

**The Superintendent's
Middle School
Technology Task Force
Recommendation to the School Board**

**Our Technology
Journey**

March 24, 2014

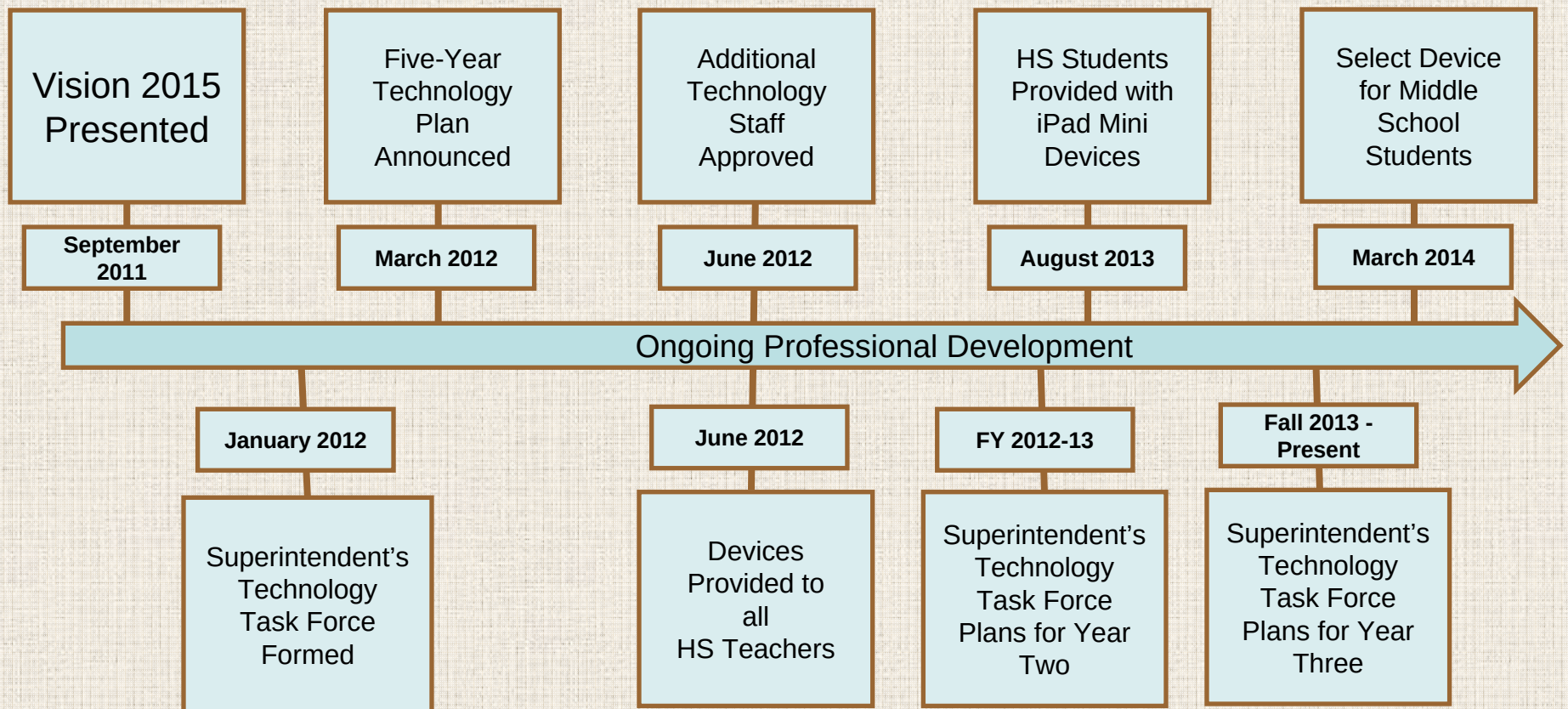
“Where do we want to be in three years?”

Lexington-Richland Five will not only continue to be recognized as a “World Class” school district here in the Midlands and in South Carolina, but will also be recognized as a “World Class” school district all across our nation and around the world.

“World Class”

...being a system where teachers have the setting and resources they need to do their best work and students have the setting and instruction they need to perform at their optimum levels and to compete globally.

Looking Back ...



21st Century Skills

If today's students want to compete in this global society, they must be:



communicators

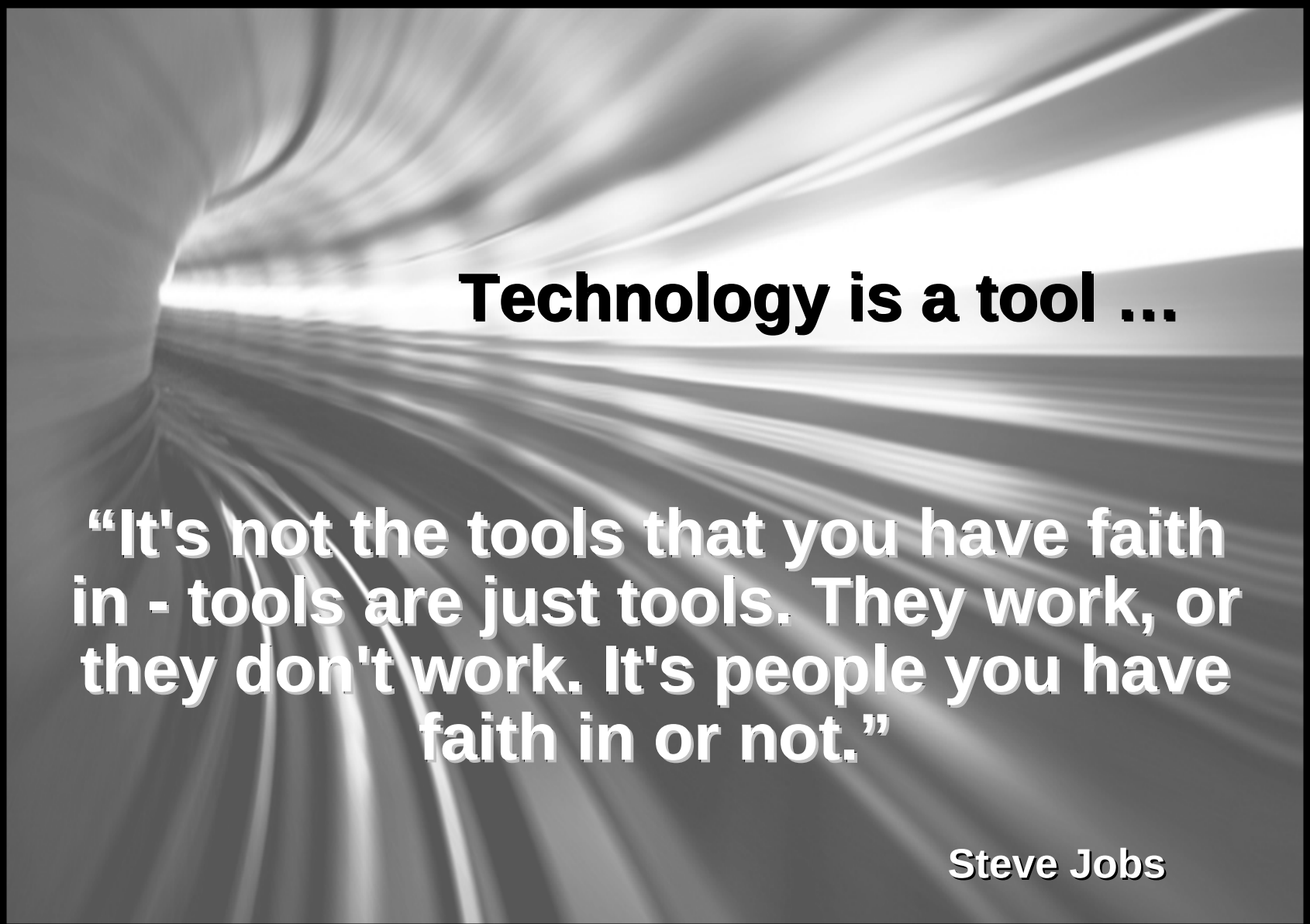
creators

critical thinkers

collaborators

Every student must be able to:

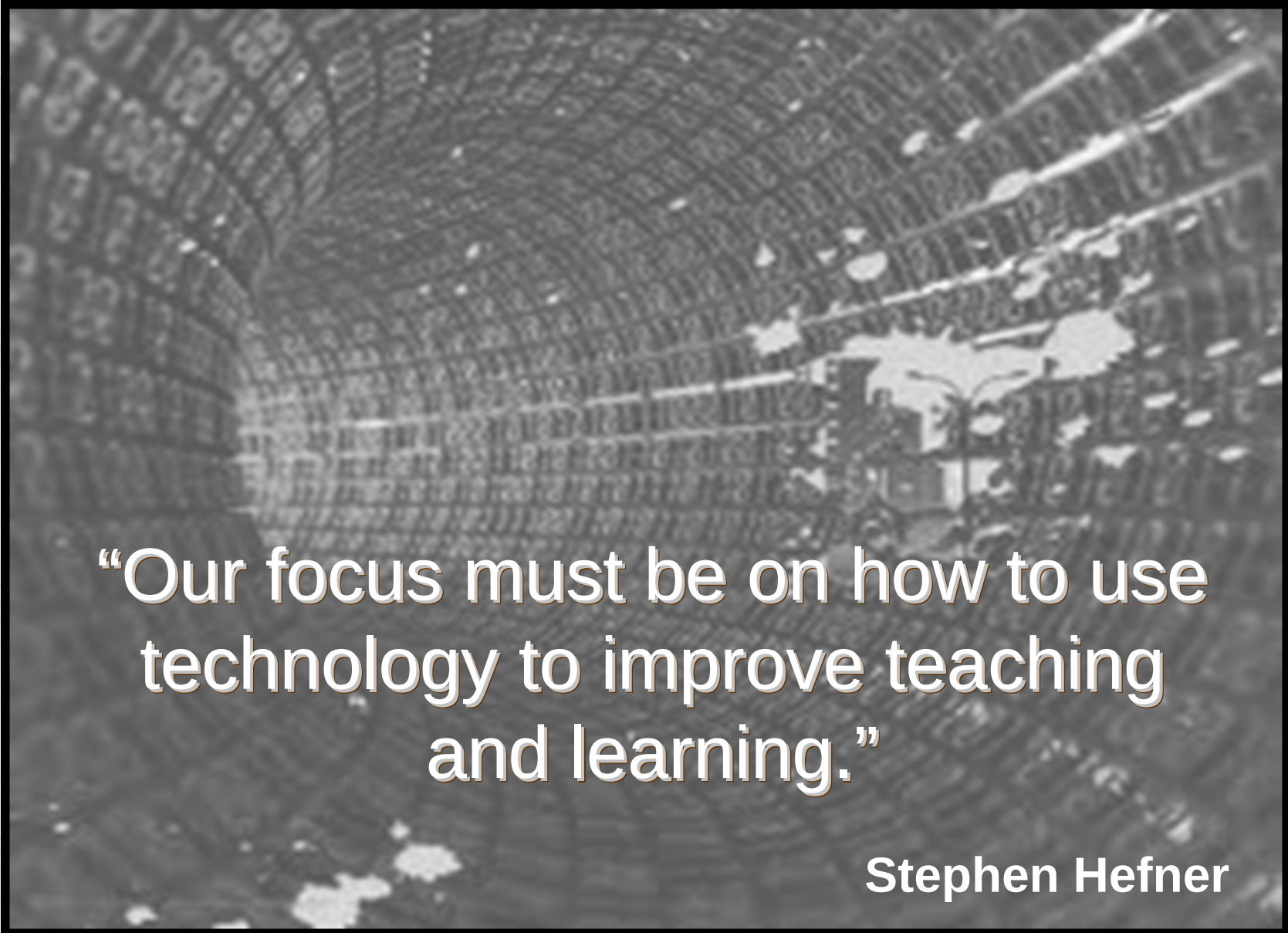
- **Download** instructional material
- **Research** and discern reliable sources of information
- **Upload** their work into a digital environment
- **Post** and respond to on-line academic discussion threads
- **Participate** in real-time on-line academic discussions
- **Manage** and organize their time and academic work in a digital environment

An abstract background featuring a series of bright, curved light rays or streaks that create a sense of motion and depth, resembling a tunnel or a high-speed journey. The rays are primarily white and light gray, set against a darker, textured gray background. The overall effect is dynamic and futuristic.

Technology is a tool ...

“It's not the tools that you have faith in - tools are just tools. They work, or they don't work. It's people you have faith in or not.”

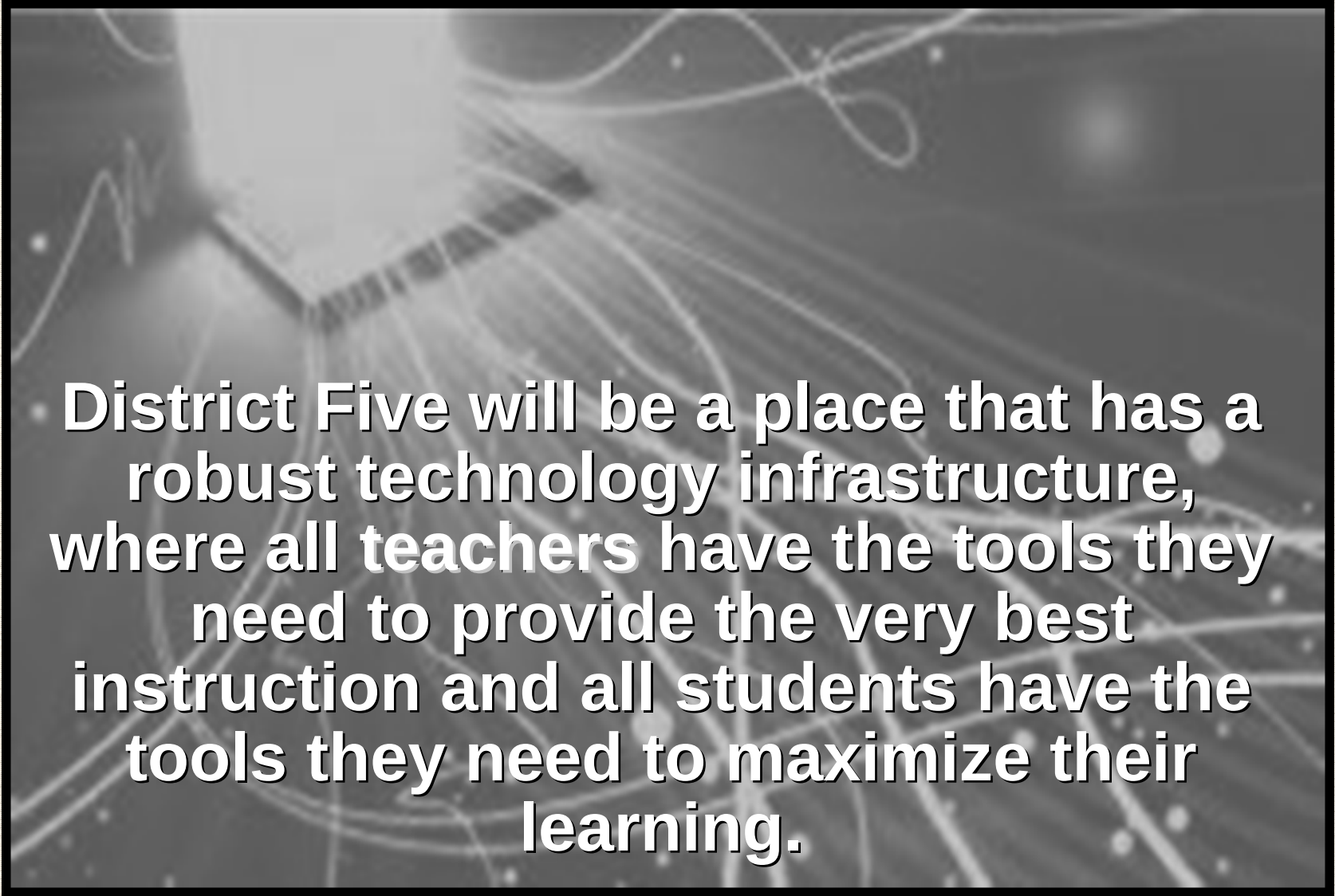
Steve Jobs

An aerial, black and white photograph of a city, likely New York City, showing a dense grid of streets and a river (the Hudson River) on the right side. The image is slightly blurred and has a grainy texture.

“Our focus must be on how to use
technology to improve teaching
and learning.”

Stephen Hefner

The Destination



District Five will be a place that has a robust technology infrastructure, where all teachers have the tools they need to provide the very best instruction and all students have the tools they need to maximize their learning.

Key Decisions

One: What instructional technology environment do we want for our students?

Two: What tools will students need to best navigate in the environment we choose?

Decision One: Blended Environment



An adaptable environment which serves the unique needs of all teachers and students.

Device Adaptable Technology System (DATS)

Decision Two:

Constantly assess the latest teaching and learning technology and match that technology to the needs of the District.



Task for 2014-15

Select the best device for distribution to Middle School Students



Use a rigorous and fair process to evaluate possible devices for middle school students.

Selection Process

- **Select a Middle School Technology Task Force**
- **Review District Five Technology Plan**
- **Learn from earlier technology launches**
- **Select screening criteria**
- **Select decision criteria**
- **Weight the decision criteria**
- **Select sub-group evaluation teams**
- **Teams rate each potential device**
- **Consolidate team results**
- **Confirm the selection**

Task Force Members

- **Michael Ames, Assistant Principal**
- **Gary Black, Chief Technology Officer**
- **Maureen Blanton, Math / Science Teacher**
- **Mark Bounds, Chief Information Officer**
- **Robin Bright, Elementary Principal**
- **James Burns, Parent SIC/PTO member**
- **Michael Cates, Parent SIC/PTO**
- **Kim Chavis, Math Teacher**
- **Gail Dawson, Parent SIC/PTO**
- **Reggie Dean, Coord. of Secondary Ed.**
- **Dr. Gerald Gary, Middle School Principal**
- **Will Green, Science Teacher**
- **Zachary Huffines, Technology Specialist**
- **Jesse Hutchinson, Middle School Principal**
- **Robert Jackson, Middle School Principal**
- **Melissa Magee, Special Services**
- **Dr. Christina Melton, Chief Instr. Officer**
- **Anna Miller, Middle School Principal**
- **Jason Thompson, Technology Specialist**
- **Lori Wenzinger, Social Studies Teacher**
- **Bryan Winfree, Math Teacher**

Screening Criteria

- **Must be under \$500.00**
- **Must be able to be used for computer adaptive testing**
- **Must have at least a nine inch screen**
- **Must have at least 6 hours of battery life**
- **Must be able to integrate with current technology**
- **Vendor must have the capacity to deliver sufficient number of devices summer of 2014.**

Decision Criteria

Instructional Compatibility - Does device support testing programs and integrate with current instructional programs?

Instructional Purpose - Creating communicators, creators, critical thinkers, and collaborators

Professional Development - The ease at which staff can be initially trained to optimize device use and the ease of ongoing PD for device use

Vendor Product Support - How does vendor handle warranty claims, what items are covered? Can devices be repaired locally or will they need to be shipped to repair center?

Vendor App Support - Process for purchasing apps. Does vendor accept purchase orders? Does the app store have educational categories for app selections?

Decision Criteria

Cost – Lower cost is better

Device Durability - Construction of device, will it withstand the demands of a middle school student?

District Technology Office Support - How efficiently and effectively can the District Technology Office respond to requests for application upload, restrictions and other device modifications?

Battery Life - Battery must last entire school day, 6 hour minimum, more is better.

Features like keyboard, video ports, USB ports, printing support - The number and functionality of features on the device, does it have features that increase the potential for instruction?

Criteria Weights

Instructional Purpose – **1.75**

Instructional Compatibility – **1.75**

Cost – **1.25**

Professional Development – **1.0**

Features like keyboard, video ports, USB ports, printing support – **1.0**

District Technology Office Support – **.75**

Vendor Product Support – **.75**

Vendor App Support – **.75**

Battery Life – **.5**

Device Durability – **.5**

Decision Matrix

Decision Criteria

Sub-Groups

Decision Matrix - Best Device for Middle School Students

Decision Matrix - Best Device for Middle School Students																			
Cost		Instructional Compatibility		Instructional Purpose		Professional Development		Vendor Product Support		Vendor App Store Support		Device Durability		District Technology Office Support		Battery Life		Features - Keyboard, Video ports, USB ports, printing support	
		Group 1 - Instruction						Group 2 - Vendor Support						Group 3 - District Support / Features					
1.25		1.75		1.75		1		0.75		0.75		0.5		0.75		0.5		1	
Raw	Weighted	Raw	Weighted	Raw	Weighted	Raw	Weighted	Raw	Weighted	Raw	Weighted	Raw	Weighted	Raw	Weighted	Raw	Weighted	Raw	Weighted
	0		0		0		0		0		0		0		0		0		0
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Raw Score

X

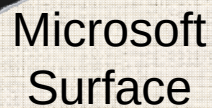
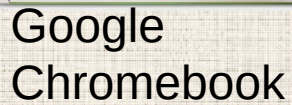
Weight

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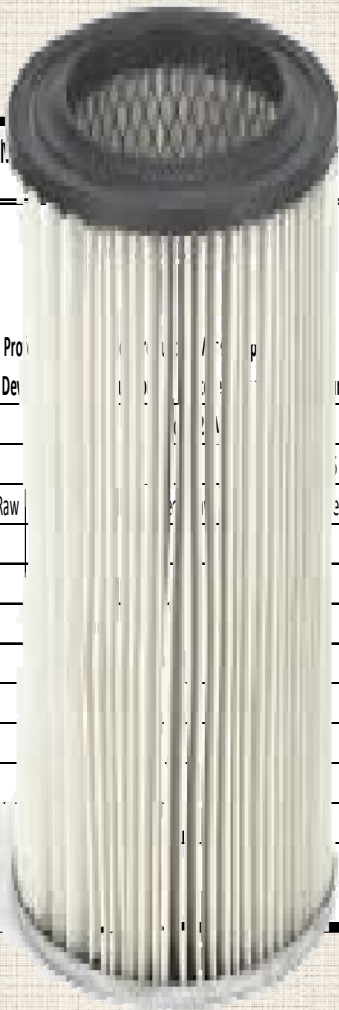
Weighted Score



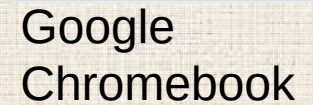
30.7



28.9



Decision 1: Laptop							Decision 2: Desktop						
Cost		Instructional Compatibility		Instructional Purpose		Portability	District Technology Office Support		Battery Life		Features - Keyboard, Video ports, USB ports, printing support		
Group 1 - Instruction							Group 3 - District Support / Features						
1.25		1.75		1.75			0.75		0.5		1		
Raw	Weighted	Raw	Weighted	Raw	Weighted	Raw	Weighted	Raw	Weighted	Raw	Weighted		
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	0		0		0		0		0		0		



36.8

Technology Staffing

Technology Integration Specialist (TIS) – Full-time position for middle and high schools which assists teachers in selecting and integrating appropriate technology into their instruction.

Current
5

CHS DFHS (1) MSs
IHS SHHS

Request
+ 3

1 for each MS

Teacher Technology Leaders (TTL) – An additional duty function for which teachers are provided a stipend to be innovators and early adopters of instructional technology and assist other teachers with technology issues.

Current
26

CHS DFHS CMS DFMS
IHS SHHS IMS CRMS

Request
0

Technical Support Assistant (Techs) – Full time position assigned to one or more schools to provide technical support to repair, maintain and otherwise ensure the school's technology infrastructure is operational.

Current
12

CHS DFHS
IHS (9) - Floaters

Request
+ 2

CMS/DFMS
IMS/CRMS

Integration Technology Specialist (INTECs) – Full-time position for elementary schools which assists teachers in selecting and integrating appropriate technology into their instruction.

Current
4

1 – w/2 schools / SpecEd
3 – w/3 - schools each
+ SOES (grant funded)

Request
+ 2

2 for each ES

Recommendation

- **For school-year 2014-15, purchase Chromebook devices for middle school students (including 6th grade).**



- **Continue to allow teachers and students to use other devices currently supported by our technology infrastructure.**
 - **Collect, upgrade and redistribute iPad minis for high school students.**
 - **Fill the Technology positions requested for 2014-15**
 - **Over the next two years continue to take the necessary steps to create a model Device Adaptable Technology System (DATS).**
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Discussion