INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY

BSEP Measure E1, Resource 0762
BSEP Measure A, Resource 0862

ANNUAL REPORT: FY 2019-20
UPDATE: FY 2020-21

Measure E1 Purpose:
Providing instructional technology in schools, and access for students to computers and instructional technology[1]

Budget Manager: Jay Nitschke, Director of Technology

BACKGROUND

Technology in the hands of teachers and students is critical to teaching and learning and meeting District instructional goals. BSEP funds are the only resource that provides schools with staff to keep technology working. Technicians' tasks include supporting students, teachers and staff by keeping computers and other technology up-to-date and operational, to help integrate technology with the curriculum, to support teachers in using Illuminate, and to help technology committees and School Site Councils make decisions about technology needs and purchases.

Until the passage of the Measure I Facilities Bond in November 2010, there were no District funds outside of BSEP for the purchase of network infrastructure and other technology. Measure I funded wifi throughout the District. Measure I provides $523,000 per year through 2019-20 to improve District technology infrastructure. In the past three years, the majority of that money was used to improve wifi and short-throw projector installations.

Core Instructional Technology Program 2019-20 [Pre-Pandemic]:

The District working group known as DigiTech continued to meld Technology staff, Library staff, and the Instructional Tech Teachers on Special Assignment (TSAs) to focus on integrating technology into the regular school day.

In addition to Tech Department staff, the BSEP Technology budget also funds stipends for Tech Teacher Leaders (TTLs) at each school. The program began in the second semester of 2014-15. One teacher from each K-8 school and a group of three from the high schools met monthly with the Digitech team and worked at their sites to improve teachers' use of technology in classrooms.

---

[1] BSEP Measure E1, Section 3.B.iv

=Digitech and TTLs, in concert with Computer Techs provided by BSEP, significantly furthered the use of technology in classrooms as well as provided the means for students in the District to complete the computer-adaptive Smarter Balanced Assessments (SBA) in all 3-8 grade classrooms, and grade 11 at Berkeley High School and Berkeley Technology Academy (BTA).

With the progression of one cart per classroom becoming the norm in middle school classrooms, the elementary school norms were also put in place at middle schools
- Schools are committing to Digital Citizenship lessons based on Common Sense Media materials
- Teachers (grade 7-8) are committing to becoming Google Certified Educators
- Teachers are agreeing to use technology for certain projects in the curriculum
- District is agreeing to provide Chromebook carts in classrooms in 4th - 8th grade, plus one for every two third grade classrooms.

Instructional Technology Program Challenges and Achievements March 2020 - June 2020:
- With the pivot to Distance Learning, the Technology Department facilitated the procurement and provision of take-home Chromebooks, mobile hotspots. as well as the selection of online learning platforms.

Program Update FY 2020-21

- Tech Director Jay Nitschke is retiring after 15 years of service, and Max Eissler will begin work as Tech Director in late January 2021;

- Moving Oxford to West Campus: upgrading wireless and short-throw projectors;

- Network Switch refresh to accommodate higher bandwidth district-wide (equipment paid for by Facilities Bond);

- Working with contractors to prevent network disruption during A-Building construction at BHS;

- Technology has supported the implementation of Frontline (which provides a web and app-based portal for health attestations)

- Infinite Campus SIS to replace Illuminate ISI in 2021-22

Equity Essential Question for Technology

The Technology Department commits to ensuring that while we support district-wide programs, our resources and services must reach those who struggle with access.