

2016-2018 Technology Plan Willow River School ISD 577

Technology Needs Assessment

Technology is changing at exponential rates. What is new today is old tomorrow. The needs of the district must also change as technology changes. The current unmet needs of the district that will be addressed by the technology plan include the following items, however these items may change over the duration of this plan in order to match the needs of the district with the appropriate technologies:

- a. To give our students access to digital learning without the limitation of having to be at school we have implemented a 1:1 device program, but it is currently limited to certain grades. To help meet the needs of our students we need to expand this program to give access to more students.
- b. There is limited software available to our art and industrial technology departments to meet the needs of the curriculum they are using.
- c. The phone system we have needs to be upgraded to a newer system. The current system we have is over 16 years old and constantly needs repairs. With replacement parts becoming hard to find, a major concern is when will a major system failure occur and how will it impact daily classrooms. This will be funded partially through E-rate.
- d. Our wireless network infrastructure needs to be enhanced enough to support our plan of 1:1 devices K-12. This is a project hopefully able to fund through E-rate.
- e. Our server infrastructure and local network broadband coverage needs to be designed to efficiently handle a 1:1 environment as well as more redundancy built in to help prevent disruptions in classroom productivity. This will be funded through E-rate.
- f. There is a need to improve the access to the technology available in the district to the community through Community Education programs.
- g. Technology, the ways it is used, and it's presence in everyone's lives is constantly changing and growing. It's hard for an individual to keep up with the ways to efficiently and effectively use technology. To help keep the faculty up to date on the latest technologies and ways to use them we must provide professional development opportunities more frequently throughout the year.

Goals and Strategies:

1. Mission Statement: Willow River Schools is committed to providing the highest quality education to every student who enters our doors. Our community and school strive to provide a safe, healthy, nurturing, and productive learning environment.
2. The technology vision statement can be defined in a general sense as a means to assure that our students will possess the skills they need to live successful, productive lives. Technology has become the fastest developing tool for learning, communicating, and earning a living. In order to be successful in accomplishing our mission statement, we must include all learners: community members, parents, K-12 students and post-secondary students who live in our community. This is especially true for the people of east central Minnesota who are in an extremely rural location of the state. Our technology vision statement has these main objectives:
 - a. Deliver as much relevant technology to the staff and students as we can. This includes computers, software, interactive classroom technologies, 1:1 devices and online courses.
 - b. Continue to provide training to our staff so that technology becomes a tool to enhance education and learning, not simply substitute older media.
 - c. Introduce technology into the entire community (parents, community members, and K-12 students) so that all learners may use it to learn and explore.
 - d. Acquire appropriate technology to support and enhance the approved curriculum. This means we will match the technology to the curriculum, not try and force the curriculum into the technology.
 - e. Continue planning for the future and the new technologies and software that enhance learning for our students.

Professional Development Plan:

1. All staff employed by the district are required to attend training sessions on the use of technology as it relates to their specific jobs within the district. All new staff receives training on the software and peripheral devices (Smart Boards, projectors, etc...) they will be using prior to the actual start date of classes. These training sessions include an overview of district policies and procedures relating to technology, how to access email, the grading program, other applicable programs, and the 1:1 devices.
2. All paraprofessionals and substitutes will need to be trained on the technology that they will encounter with students they are with, computer programs used in instruction,

Smartboards, 1:1 devices, and other peripheral devices. This is to help support as small a disruption to the student's learning as possible.

3. Administrators will receive training in how to access student records for review, revisions, or entering data, how to access the financial software, how to access the personnel software and what access rights they have to district data.
4. External users such as students and community members will be provided training on how to access and use software that is available to their specific usage rights. This typically includes how to access email, online grade program, internet usage policies, and how to access a teacher's lesson plans if the teacher chooses to post them online.

Evaluation:

As technology is ever changing, the district's technology plan must also be ever changing. It needs to be a living document that changes according to current district goals, needs and technologies that develop. Communication between the involved parties (Technology Director, Superintendent, Principal, Teachers, and Board Members) is paramount. The Technology Committee and Technology Coordinator will meet regularly to discuss current goals and objectives listed here as well as any new issues that have come up since the previous meeting. Discussion will include what the goals and objectives are, who needs to be involved, and how do we go about achieving these goals.