

Introduction

Durant Public Schools has made significant steps toward the integration of technology in education, enabling students and teachers to take advantage of learning resources throughout the district and the world at large. All of Durant's seven campuses have a minimum of one stationary PC, multiple 24-station computer labs and one mobile computer lab available to all students. Classrooms in the district contain a minimum of two PC's for teacher/student use. Computers range from Pentium 4 to Pentium™ 5-class processors and have network connectivity for access to district technology and online resources. We will continue replacement of existing, outdated models as needed. A One-to-One initiative began in spring 2010 which provides mobile computing devices to all teachers as well as 7th – 12th grade students. BYOD connectivity is currently being allowed for faculty and high school students. All campuses are connected via a wide-area, fiber optic network utilizing Cisco switch gear. In-house Websense filtered internet access, email access via Microsoft Exchange Server 2007, Tipping Point intrusion prevention, Sophos enterprise anti-virus protection, Ironport spam filtering, Cisco firewall and VPN access are utilized in an effort to provide safe and dependable access to students and faculty.

As we continue to implement technology throughout the district, much must be done before we are truly ready to prepare students for the 21st century. By placing technology resources at the fingertips of the students in the classroom, we will be providing students with the ability to broaden their horizons on a daily basis. Taking the next steps will expand this access to all students and faculty within the district.

Technology Committee

Duane Merideth	Federal Programs Director, Superintendent
Hallie Hughes	Secondary District Curriculum Director
Beth Bean	Elementary District Curriculum Director
Aaron McCoy	Principal, Durant Intermediate School
Leslie Webster	Adult Education Programs, Durant Public Schools
Larry Bennett	Chief Technology Officer
Andi Hudson	Director of Technology
Randi Nabors	Parent
Tanya Lindley	Library Media Specialist, Northwest Heights Elem.
Dana Briedwell	Supportive Services, Durant Public Schools
Nate Morrison	School Board Member

Belief Statement

The Durant Independent School District believes that people are empowered by their independent use of computers and other technologies and united by their opportunities to share resources and communicate in a global community.

Vision Statement

The Durant Independent School District's vision is that all students can become productive, fulfilled, inquisitive citizens who are an asset not only to themselves, but also to their community, state, and nation.

Mission Statement

The Durant Independent School District's mission is to enhance students' lives by motivating them to learn and grow through whatever resources technology can provide.

Strategies for improving academic achievement and teacher effectiveness

DISD has been working diligently to develop various strategies to improve academic achievement and teacher effectiveness. In 2002, we began merging data and preparing for integration of SIF-Compliant elements within the district. Currently, we are utilizing SIF-Compliant applications for learning management, text-book inventory, active directory services, library automation, web-based student learning, food service, student health

records, data warehouse, and student management. Migration of data elements to a data warehouse allows teachers to more effectively monitor student progress and develop strategies to improve individual student learning. Providing teachers with web-based access to student information and achievement data will allow them to create individual learning plans at their convenience. Professional development continues to increase the ability level of teachers, allowing them to implement new technologies in the classroom which are attractive to today's multimedia oriented students. The district's vision to develop educational strategies "The Durant Way" has led to intelligent classrooms equipped with multiple computers, projection systems, document cameras, and interactive whiteboards, as well as enhanced audio systems. Implementation of our web-based curriculum link library and network-based curriculum video library gives teachers a wealth of resources to enhance lesson plans using technology. Implementation of a district wide video surveillance system and better communication within the district, by the use of web-based Microsoft SharePoint Services calendars, gives teachers the confidence and assurance to focus on improving instruction, rather than outside factors.

Goals of the District

1. Integration of technology into classroom curriculum to enhance the learning environment and expand access to learning resources

- a. One-to-One implementation will advance with the grade level as students are promoted through 12th grade
- b. Integrate curriculum delivery methods with Web 2.0 tools
- c. Coordinate software purchases for effective student and staff use, and as learning supplements in the classroom
- d. Continue acquisition of devices for the district to achieve 2:1 student to pc ratio; 1:1 7th-12th grades
- e. Train staff to become proficient in the effective use of technologies aligned to the ISTE NETS•T and performance indicators for teachers.
- f. Implement and maintain web-based curriculum link library, network-based curriculum video library, and web-based professional development video library
- g. Utilize parent, student and staff input to further direct technology needs
- h. Continue to develop and build intelligent classrooms which integrates multimedia equipment, such as digital projectors, document cameras, interactive whiteboards and assisted listening systems in each classroom

2. Extend the utilization of technology beyond the classroom

- a. Maintain accessibility compliant website for the district
- b. Maintain secure parental access for viewing student data via Parent Portal
- c. Continue to give students secure access to online assignments and assessments
- d. Maintain an information-based public broadcast channel on Meadiastream local cable system
- e. Continue to give parents/guardians access to online crediting of student meal accounts
- f. Continue and develop web-based communication with parents via e-mail, newsletters from sites, cable television and video episodes

3. Increase community participation and parental involvement in learning opportunities

- a. Continue a partnership with the Adult Basic Education Program that is funded by the Lifelong Learning Section of the State Department of Education by providing technology access to all participating adults
- b. Implement a partnership with existing parent programs (i.e. P.T.A., O.P.A.T.), by providing access to technology advertised through websites and newsletters
- c. Technology newsletters, email correspondence, surveys and faculty presentations
- d. Training that offers effective use of district hosted resources for parents
- e. Training that defines appropriate use of technology as defined by the ISTE NETS•S Digital Citizenship standard.

4. Improve student and faculty productivity through district managed technology

- a. Improve student teacher communication through the use of Web 2.0 tools.
- b. Maintain curriculum delivery strategies utilizing Web 2.0 Tools
- c. Continue to maintain and support a network infrastructure capable of delivering a variety of digital curriculum/content
- d. Continue to expand upon the current web-based centralized SMS database to meet NCLB data element and reporting requirements
- e. Migrate remaining Student management Support Programs to SIF-Compliant systems and to assure that newly acquired programs are SIF-Compliant
- f. Continue implementation of SIF-enabled district-wide data warehouse to produce reporting across disparate databases
- g. Continue to use Microsoft SharePoint Services and Google calendars and tools to increase communication and share resources across the district
- h. Provide software module that allows for the creation of district curriculum maps.
- i. Provide online lesson planning tools and LMS allowing teachers to create electronic lesson plans from district curriculum maps.

5. Maintain and utilize technology to create a safe and efficient work environment for students and faculty

- a. Maintain a digital web-based video surveillance system at all campuses and route buses
- b. Maintain protected entry access-control systems at all campuses
- c. Maintain compliance with CIPA regulations.
- d. Maintain secure access to data via IPS, firewall, VPN and SSL technologies

Steps to Increase Accessibility

The district will continue to purchase technology in an effort to meet a 1:1 student/teacher device ratio. All campuses are currently saturated with wireless network connectivity allowing access to educational content from throughout the entire campus. In addition, many technology resources have been made accessible from outside the district to both students and faculty. The district will continue to provide assistive technologies to students based on their individual needs. Assistive software and hardware will be purchased and provided to those students based on recommendations from the students IEP.

Promotion of Curricula and Teaching Strategies that Integrate Technology

Utilization of educational consultants, building level team discussion groups, faculty surveys, and other collaborative efforts provide the basis in developing both policy-oriented and support-oriented concepts. These concepts are achieved through adopting curricula with technology components, the inclusion of technology criteria in teacher lesson plans, continued support and encouragement from technology integration specialist and co-planning among faculty. In addition, opportunities to attend workshops and other educational technology forums will be provided through staff development monies.

Professional Development

Professional development technology training will continue to be enhanced for all staff members. Training sessions will be on-going throughout the school year in the form of group hands-on training, web-based learning and individual instruction. Areas will include web-based curriculum delivery systems, learning management systems, student management systems, software applications, electronic communication tools, assessment tools and multimedia equipment tools. Training will continue to occur at each campus and at the district office as needed. The technology integration specialist will coordinate and implement training and consult with outside sources as necessary. Other resources that may be utilized are Southeastern Oklahoma State University technology staff, Oklahoma State Department of Education, International Software Consultants of Durant, Kiamichi Area Vo-Tech, Robert L. Williams Library technology staff, Oklahoma Technology Administration, Advanced Learning Partnerships, and South-Central Region Technology Center. Professional

development will be part of the technology integration specialist's job description and will be paid from the professional development and grant budgets. Evaluations will be completed by teachers and turned in to the professional development director. Technology training standards to be covered as listed below (**Goal 1**).

- Web 2.0 Tools
- Microsoft Office Suite Products
- Google Suite of Services
- Microsoft SharePoint Services and Curriculum Library
- Renaissance Place
- Web-based curriculum remediation and improvement suites
- Infinite Campus SIS & Instruction Modules
- Network-based Curriculum Video Library
- Data Warehouse
- Professional Development Video Library
- Interactive White Board / Multimedia Classroom Technologies
- Microsoft Exchange
- BrainHoney Learning Management System
- Hardware use and troubleshooting

Funding for Technology

Funding for technology projects is provided through a variety of sources to include the following:

- General budget of the district
- E-Rate
- Staff development funding
- Federal and State grants
- Community participation
- Fund raising
- Federal Title Monies
- Bond Monies

A concerted effort will be made to acquire funding from a variety of funding sources. An on-site proposal writing team will proactively look for new solicitations to proposals and prepare responses for funding appropriate portions of the plan as they relate to specific grant guidelines. This will include local, state, and federal agencies, private foundations, vendors and others. Continuing evaluations and modifications of the plan will insure that the appropriate information is available to submit to the various funding sources.

Coordination with other resources

The district will continue to coordinate scheduling with the technology department to provide support services for other departments as necessary. Upgrades and purchases of new software/hardware will allow our transportation, food service, and maintenance departments to cut costs and streamline productivity. The IT staff helps research and provides implements services for many other departments as well in an effort to increase the resources available for all users.

Integration of technology with curricula and instruction

Both software and hardware purchases are driven by curriculum needs and must meet specific requirements set forth by district policy. All campuses contain multiple 25 station computer labs and various mobile device implementations. Implementation of standardized intelligent classrooms was completed at all campuses in 2009. The addition of Mac-based computers at the high school level has been essential to developing multimedia software skills for many students. Implementation of Web 2.0 tools help prepare teachers for 21st century teaching styles and One-to-One computing. The technology director is available daily for technology training and technicians strive to provide same day service for technical issues. The district has developed a curriculum library that enables teachers to share digital curriculum resources across the district.

Continuing professional development provides teachers with the skills to create and publish curriculum and provide other users metadata pertaining to those resources.

Innovative Delivery Strategies

The district provides a variety of methods to deliver and implement a technological vision for the district. With the evolution of Web 2.0, a vast array of ideas and techniques are readily available for students and faculty. Online learning communities, blogs, wikis, a mobile app and other collaboration tools are being promoted and used as effective strategies for content delivery and student participation. A high-speed switched network provides access to video content from within our district. Distance learning technology is used by many of our students to study Choctaw, one of Oklahoma's native languages.

Parental Involvement

The district currently, and will continue to make use of surveys, building level teams, and other resources which involve parents to help meet the district technology needs (**Goal 1**).

Upgrades for federal accessibility compliant guidelines have been made to the district web site and various steps have been taken to promote parental use of the district web site for schedules, menus, and general information. Secure access to online payments is integrated into our POS, for parents to view and credit food services accounts. Access to student daily grades, assignments and announcements are available via the LMS platform. This helps students prepare for and complete work outside of the realm of the school day and allows parents to be part of the homework process. Currently, various district sites are communicating with parents via weekly e-mail newsletters and mobile app that informs parents about current events and activities. Objectives have been met using general funding (**Goal 2**).

The Video Production Class at Durant High School continues to be a successful program, providing information-based public broadcast via a local cable station. The program was added in 2003 and is open annually to 15 individually selected students. They are trained in the creation and production of a weekly news broadcast, as well as the scheduling and transmission of current events, student achievements, announcements, job postings, and other necessary information over fiber optic cabling to Medistream in Durant. Live and pre-recorded sporting events, assemblies, announcements, and non-copyrighted drama presentations are scheduled weekly. The program is funded by bond and vocational monies and Carl Perkins funds (**Goal 5**).

Implementation began in the fall 2007 with Mizuni Inc. for the availability of a parent portal for access to student data. Data available ranges from general student information, scheduling, medical information, library and food services information, transportation information, current grading period reporting and high-stakes testing results. Parents have secure access to their student's information via the web-based portal. Video based- training is available so that Parents can remain informed of the technology advances and additional data elements that may be added. The portal is funded by general fund, bond and grant monies. A parent portal is also available via our Student Information System. (**Goals 2 & 6**).

Collaboration with Adult Literacy Service Providers

Currently, the district provides technology access to ABE/GED programs for both students and instructors. Selected campuses are open a minimum of six hours per week for adult use. Local campus libraries will be used which contain computer labs with GED software available as well

as Internet access. Advanced Learning Systems A+, Taylor 32 Reading and Mavis Beacon Teaches Typing software are provided. This is an on-going process in which evaluations are made by local GED program instructors and students. It is funded by State and federal grants. (Goal 3)

Accountability Measures

The Durant Public School Technology Plan addresses a continuing evaluation of progress. Specific evaluation methods include, but are not limited to:

- Administrative, Staff, Parent and student surveying
- Evaluation following events
- Administrative, Staff, Parent and student verbal feedback
- Building level teams
- Community focus groups
- Administrative testing and reporting
- Inventory measures

Supporting Resources

The district employs various third-party consultants to provide direction in the implementation of instructional strategies. Some of the consultants used by the school district include:

- Judy Barber, Collaborating for Results
- Marci Goldberg, Educational Systemics
- Ignacio Ybarra, Mizuni
- E.D.I.T
- COSN
- Dell
- Advanced Learning Partnerships
- Cisco
- EMC
- I.S. Corporation