 2006-2020

Leadership, Administration and Instructional Support

1. Incorporate ongoing technology planning in classroom, library, campus and district improvement plans.
2. Promote a comprehensive planning process to ensure technology plans include clear goals, realistic strategies, and critical components such as compliance with state and federal regulations, needs assessment, budget and evaluation. Identify budget and secure funding to support technology identified in classroom, library, campus, and district planning efforts.
3. Include professional development on the integration of technology in all classroom, library, campus, and district improvement plans and measure their effectiveness against assessment tools such as the STaR charts.
4. Ensure a viable technology plan is written and approved prior to applying for the federal E-Rate discount program.
5. Utilize the district technology plan to ensure technology resources promote student achievement in accordance with No Child Left Behind.
6. Allocate at least 30 percent of technology allotment budget for professional development.
7. Include community input into the planning and support for the integration of technology into teaching and learning.
8. Coordinate the use of electronic data in district planning to support research-based decision-making focused on student success.
9. Initiate and implement policies to expand parental and community access to school facilities, library resources, and non-secured data through technology.
10. Provide instructional assistance for the effective integration of technology into teaching and learning in all school and district operations.
11. Provide parents secure electronic access to student information.
12. Incorporate mastery of SBEC Technology Applications Standards into local educator appraisal systems.
13. Participate in collaboration with representatives from PreK-12, higher education, parents, businesses and community to share resources and services.
14. Create business continuity plans that ensure critical technology applications can be recovered in a timely manner including electronic student records, instructional materials, financial and personnel records and communication systems such as email and web pages.

15. Budget for, offer, and support expanded curriculum and instructional opportunities to students via online and other distance learning.

Infrastructure

1. Design, install and maintain a technology and telecommunications infrastructure for communications and services that ensures equitable access.
2. Develop innovative funding and collaboration strategies with both public and private sectors to ensure all students have equitable and anytime, anywhere access to broadband communications.
3. Build community support for anytime, anywhere Internet access through collaborative planning, education, public information and other means.
4. Strive to achieve and maintain a personal computing device ratio of 1:1 for both students and professional educators.
5. Provide on-demand access to appropriately configured technology for all students and staff, including those with disabilities, in libraries, school offices, and other work areas.
6. Strive to participate in the high-speed, high-capacity statewide telecommunications network.
7. Maintain an obsolescence policy to ensure maximum efficiency and use of technology and infrastructure by all students and staff.
8. Provide and maintain an infrastructure for communications with parents and community members, including year-round access to school news, educational resources, data and personnel.
9. Provide access to digital instructional tools that meet interoperability and data accessibility standards for instruction.

Requests to the Texas Legislature

Dedicated Educational Technology Funding

Recognize the need to increase the Technology Allotment

Funding the Technology Allotment to enable districts to reach and maintain the Advanced Tech level of the Texas STaR Chart would require a minimum of $123 per ADA. Current funding is just over $27 per ADA. Original legislation called for the allotment to start at $30 per student per year and increase by $5 per year until it reached $50 per student. Since 1992, the allotment has remained at $30 or less per student. The allotment is currently funded from the Telecommunications Infrastructure Fund (TIF). Using a phased in approach, the Technology Allotment should be increased to at least $50 per student for 2007-2008 and increase by $10 per year until it reaches at least $123 per student.

Current Annual Allotment 2007-2008
Approximately $27 per student

2007-2008	**2008-2009**
$50 per student	$60 per student

Recognize the need for additional funding for Infrastructure and Related Technical Support

An Infrastructure Allotment including funding to implement disaster recovery plans to maintain access to essential technology services and communication is essential to maintain a statewide infrastructure to support teaching and learning, provide access to data for decision-making, and to conduct the business of schools. There is no current state funding for this purpose. The request is to establish the Infrastructure and Related Technical Support Allotment at $35 for 2007-2008 and increase as demands for infrastructure continues to grow through the year 2020. This allotment could be funded through the Telecommunications Infrastructure Fund.

Current Allotment $0

2007-2008	**2008-2009**
$35 per student	$35 per student

Statewide Leadership and Support

Recognize the need for funding for statewide leadership and support for educational technology at TEA and Education Service Centers

Funding is essential for the Texas Education Agency and the Education Service Centers' educational technology departments to provide leadership and support with $1 million for TEA and $450,000 average per ESC x 20 ESCs. Additional funding should also be provided for the implementation of any additional legislation that requires TEA and ESC leadership.

Current Funding $0

2007-2008	**2008-2009**
$10,000,000	$10,000,000

Accountability

Require reporting of student Technology Applications proficiencies for appropriate grade levels as required for No Child Left Behind and state accountability.

Current Funding $0

2007-2008	2008-2009
$100,000	$100,000

Authorize TEA/SBEC to establish a Technology Applications Supplemental Endorsement and approved training programs with state reporting requirements to hold districts accountable for progress of teachers toward acquiring teacher technology competencies.

Current Funding $0

2007-2008	2008-2009
$250,000	$100,000

Fund stipends for Master Technology Teachers as detailed in TEC 21.242(e).

Current Funding $0

2007-2008	2008-2009
$750,000	$1,000,000

Economy and Efficiency

Fund statewide access to the Texas Library Connection resources for equity and for leveraging economies of scale.

Current Funding $0

2007-2008	2008-2009
$4,000,000	$4,000,000

Continue discounts of WAN connectivity and expand the eligible services to include larger bandwidth transport services to all regions.

Fund a statewide broadband PreK-12 education backbone infrastructure to support growth of Internet usage, electronic textbooks, simultaneous testing, virtual schooling, and professional development delivered via online and other distance learning technologies and demanding applications.

Current Funding $0

2007-2008	2008-2009
$1,000,000	$500,000

Develop and require state data standards for all district applications required by the state or funded with state funds to meet interoperability and accessibility requirements.

Current Funding $0

2007-2008	2008-2009
$100,000	$100,000

For many years, funding was appropriated for implementation of the Long-Range Plan for Technology. The amount ranged from $13.9 million in 1996 to over $16 million in 2002 and was usually paid from the Telecommunications Infrastructure Fund. This funding was eliminated in the 2003 legislative session.