

2010-2016 TECHNOLOGY PLAN

Bland County Public Schools

361 Bears Trl.

Bastian, VA 24315

www.bland.k12.va.us

Six Year Technology Plan for Bland County Public Schools

APPROVED BY SCHOOL BOARD MAY 23, 2011

Table of Contents

Executive Summary	3
Vision	5
Mission	6
Current Status of Technology	7
Collaborations & Partners	9
Appropriately and Adequately Designed Environment.....	10
Meaningful Engagement	11
Purposeful Application of Tools for Learning	12
Use of Technology Tools to Extend Learning Capabilities	13
Authentic and Intelligent Assessments	14
Implementation of Technology Plan	15
Fiscal Analysis	16

Attachments:

Attachment A: Planning Process

Attachment B: Acceptable Internet Access and Usage Policy

Attachment C: Internet Safety

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2010-2016 Six-Year Technology Plan for Bland County Public Schools outlines the course we will follow to ensure our students and staff have the technological skills necessary for success. It is our goal to meet the challenges and address the possibilities created by advances in technology. Our goal is to improve teaching and learning through technology.

The continued use of technology in Bland County Public schools will help students develop to be well informed, imaginative, and effective decision makers capable of working independently or collaboratively to create viable solutions to complex problems. The ever-changing status of technology will help students build a foundation for lifelong learning as the Information Age continues to evolve.

The Six-Year Bland County Technology Plan mirrors the 2010-2016 Education Technology Plan for Virginia. Our Technology Plan is in alignment with the areas identified in the Educational Plan for Virginia:

Appropriately and adequately designed environment

Stimulation Engagement

Purposeful Application of tools for learning

Use of authentic technology tools to extend learning capabilities

Authentic and intelligent assessments

The Six-Year Technology Plan for Bland County Public Schools for 2010-2016 was developed by the school division's Technology Advisory Committee, which consists of:

- Director of Technology
- Assistant to the Superintendent
- Faculty Representative from each of the Divisions' four schools
- A School Principal
- An industry representative
- A parent representative
- A student representative

VISION

Bland County Public Schools will strive to educate young people in every facet of life so that they may serve our society as worthy citizens of the home, school and community.

Development of the fundamental process of learning, along with ethical character, physical and mental health and respect for the property of others will be the primary focus of our county's school system.

To assure success in global competition, the education system must undergo a profound cultural transformation that will fundamentally change the educational delivery system. The new educational delivery system is based on a society of lifelong learners who collaborate on common interests, share resources, and provide mutual support. Local communities utilize new partnerships, educational technologies, and the nation's emerging information infrastructure to transform teaching and learning all along the education continuum from preschool programs to worker retraining. Students of all ages, connected to a vast array of educational opportunities, gain in opportunity for educational equity. Thus, learners of all ages can access a vast array of educational opportunities. Our vision is to build capacity for excellence at school, at work, and in community life.

MISSION

The mission of Bland County Schools is to provide a safe and challenging environment where students will be given the opportunity to learn and acquire skills necessary for a responsible and productive life while developing an appreciation for their community.

CURRENT STATUS OF TECHNOLOGY

A review of all previous technology plans—completed in March 1995, July 1997, December 1998, and June 2010—makes it apparent that we have achieved many of the goals for integrating technology utilization in our total school program. The infrastructure is in place, the media center, labs, and classrooms have been upgraded and multimedia computers and laptops have been purchased for all instructional personnel. Multimedia computers are supported with printers, scanners, and other high tech technologies. LCD projectors are located in all classrooms and digital cameras are available for teacher use. One hundred percent of the classrooms have a SmartBoard with up to date software. Our internet is served through BVU Optic Net, Bristol, Tennessee with a fiber optic line to each school and T1 line at the central office. This countywide network continues to grow in its use and benefits by providing Internet access, email communications, distance learning classrooms and virtual field trips to any location in the school system. All buildings in the division including Central Office have access to a secure wireless network.

In the fall of 2009 Bland County moved from SASI to PowerSchool as the division student data information system. Bland County has given parents access to student grades and attendance through the parent portal of PowerSchool. All appropriate personnel have been trained in the use of PowerSchool and training has been offered and utilized by parents.

Bland County has been very active in supporting the Standards of Learning (SOL) Technology Initiative. This initiative's goal is to conduct Standards of Learning testing through computers connected to the Internet and to provide remediation and other resources. All students test online in grades 3-7 and in all end-of-course areas. Special education students are tested with the audio and read-aloud versions of the online test.

As a division, we are proud of these accomplishments but we realize that integrating technology into the curriculum is a continuing process; this plan addresses our goals toward moving forward as technology moves forward. It is our goal to stay abreast of the technological advances and to make every effort to provide those technology opportunities for our students. We feel our most important goal is to continue to provide staff training that will allow teachers to develop projects that will truly integrate technology into all areas of the curriculum.

Goals, Objectives, Strategies

Our goals, objectives, and strategies are outlined in the five elements of the 2010-2016 Educational Technology Plan for Virginia.

Appropriately and Adequately Designed Environment

Meaningful Engagement

Purposeful Application of Tools for Learning

Use of Technology Tools to Extend Learning Capabilities

Authentic and Intelligent Assessments

COLLABORATIONS & PARTNERS

The Bland County School Board relies heavily on regional cooperative efforts to further its instructional goals. These include:

- Southwest Virginia Public Education Consortium
- Blue Ridge West Consortium
- Region VII Technology Coordinators Group
- Linwood Holton Governors School
- Virtual Virginia
- Wytheville Community College
- School Divisions in Region VII
- Community Leaders in Bland County

Appropriately and Adequately Designed Environment

Goal: Provide a safe, flexible, and effective learning environment for all students.

Objective: Deliver appropriate and challenging curricula through face-to-face, blended, and virtual learning environments.

Strategy: Build awareness of courses offered for students through Virtual Virginia, A. Linwood Holton Governor's School and through other venues such as Wytheville Community College.

Objective: Provide the technical and human infrastructure necessary to support real, blended, and virtual learning environments.

Strategy: Provide support and training for staff who work in the distance learning setting.

Strategy: Provide access to Web-based content, tools, and collaborative spaces.

Strategy: Facilitate the implementation of fiber to every school.

Objective: Provide high-quality professional development to help educators create, maintain, and work in a variety of learner-centered environments.

Strategy: Identify, develop, disseminate, and maintain resources to support the effective use of technology in all curricula by teachers at all levels of integration expertise.

Strategy: Provide incentives to help educators better understand the impact of new and emerging technologies on the learning environment such as blogs, wikis, Google Apps, and social networking software.

Needs Evaluation

Provide a fiber optic line up to 10 megabits to deliver media rich instruction and resources to all schools in the division.

Provide a classroom for Bland High School and Rocky Gap High School dedicated to the implementation of distance learning classes through the use of Polycom Equipment currently in place.

Provide division wide use of databases, web-based content, professional development and collaboration services for all staff.

Meaningful Engagement

Goal: Engage students in meaningful curricular content through the purposeful and effective use of technology.

Strategy: Provide tools for students to collaborate online. Such as: discussion boards and blogs.

Strategy: Using online gaming to stimulate student learning and discover new ways of using social networking sites.

Objective: Support innovative professional development practices that promote strategic growth for all educators and collaboration with other educators, content experts, and students.

Strategy: Provide teachers with opportunities to use web-based tools, hand held devices such as ipads, ipods, cell phones to develop instructional content and planning materials.

Strategy: Facilitate the development or use and delivery of innovative professional development that promotes collaboration and focus on effective technology use in specific core curricular areas.

Objective: Actualize the ability of technology to individualize learning and provide equitable opportunities for all learners.

Objective: Facilitate the implementation of high-quality Internet safety programs in schools.

Strategy: Identify ways to integrate Internet safety and security throughout the curriculum.

Needs Evaluation

Create an assessment tool for instructional staff to determine where staff stand on technology skills and provide professional development to help staff meet technology skills.

Increase computer access for students with more mobile labs and classroom computers.

Provide teachers with an ipad and provide professional development on the use of the ipad.

Purposeful Application of Tools for Learning

Goal: Afford students with opportunities to apply technology effectively to gain knowledge, develop skills, and create and distribute artifacts that reflect their understandings.

Strategy: Enhance curricula using Internet resources and software that encourage creativity, collaboration, and problem solving.

Objective: Provide and support professional development that increases the capacity of teachers to design and facilitate meaningful learning experiences, thereby encouraging students to create, problem solve, communicate, collaborate, and use real-world skills by applying technology purposefully.

Objective: Ensure that students, teachers, and administrators are ICT (Information and Communications Technologies) literate.

Strategy: Discover the level of ICT literacy among teachers and administrators and provide professional development for those who need to be brought up to speed.

Objective: Implement technology-based formative assessments that produce further growth in content.

Strategy: Use Interactive Achievement (IA), iStation, Study Island, and other classroom software to provide assessment for student achievement.

Needs Evaluation

Design and implement projects such as Google Apps for Education and open-source software to increase the knowledge of technology for teachers.

Using these applications to help develop lesson plans to encourage student to create, collaborate, and communicate in the real world. When faced with a problem students and adults need to choose tools appropriate for the job and not tools they are comfortable with.

Create a document to assess the current level of ICT literacy among teachers, staff, and administrators. Provide professional development to those teachers, staff, and administrators who lack information and communication literacy. Select a committee of peers to create this document.

Use of Technology Tools to Extend Learning Capabilities

Goal: Provide students with access to authentic and appropriate tools to gain knowledge, develop skills, extend capabilities, and create and disseminate artifacts that demonstrate their understandings.

Objective: Provide resources and support to ensure that every student has access to a personal computing device.

Strategy: Provide tools that extend students' capabilities, can be customized to meet individual needs and preferences, and support learning.

Strategy: Provide opportunities for students to learn and apply ICT skills in local and community settings using a variety of authentic tools.

Strategy: Design and implement pilot projects to evaluate a variety of personal computing devices.

Objective: Provide technical and instructive support to ensure that students, teachers, and administrators can effectively access and use technology tools.

Strategy: Provide ongoing just-in-time support to assist teachers in effectively integrating a variety of technology-based tools into teaching and learning.

Strategy: Provide timely and effective technical support to ensure that all tools and the network that supports them are installed and maintained properly.

Objective: Identify and disseminate information and resources that assist educators in selecting authentic and appropriate tools for all grade levels and curricular areas.

Strategy: Provide and support high-quality professional development to assist educators in evaluating and integrating technology tools in ways that foster effective student use.

Strategy: Identify and disseminate information about new and emerging technologies.

Needs Evaluation

Increase computer access for students with more mobile labs and classroom computers.

Upgrade current routers, switches, and firewalls so there is no interruption of services. Be sure all outside buildings with classrooms have up to date equipment to provide the bandwidth and network resources needed.

Provide professional development to teachers and administrators on the use of technology, network resources, use of mobile labs, and the requirements of the acceptable use policy.

Authentic and Intelligent Assessments

Goal: Use technology to support a culture of data-driven decision making that relies upon data to evaluate and improve teaching and learning.

Objective: Use data to inform and adjust technical, pedagogical, and financial support.

Strategy: Use Istation, Study Island, Interactive Achievement, SOL assessment data past & present for formative assessments.

Strategy: Develop methods to use data to make informative decisions on purchases and plans.

Objective: Provide support to help teachers disaggregate, interpret, and use data to plan, improve, and differentiate instruction.

Strategy: Provide training and support to help teachers, and administrators interpret data in using technology effectively to address data-supported needs.

Strategy: Use EIMS to make all data available from student assessments available to teachers.

Objective: Promote the use of technology to inform the design and implementation of next generation standardized assessments.

Strategy: Provide an assessment tool for instructional staff to determine where staff and students stand on technology skills and provide professional development to help staff meet technology skills.

Needs Evaluation

Provide professional development to all teachers, staff, and administrators on how to use data to access student achievement.

Provide teachers with some mean of instant feedback on student understanding of material, i.e. Classroom Response Systems.

Implementation of Technology Plan

The Technology Plan for Bland County Schools will cover the period from 2010-2016. As each new year begins items will be updated and added to track the progress of meeting the goals of the Technology Plan.

2010-2011

2011-2012

STRATEGIES	TIMELINE	STATUS
Adding iPads, iPods, and other hand held devices for Teachers & Students	2010-2011 2011-2012	In progress
Replace Elementary Computer lab computers at Rocky Gap Elementary School and in the Business labs at Rocky Gap High School and Bland High School	2011-2012	In planning stage
Replace existing email client with Google Gmail and Apps	2011-2012	In planning stage with start date of July 1, 2011
Provide professional development in the use of data for decision making	2010-2011	In progress
Upgrade existing Broadband to a 10mb fiber optic line	2010-2011	Completed 12/1/2010
Begin the implementation of RTI (Response to Intervention) in grade K-7.	2010-2011 2011-2012	In progress

The budgeted cost to implement the Technology Plan for Bland County is detailed below:

EXPENDITURES LOCAL – 2010-2011

Salaries & Benefits	\$87,895
Contracted and Purchased Services	44,880
Software	51,565
Materials & Supplies	8,450
Repair & Maintenance	5,000
Professional Development	1,000

PROJECTED LOCAL EXPERIENCE – 2011-2012

Personnel Cost	\$87,895
Contracted and Purchased Services	44,880
Software	55,735
Materials & Supplies	8,200
Repair & Maintenance	5,000
Professional Development	500