

ADMINISTRATIVE AND INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGIES

What matters to us is not what technology is, but what technology does in support of learning.

The Guiding Principles delineated in the report *Building A Learning Community for the 21st Century* provide direction in implementing this philosophical belief. The systemic planning model provides a holistic approach to the implementation, adoption and adaptations of technology's promise for this learning organization.

We seek **continuous improvement** as we assess our learners' needs. This includes the ever changing and growing role of technology in the learning environment.

- Gathering information from all members of the learning community will provide us with the means to identify and quantify the ever-changing needs of our learners.
- Data management increases in importance as the organization strives measure the effectiveness of decisions.

We seek to enhance **personalized learning** through the use of technology.

- To free and empower our learners, teachers and leaders through technology.
- To increase modes of communication among members of the learning community.

We seek efficiency and effectiveness in the allocation of our **resources**.

- To achieve not only fiscal efficiency but also in the best uses of our human resources.
- To provide an efficient and adequate support infrastructure for all technology initiatives.

We seek **integration** of learning experiences with an integrated use of appropriate technologies.

- Integration is the planned and purposeful combining of at least two separate components. Technology can assist in providing links between different curricular areas.
- The use of technology tools by students will be as seamless as possible. Weaving technology into student learning experiences allows for a natural growth of skills and sophistication.

We seek **diversity** by providing a wide variety of technology resources to our learners.

- To assure equitable access to the diversity of our country, the world and multiple types of technology in a planned way.
- To provide a variety of learning environments which address the limits of time of day and year, limits of place and the limits of length of time to learn.

The West Des Moines Community School District strives to accomplish this by:

- Focusing the goals of technology upon learner outcomes.
- Linking learners, staff, parents and patrons to each other within our community and throughout the world.
- Exposing learners to positive examples and challenges in the use of technology in a learning community.

- Providing equitable access to and use of technology by all learners in terms of quality of experience and usage.
- Establishing an appropriate expectation level of technology skills on the part of staff and learners.
- Providing adequate and necessary staff development activities to support staff growth in the use of appropriate technologies.
- Emphasizing the acquisition of quality courseware, software, and hardware to achieve high levels of learning.
- Maintaining an “evergreen” philosophy in the maintenance of technologies, seeking to maintain a environment in keeping with advances in technology.
- Providing appropriate levels of support, service and resources to assure that existing technologies function properly and operate effectively in the learning environments and support the evolving uses of instructional technologies.

The district technology programs will:

- Be directed toward goals which focus upon the needs of students, teachers and staff as learners in this 21st century.
- Match technological activities with the needs of our learners.
- Move to interdisciplinary classroom opportunities which maximize instructional activities which make seamless use of instructional technologies in the educational experiences for our learners.
- Encourage learners to create their own experiences rather than replicating ours by making technology a tool of personal empowerment.
- Emphasize the meaningful use of technology, not technology itself.

The Guiding Principles provide a format for the delivery of our Technology Guide in the following ways:

I. Continuous Improvement

- A. Through the establishment of alliances with high quality business organizations, the district will enable its learners to have access to the advice and counsel of leading edge practitioners developers and researchers.
- B. The constant and continual improvement of the quality of all programs will be a focus of assessment endeavors.

II. Personalized Learning

- A. Courseware designed to develop learner competencies will be provided.
- B. Connectedness of learning activities and learners, teachers, parents and community will be achieved.
- C. Teaching and learning with computers will be the primary methodology used.

- D. Technology will provide more individualized opportunities during the school day and at other times.

III. Optimum Use of Human Resources

- A. Training of staff members will utilize a cascade approach, extensive support and on-going coaching.
- B. A practice of capturing monies to enable a continual schedule of replacement and upgrade of the total technology system (an “evergreen” approach) will be designed.

IV. Integration

- A. Learner projects which utilize a variety of sources of knowledge will be encouraged.
- B. Technology will be used as a tool and resource to enhance learning in all K-12 subject areas.
- C. The technology will be serviced and maintained at an optimum performance level.

V. Diversity

- A. A variety of technology resources will be made available to our learners, such as, but not limited to, Internet, multi-media stations, digital information reservoirs, etc.
- B. The Internet and other telecommunication technologies will be used to eliminate issues of time and distance for our learners. This will allow our learners to reach out to the diverse peoples and cultures of the world.