

INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY

BSEP Measure E1, Resource 0762

BSEP Measure A, Resource 0862

ANNUAL REPORT: FY 2020-21

UPDATE: FY 2021-22

Measure E1 Purpose:

Providing instructional technology in schools, and access for students to computers and instructional technology¹

Budget Manager: Max Eissler, 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. The passage of Measure G allowed the district to continue to update infrastructure with the first bond issuance in November of 2020. These funds allowed the district to replace 2,000 classroom chromebooks which had reached their end-of-life and to continue implementing classroom displays. In 2021 the district began piloting touch-screen flat panel technology in place of short-throw projectors.

Core Instructional Technology Program:

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|--------------------------------|----------|
| ● School Computer Technicians | 6.20 FTE |
| ● Technology Supervisor | 0.75 FTE |
| ● Instructional Technology TSA | 1.00 FTE |

¹ BSEP Measure E1, Section 3.B.iv

The District Instructional Technology Leadership (ITL) working group (previously known as DigiTech) continued to meld Technology staff, Library staff, and the Instructional Tech Teacher on Special Assignment (TSA) 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 ITL team and worked at their sites to improve teachers' use of technology in classrooms. ITL and TTLs, in concert with Computer Techs provided by BSEP, significantly furthered the use of technology in classrooms. With the shift to distance learning for most of the 2020-21 school year, this support became even more critical as all teachers and students relied on technology for the instructional program. Due to the increased demands for instructional technology support in the distance learning environment, the TTL stipends were converted to hourly overtime compensation during the 2020-21 school year.

As one cart per classroom has become standard in grades 4 through 8, with additional carts strategically placed for other grade levels, school norms for their use have also become standard:

- 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
- The district has provided Chromebook carts in classrooms in 4th - 8th grade, plus one for every two third grade classrooms.
- The district has begun replacing chromebooks as they reach their end-of-life.
- Higher-end chromebooks have been made available to all classroom teachers for daily use.

Instructional Technology Program Challenges and Achievements July 2020 - June 2021:

- The district converted to a new student information system: Infinite Campus. TTLs, the ITL team and BSEP funded site-techs provided training and support for teachers, students and parents on this system.
- Technology procured, configured and installed 2,000 classroom chromebooks to replace devices which had reached their end-of-life.
- Technology procured and issued over 750 new, high-end chromebooks to teachers for use in the distance learning environment and the classroom.

- As Distance Learning continued, the Technology Department facilitated the procurement and provision of take-home Chromebooks, mobile hotspots, and coordinated with Ed Services for the selection of online learning platforms.
- Technology also partnered with the Schools Fund to provide technology support to families.
- A Technology department staff member was onsite each day the Ed Hub was open to provide tech support, and staff has spent time fixing Chromebooks (for example replacing broken screens) while the EdHub was closed.
- Technology department technicians responded to more than 3,500 helpdesk requests. An additional 1,500 requests were responded to by Berkeley Schools Fund volunteers.
- Over 4,000 Chromebooks and over 600 HotSpots were issued to families.
- When in-person instruction resumed, Technology received, repaired, and refreshed all take-home devices and placed them back into the classroom carts before the 2021-22 school year began.

Fund Balance Management:

The fund balance grew due to unfilled positions for part of the year, changing needs during Distance Learning and the need for fewer supplies and some purchases previously funded by BSEP were shifted to one-time COVID funding sources.

The intended uses of fund balance in 2021-22 and/or in subsequent years:

- Increases in per pupil allocations for school sites for Instructional Technology equipment and supplies
- One-time expenses including repairs, new computers, and other technology upgrades
- Multi-year software subscription cycles

Program Update FY 2021-22

- The district has applied for and received federal funding to purchase approximately 2,300 Chromebooks dedicated for student home use. The devices have already been purchased and received, and checkout will begin in January.

- The district has also applied for and received federal funding for 600 take-home hotspots for students who lack devices at home.
- Technology is continuing the partnership with Library Services and the Berkeley Schools Fund to issue hotspots and Chromebooks both through the student's home school library and the Ed Hub. These devices are available for any student who needs them, regardless of socioeconomic status or whether or not they are in distance learning.
- Schools will have more direct control of the equipment and supplies budget, allowing for greater flexibility and accountability for this spending.
- As the district has primarily returned to in-person instruction, the TTL positions have been returned to the prior stipend model in place of hourly compensation.
- The district continues its ongoing WiFi upgrades and improvements.
- The district plans to complete the Network Switch refresh to accommodate higher bandwidth district-wide (equipment paid for by Facilities Bond);
- The district has begun piloting touch-enabled, flat panel displays for the classrooms, with over a dozen installed throughout the district, and will work with teachers to finalize this standard and finish classroom A/V modernizations.

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.

To that end:

- In order to bridge the digital divide, Technology will begin providing Chromebooks and hotspots to any student who lacks access to digital homework and research.
- Technology will continue to ensure that Free/Reduced Lunch eligible and Homeless students are prioritized in access.
- Technology and Educational Services are collaborating to ensure that all classroom instructional technology is inclusive and meets accessibility standards.

- TSA and TTLs continue to coach teachers on best practices for technology integration including Universal Design for Learning (UDL) to ensure equitable access to the curriculum.
- Technology has for many years made sure that Chromebooks were provided to each student in BHS Bridge (a program for first-to-college students of color at BHS).
- At BHS, our School Technicians have provided internship opportunities to RISE students to enhance their tech skills and have provided mentoring and college recommendations.

BERKELEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
BERKELEY SCHOOLS EXCELLENCE PROGRAM (BSEP)
Instructional Technology (Measure E1, Resource 0762)
Revenue and Expenditures
Comparison Report FY 2020-21

Purpose:

Three and a quarter (3.25%) of the Available Revenues shall be allocated to providing instructional technology in schools, and access for students to computers and instructional technology.

Budget Manager: Max Eissler, Director of Technology

	Adopted Budget 2020-21 as of 07/01/20	Unaudited Actuals 2020-21 as of 06/30/21	Adopted Budget vs. Unaudited Actuals 2020-21 Variance	Notes
REVENUE	1,031,206	1,050,824	19,618	<i>Revenue increases due to receipt of prior year and additional current year revenue in 2020-21</i>
EXPENDITURES				
Certificated Salaries	99,500	107,640	8,140	
Classified Salaries	509,381	473,335	(36,046)	<i>Variance due to unfilled positions for part of the year</i>
Employee Benefits	291,148	245,088	(46,060)	<i>Variance due to unfilled positions for part of the year</i>
Books & Supplies	131,911	57,509	(74,402)	<i>Underspending due to distance learning and reduced site supplies and materials needs</i>
Unallocated Reserve	18,101	0	(18,101)	<i>Reserved for Personnel Variance</i>
Contracted Services	24,000	44,650	20,650	<i>Minor over expenditure in contracts due to Internet content filter for students at home</i>
Indirect Costs	51,124	44,183	(6,941)	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	1,125,165	972,405	(152,760)	
NET INCREASE (DECREASE)	(93,959)	78,418	172,377	
FUND BALANCE ANALYSIS				
Beginning Fund Balance	202,081	202,081	0	
Net Increase (Decrease) in Fund Bal	(93,959)	78,418	172,377	
Ending Fund Balance	108,122	280,499	172,377	<i>The fund balance grew due to an unfilled positions for part of the year; changing needs during Distance Learning, and the need for fewer supplies. Some purchases previously funded by BSEP were shifted to one-time COVID funding sources.</i>