

**Three Year Strategic Technology Plan for
Decatur County School System**

For the Period of July 2009 through July 2012

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Chairman, Board of Education

Three Year Strategic Technology Plan for Decatur County School System

Mission:

The mission of the Decatur County School System is to provide a safe and positive environment where students are challenged to become academically and physically prepared to succeed in life. Our mission is to have and maintain a "Connected Learning Environment". Administrators, teachers and staff will provide educational opportunities for students using state-of-the-art technology as a primary resource.

A Technology Committee has been formed to address technology needs district-wide, and to ensure that the Office of Technology is aware of and meets the needs of students and educators. This committee will include representatives from the district and school levels, parents, and school board members. The committee will meet on a regular basis to discuss technology related issues.

Community Involvement:

The Decatur County School System seeks to involve itself and collaborate with various community partners for the shared goal of better education for students. Community collaboration includes the following:

Parental Collaboration: Decatur County Schools will be in regular communication with parents and community groups for the purpose of meeting the goals of the technology plan. This will consist of regular parent/teacher organization meetings for which community members can voice their concerns and suggestions for the improvement of technology in the district as well as two parent/teacher open houses where individuals may see firsthand the type of instruction and resources available to our students and where individuals may work one on one with teachers to evaluate the progress of individual students. Parent volunteers are encouraged.

Government Agency Collaboration: Decatur County Schools will be in regular communication with the State of Tennessee for the purposes of reporting, receiving ideas, and maintaining standards for technology implementation.

Community Collaboration: Decatur County School System has implemented 4 Pre-K programs in the county to enhance early learning and to accelerate the establishment of patterns of learning in preschool children.. A varied schedule of both tutoring and enrichment activities are offered for children K-8 and a tutoring program is offered for students in 9th-12th grade.

The use of the community libraries reading programs, electronic and text research facilities is encouraged for all students.

Equity:

The District will ensure that all students and educators are given equitable access to technology and information resources regardless of race, gender, disability, economic status, special needs, or any other discriminating factor. Any discrimination by restricting technology access based on such factors will not be tolerated. Yearly reviews will be conducted to ensure that all students have equitable access to technology resources.

Goals

Expand on the current comprehensive assessment and remediation software program to ensure individual student achievement.

Constantly review the curriculum software content to maintain correlations to state and local standards.

Provide quality ongoing professional development ensuring teachers are prepared to utilize the tools available to them.

Upgrade and replace hardware and software resources as needed to maintain a state-of-the-art technology program.

Provide teachers with additional Internet and communication resources.

Strategies:

Decatur County Schools will utilize E-Rate Discounts, Ed-Tech funding, and local resources to expand its existing technology program. Monies from Carl Perkins funds as well as local funding will be used to create mobile presentation units for students who participate in regional, state and national

vocational competitive events. These units will also be used by vocational teachers in their daily curriculum. Local funding along with funding from the Adult Education Program has created and maintains two labs that are open to the public for instruction in general computer use as well as work place skills enhancement. These labs are under the supervision of certified teachers.

Monies from E-Rate discounts, local funding, and Ed-Tech funding have been utilized to purchase, equip and maintain laptop computers for the teachers to checkout for after hours use to assist them with lesson preparation. A combination of all funding sources will be used to purchase, equip, install and maintain the labs at all schools. These labs are equipped with Microsoft Office which includes: Excel, word, power-point as well as Think-Link, Study Island, A+advantage Learning, Accelerated Reading, Accelerated Math and Accelerated grammar, programs which are used to enhance, remediate and accelerate learning opportunities for students in the areas of math, language arts, and reading.

The Lexia program has been implemented in the two elementary schools and the middle school and two Neo Cart mobile lab's are in use at the middle school to enhance keyboarding skills as well as reading and creative writing. A credit recovery lab using Plato has been implemented in our High School.

Our technology program currently consists of one computer and printer per teacher along with at least one student computer located in each classroom. These computers are connected to the local network and Internet. Each school has at least one fully equipped computer lab with at least 25 workstations and a fully automated library with at least 12 student workstations. At least one 10 station mobile lab is available at each school. These labs are used to provide students with the tools necessary to competently carry out the technology requirements listed in the current curriculum standards for Tennessee. These labs are also used to provide technology staff development training in the areas of curriculum correlations to existing software packages and Internet curriculum integration during staff development. These centers are also used to assist teachers in reviewing individualized test data and offering hands on classes in technology integration.

Using local assessment data such as teacher assessments, surveys, Star Chart results, E-tote and Terra Nova scores the LEA will continue to add curriculum modules in the areas deemed necessary. Through periodic meetings with the administrative and instructional staff, the LEA will continue to work with software providers in order to maintain correlations with current curriculum standards as well as individual student needs.

Using data driven decisions, the LEA will provide continuous technology staff development in the appropriate curriculum areas. The LEA will implement a replacement schedule for all hardware in the district to keep pace with technology trends. Software resources are constantly evaluated and updated as part of our local assessment review policy.

Expanding the LEA web site to include more curriculum resources indexed by content area and grade level and providing an e-mail directory in order to increase electronic communications throughout the system will greatly enhance parent and community awareness.

Telecommunications Assessment

The Decatur County Schools Office of Technology conducts regular needs assessments of the current telecommunications infrastructure to ensure that adequate bandwidth is available to all schools. Additional ISDN or T1 lines will be budgeted as needed.

Promotion of curricula and teaching strategies that integrate technology

The LEA will use a variety of techniques to promote and identify methods for effective use of technology in the classroom.

The LEA has purchased a research-based software learning system in which we will continue to expand upon by the purchase of additional modules and sustained professional development. The curriculum is correlated to state and local standards and is used following the Tennessee Instructional Technology Standards. The LEA believes that this type of individualized assessment and remediation will lead to increased academic achievement and higher test scores.

The LEA will also conduct ongoing staff development sessions specifically related to the integration of Internet content and resources into the lesson planning process. We are bringing in outside trainers who focus on Internet integration. The LEA will continue to expand upon its current electronic resources including but not

limited to, Accelerated Reader, Accelerated Math, Star Reader, Advanced Learning System, A+ny Where Learning System, Accelerated Grammar and Spelling, Perfect Copy, Follett Circulation/Catalog Library Software, Tennessee Electronic Library, Study Island, Think-Link, and Internet4Classrooms. By assisting teachers with incorporating these resources into the curriculum we should see improved academic achievement.

Decatur County School System is investigating the implementation of some Distance Learning programs in our High School. Teachers will be asked to complete a needs assessment in order to help the LEA identify strengths and weaknesses of the current technology program. Teacher recommendations as well as results from curriculum mapping teams will be used to determine future technology curriculum purchases.

Timeline for Integration

2009-2010

Implementation and training on Plato credit recovery program

Implementation and training on the Neopad mobile cart and software.

Comprehensive training in the use of local test data and TCAP results to modify the teaching strategies as needed.

Continuation of professional development and data analysis strategies from the previous year to ensure that newly hired teachers have the same skills as our current staff

Investigate the use of distance learning for our students in High School

Seventy-five percent of all teachers will effectively integrate technology into their classrooms.

Timeline for Integration

2010-2011

Continuation of professional development and data analysis strategies from the previous year to ensure that newly hired teachers have the same skills as our current staff

Investigate the feasibility of wireless labs with curriculum software loaded o allow for individualized student learning at school.

Intense training for teachers and staff on the use of the new attendance software package

Possible implementation of distance learning at the High School Investigate the need for upgrading our telecommunications infrastructure

Eighty-five percent of our teachers will effectively integrate technology

in their classrooms

2011-2012

Continuation of professional development and data analysis strategies from the previous year to ensure that newly hired teachers have the same skills as our current staff

Implementation of distance learning at High school Implementation of wireless labs with curriculum software loaded to allow for individualized student learning at school. Ninety-five percent of our teachers will effectively integrate technology into their classrooms

Professional Development

The Decatur County School District believes that Staff Development is a key component to a successful academic program. Staff development will not be a "one shot" training effort. The LEA will provide ongoing opportunities in order to bring teachers and staff to at least minimum levels of technology literacy. Through the use of On-line training resources the teacher will have the opportunity to learn these basic computer skills and core software programs (i.e. Word, PowerPoint, Excel) at his/her own pace and schedule. Intensive training will be conducted in the use of the new attendance software package, including an automated grade book. Various training workshops are offered throughout the year and individual one-on-one technology assistance if available to all teachers and staff at their request.

The LEA will begin grade level meetings to foster better communication of technology teaching strategies.

Evaluation & Accountability

The technology committee will be the governing body for setting evaluation standards and monitoring progress toward specified technology goals. The committee will develop and implement needs assessments for students, parents, and teachers to help determine specific strengths and weaknesses. Staff members will be encouraged to communicate any concerns, problems, or recommendations with the technology office. The Technology Director will work closely with administrative and instructional staff to ensure that the overall impact of technology in classroom instruction is and continues to be significant in student achievement.

Data from electronic resources (i.e. Study-Island, Think-Link, Accelerated Reader, Advanced Learning System, Accelerated Math, Star Reader) will be used as

one component in the evaluation process to determine the needs for mid-year modifications.

As a form of evaluation, principals will make recommendations to the Curriculum Supervisor, Technology Director, and Director of Schools in order to monitor progress of teacher effectiveness, technology integration, and enabling students to achieve high academic standards. As a component of the teacher evaluation process, principals and supervisors will conduct formal and informal evaluations to ensure that technology integration is an integral part of the curriculum.

Another component of the evaluation process will be the analysis of student test data and teacher effect data. This will allow the district to determine the effectiveness of existing programs and to modify these programs as needed.

The technology staff checks with the Librarians, lab instructors, principals and teaching staff to assess the performance of our computer network as well as bandwidth and cabling needs and adjustments on a weekly basis. Upgrades and additional cabling are implemented as needed and bandwidth issues are addressed with the assistance of the staff at ENA.

Parental Involvement

The Decatur County School System has purchased the use of Global Communications in order to quickly be able to contact parents with any school closing or events that may come up. The LEA web site will be updated and expanded to include a more detailed calendar of events posted by school. The website will also consist of specific content area links to assist parents in helping their children with homework assignments. The LEA is considering the purchase of a component to its student management package, which will allow parents secure access to their student grades and attendance information. A directory of teacher e-mail addresses will be posted by school to allow better communication between teachers and parents.

Using the reporting features of the Advanced Learning System, Any Where Learning, Think Link, Accelerated Reader and Accelerated Math, the schools will be able to inform parents of student progress on a weekly basis. Through the use of the "Paid" folder, parents are kept well aware of daily assignments and grades and teachers have an avenue of daily contact with parents. Two open house parent/teacher conferences allow parents to see and access the students work progress and observe the teacher resources.

The LEA will work toward expanding partnerships with local business and civic organizations to enhance the infusion of technology into the curriculum and provide support for each other. We believe that these partnerships will be of service to students and businesses in this growing technological society.

Collaboration with adult literacy service providers

The Technology Director works closely with the Adult Literacy program to assist in the purchase and implementation of technology programs. The Office of Technology also provides technical support and repair and maintenance services to the Adult Literacy program. Decatur County Schools offer free computer classes to the community through the Adult Education program.

Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) Compliance

As part of the state contract for Internet access, the LEA receives Internet access from NetTN. NetTN provides Internet filtering that is in compliance with the state and federal guidelines; The LEA also has an Acceptable Use Policy and a Board Regulation on Software Piracy. These documents are provided as attachments to this plan. Each student and teacher and staff member is required to sign the AUP and it is included in all schools' Parent/Student Handbook. Decatur County School System has purchased the I-Safe internet safety training course and all Teachers, Staff and students are trained on internet safety through this course.

Strategies:

*Decatur County School System
2009-2010*

(Future year's funding is pending and final amounts/costs are approximate)

<i>Caterory</i>	Quantity	Item	Cost per item	Total costs	Funding Source(s)
Hardware	20	Desktops	\$720.00	\$14,400.00	ARRA Funds Title I
Hardware	40	Desktops	\$529.00	\$15,870.00	Local Funds, E-rate, IDEA
Hardware	4	Notebooks	\$0,645.00	\$02,580.00	Carl Perkins,
Hardware	24	NeoPads Cart		\$08,850.00	ARRA Funds IDEA
Hardware	9	Color Laser Printers	\$0,149.98	\$01,349.80	ARRA Title I
Hardware	1	Desktops	\$0,529.00	\$00,529.00	ARRA Pre-School
Hardware	2	Desktops	\$0,529.00	\$01,058.00	ARRA Funds IDEA
Hardware	24	NeoPads Cart		\$08,850.00	ARRA Funds Title IID
Hardware	30	Netbooks	\$0,385.00	\$11,550.00	Carl Perkins, Title IID, Local
Hardware	1	Smartboard	\$5,495.00	\$05,495.00	Carl Perkins
Hardware	4	Projectors	\$0,399.00	\$01,197.00	Title IID, Perkins, Local
Hardware	1	Smartboard	\$3,419.00	\$03,419.00	ARRA Funds IDEA
Hardware		Upgrade Cabling & Switches at all schools	\$120,000.00	\$120,000.00	E-Rate, Local Funds
Hardware	10	Laser Printers	\$199.00	\$1,990.00	Local Funds, E-rate,
Hardware		Various parts for repair and maintenance		\$10,000.00	Local Funds
Software		Student Management Software	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	Local Funds
Software		Web Site Hosting	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	Ed-Tech II, Local Funds
Software	54	Office xp License	\$62.00	\$3,224.00	Local Funds
Software		Think Link		\$10,840.00	Title I
Software		Accelerated Reader & Star Reading (DCMS)		\$6,000.00	ARRA Funds Title IID
Software		Study Island		\$11,526.00	Title II
Software		Accelerated Reader		\$04,197.00	Local Funds
Software		Accelerated Math		\$7,155.60	Local Funds
Software		Lexia		\$13,620.00	ARRA IDEA

Strategies:

Software		Plato		\$50,383.40	ARRA Title I	
		Total		\$304,713.80		

Technology Budget
Decatur County School System
2010-2011

(Future year's funding is pending and final amounts/costs are approximate)

Year	Category	Quantity	Item	Cost per item	Total costs	Funding Source(s)
2010-2011	Hardware	50	Desktops	\$0,720.00	\$36,000.00	Local Funds, E-rate, Title IID, Perkins
	Hardware	10	Notebooks	\$0,850.00	\$ 8,500_00	Local Funds, E-rate, Title II, Perkins, IDEA
	Hardware	15	Laser Printers	\$250.00	\$3,750.00	Local Funds, E-rate, Title II
	Hardware	3	White boards	\$1,500.00	\$ 4,500_00	Local Funds, E-rate, TitleII
	Hardware	4	Projectors	\$0,450.00	\$1,800.00	Local Funds, E-rate, Title II
	Hardware		Repair & Maintenance	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	Local Funds
	Software		Site License for ACT preparation software	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	Local Funds, E-rate, Title II
	Software		Site License for Gateway's Preparation software	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	Local Funds, E-rate, Title II
	Software	3	Study Island site License	\$3,842.00	\$11,526.00	Local Funds, Title II, Title I, Title VI
	Software		Web Site Hosting	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	Local Funds, Ed Tech II
	Software	75	Microsoft Office License	\$0,060.00	\$4,500.00	Local Funds, Title II,Perkins, IDEA
	Software	1260	Think Link	\$0,010.00	\$12,600.00	Local Funds, Title II, Title I, Title VI
	Software	3	Accelerated Math	\$4,000.00	\$12,000.00	Local Funds, Title II, Title I, Title VI
	Software	4	Accelerated Reader	\$4,000.00	\$16,000.00	Local Funds, Title II, Title I, Title VI
	Services		Training for staff	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	Local Funds, E-rate, Title II
	Services		Student Management Software	\$13,000.00	\$13,000.00	Local Funds
			Total		\$131,676.00	

(Future year's funding is pending and final amounts/costs are approximate)

Year	Category	Quantity	Item	Cost per	Total costs	Funding Source(s)
2011-2012	Hardware	50	Desktops	\$0,720.00	\$36,000.00	Local Funds, E-rate, Title IID, Perkins
	Hardware	10	Notebooks	\$0,850.00	\$ 8,500_00	Local Funds, E-rate, Title II, Perkins, IDEA
	Hardware	24	Wireless Lab	\$0,800.00	\$19,200.00	Local Funds, E-rate, Title II, Perkins, IDEA
	Hardware	15	Laser Printers	\$250.00	\$3,750.00	Local Funds, E-rate, Title II
	Hardware	3	White boards	\$1,500.00	\$ 4,500_00	Local Funds, E-rate, TitleII
	Hardware	4	Projectors	\$0,450.00	\$1,800.00	Local Funds, E-rate, Title II
	Hardware		Repair & Maintenance	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	Local Funds
	Software	74	Microsoft Office License	\$0,060.00	\$4,320.00	Local, Title IID, Perkins
	Software		Act Prep Software	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	Local Funds, E-rate, Title II
	Software		Web Site Hosting	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	Local funds, EdTech II
	Software		Site License for Gateway's Preparation software	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	Local Funds, E-rate, Title II
	Software	3	Study Island site License	\$3,842.00	\$11,526.00	Local Funds, Title II, Title I, Title VI
	Software	1260	Think Link	\$0,010.00	\$12,600.00	Local Funds, Title II, Title I, Title VI
	Software	3	Accelerated Math	\$4,000.00	\$12,000.00	Local Funds, Title II, Title I, Title VI
	Software	4	Accelerated Reader	\$4,000.00	\$16,000.00	Local Funds, Title II, Title I, Title VI
	Services		Training for staff	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	Local Funds, E-rate, Title II
	Services		Student management	\$13,000.00	\$13,000.00	Local Funds, Title II,
			Total		\$151,196.00	