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Technology

Strategic Plan

YELM COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

2024-2025

Executive Summary

The Technology Strategic Plan aims to leverage technology to advance the District's mission. This strategic plan is the culmination of an in-depth process that involves strategic thinking, reaching out to technology and education trends, and discussing technology needs with principals, teachers, and support staff. It provides direction and sets priorities for technology in our district.

The strategic plan is a partnership with the board, departments, support staff, principals, and teachers focusing on student development. This approach will help us maintain alignment with District goals while accomplishing reliability, integrity, and adaptability with technology trends.

The steps taken to develop and update the Technology Strategic Plan included an inventory of our technology ecosystem and collaborating with teachers, IT staff, support staff, and peers from surrounding districts. The technology budget and technology staffing/resources were benchmarked and compared to services.

Technology Vision and Mission

Vision:

Leverage technology to shape and build our District's technology ecosystem that will produce the best results for our students and educators.

Mission:

To provide the highest quality of customer service to everyone, every time.

Technology Plan

The Technology Strategic Plan has the following three sections:

- I Infrastructure & Digital Bandwidth**
- II Standardizing Hardware & Services**
- III 2024-2025 Action Plan**

SECTION I

Infrastructure & Digital Bandwidth

Network Infrastructure:

The District has made significant switch and routing upgrades. We have upgraded our core routers and our layer 3 equipment. We upgraded our fiber connections at each building internally to provide 10 GBPS to the classroom.

With online curriculum being the norm and moving to the cloud, we will have expanded our bandwidth to support every student utilizing online curriculum. To stay current with today's standards we have started utilizing a hardware replacement standard. We are working on creating a "Lifecycle" for our core and backbone networking hardware.

Wireless Infrastructure:

Upgrading the District infrastructure to 10 GBPS has tremendously helped our wireless infrastructure. On a periodic basis (typically every two years), we contract with a vendor to perform a wireless audit to make sure our infrastructure is functioning at peak levels. Any recommendations from that independent audit are evaluated and implemented as deemed appropriate.

We upgraded and moved our wireless controllers to a virtual environment which allows us to utilize full bandwidth capabilities. For example, during our closure, we were able to support wireless connections at our parking lots at designated buildings for students to connect from a vehicle.

Core Infrastructure:

The core infrastructure is the main distribution point for the District network services including domain authentication, internet, backup, etc. It also houses the District's shared folders and many other applications. The District replaced and virtualized all the core servers for the domain at each secondary school. We periodically contract with a vendor to conduct an independent switch/routing audit to assess how well the data is flowing and provide any recommendations for improvement. An independent audit is planned for every three years.

Digital Bandwidth:

Bandwidth is the bit-rate of data transmission. Think of it as a highway and we are limited by the amount of lanes for traffic to flow. The more lanes we have, the more traffic you can move from point A to point B.

SECTION II

Standardizing Hardware & Services

Lifecycle:

All student devices are placed on a 6-year replacement cycle. The district plans to order 1,100 Chromebooks each year. This allows us to spread the cost of devices over six years.

Cost for repairs on Chromebooks

This year, the district implemented a fine structure to help offset the cost of repairs. Also, each new Chromebook will come with a protective bag to help reduce the damage caused by accidental drops.

Laser Etching and Embossing:

Each student and teacher device has the District logo on the lid. The Chromebooks will have a protective bag with the district's logo outside.

Inventory:

Each year, we perform a physical inventory of all technology devices. We use Destiny to manage all of our technology assets.

Student & Teacher Laptops "The Mobile Teacher":

In the last few years, we have provided technology to most teachers, allowing them to roam the room, interact with a screen, and save what is linked on the board to their laptops. There is also the ability to view what the student is looking at on the teacher's device and share a student's screen for presentations.

Standard Laptop and Desktop Hardware & Software Configurations:

Our District operates in a Microsoft and Google environment.

SECTION III

2024-2025 Action Plan

1. Provide technology support for our students and staff, including support for numerous applications and services such as Zoom, QMLATIV, Adobe Sign, Lightspeed Classroom, VOIP, and the WAVE Cellphone App.
 - Order and configure 1,100 Chromebooks to maintain our lifecycle plan.
 - Provide our staff training, help, and support with the newly upgraded SIS software “QMLATIV.”
 - Continued training, support, and maintenance of our audio-video systems in our classrooms and gymnasiums at each school.
 - Supporting our new Fuel system that we installed this year.
 - Order and configure staff devices to support the staff lifecycle process.
 - Independent audit to ensure our Google infrastructure performs at peak levels and up to industry standards.
 - Track all technology assets via Destiny
 - Utilize Cloud infrastructure to help manage devices, device policies, and remote support.
 - We are creating a document to share with staff that includes helpful links, tips, how-to, and information. We will share this a couple of times a year.

2. Continue upgrading our infrastructure, network, and security.
 - Certificate-based access to help harden our wireless infrastructure.
 - 86” Interactive TV cabling and roll-out for our high school, Lackamas, and Mill Pond.
 - Yellow Folder – Digitizing our SPED documents for proper data retention and storage in the cloud.
 - SPAM filtering upgrades to help reduce the amount of SPAM emails we receive.
 - Finish upgrading the digital clocks with speakers at all buildings except our new schools.
 - We continued upgrading our account management system to support single sign-on for staff and students.
 - Security patch management – We added a feature that automatically detects out-of-date devices and applies patches to bring the device up to current security standards.
 - Continued work with our vendors to enhance cyber threat mitigation to protect students and staff from external attacks.
 - Consistently working with buildings to ensure proper camera coverage and door access control.
 - We introduced redundant failover with our firewalls this year and hopefully will have redundant failover with our core routers by the end of next year.
 - We purchased a SPAM training software to help educate our end users.

3. Complete ERATE-related projects funded by the Federal ERATE program

- WAVE – A new contract was awarded to WAVE for our Fiber WAN infrastructure.
- Wireless Access points and switching upgrades at seven schools: YES-RMS-PRE-LAK-MPE-MCK-FSE.
- Bus WiFi installed in 8 of our buses.
- Mill Pond data drops
- Replacing our batteries from our battery backup solution.
- MDF and IDF patch panel replacement and cable clean-up in our closets.