



Creating a Culture of 21st Century Learning

Five-Year Roadmap

Successful implementation of the Westerville City School District's Learning & Teaching Roadmap will create 21st Century Learning Environments in which students are:

- Empowered through innovative, relevant and rigorous experiences; and
- Prepared for career readiness in a dynamic global economy.

The roadmap aligns with the district's Strategic Plan and was developed using a coherent, systemic approach that identified, involved and incorporated seven "silos of interest." While the central focus was on the concept of "What and how kids learn," excluding any of the remaining silos likely would have derailed the process and negatively impacted the final product.

Technology plays a critical role in the successful implementation of this roadmap. The district's plan is to provide one device for every two

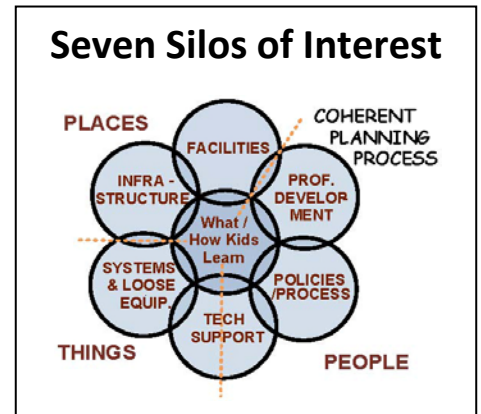
students. However, the district will not be purchasing technology simply for the sake of achieving this student-to-device ratio. Rather, technology will be purchased to support the district's goals, mission and planning for how students are educated in a 21st Century Learning Environment.

In a 21st Century Learning Environment, teachers will ask themselves the following questions for every student activity they plan:

Is my planned student experience:

- L** - Learner-centered (Does it meet the needs of the individual learner?)
- E** - Engaging (Is it an active learning experience?)
- A** - Aligned to Resources (Are available resources aligned to meet student needs?)
- R** - Rigorous and Relevant (Am I challenging my students with something that matters?)
- N** - Nurturing and Caring Environment (Do students feel safe, respected and cared for?)

When teachers follow this rubric and ask themselves these questions regarding each of their planned student experiences, then classrooms will successfully transform from teacher-centered learning environments to student-centered learning environments.



WCSD Classroom of the Future

Designing for Differentiation

"There's not necessarily a lot of flash," says Jim Hirsch, who oversees technology for Plano ISD in Texas, but classrooms support two key components: multitasking and collaborative work, providing a basis for meeting each student's needs.

Using **ETHERPAD** AND **SCRIBBLAR** (both open source), the district hosts its own collaborative writing space.

A typical fourth-grade class has at least **ONE COMPUTER PER THREE STUDENTS**.

Stick to a simple **PROJECTOR** and add a **WIRELESS KEYBOARD** for interactivity.

When buying PCs, have **SOLID SPECS** and a **GOOD VENDOR**. Hirsch may spend \$700 a unit, but if one fails, it's replaced in 24 hours.

The room is set up for **GROUP WORK**. The teacher moves among groups, offering remediation.

ENTERPRISE SOFTWARE from SAS gives teachers the data they need to group students effectively.

The district deploys **LAPTOPS ON A CART** when a class needs additional units.

The district's 21st Century Learning Environment includes

- Improved student and staff access to technology.
- Teaching practices that are student-centered, flexible, and view technology as a learning tool.
- Instructional staff who use researched-based, student centered, instructional practices that promote the development of 21st Century skills.
- A technology infrastructure capable of meeting increasing operational demands placed upon it.
- Enhanced staff, student and community engagement through the use of technology.