North Dickinson County School

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North Dickinson County School

North Dickinson County School serves a very remote and rural community. It encompasses 500 square miles with fewer than 300 students. The district is made up of one school building with nineteen teachers serving K-12 students. The school is quite distant from higher education institutions and even somewhat distant from its neighboring K-12 schools. The demographics indicate a per capita income level is below the average for the region and far below that of the state and nation. Because we are the only school in our rural area, student educational outcome is directly dependent upon our success at providing them a quality education.
North Dickinson County School as a reflection of a caring, unique community located in a natural setting will empower and challenge all students to achieve their fullest intellectual potential, character, and attitudes to create better lives for themselves and the larger community.

Mission Statement of North Dickinson County School District

Technology Plan Introduction

Background of the Planning Process

North Dickinson County School defines technology integration as the process of teachers and students routinely and seamlessly using resources and technology-based practices to enhance learning. Our school district formalized technology planning more than sixteen years ago. When state and federal authorities began calling for written technology plans, we already had formal planning committed to writing. From the beginning, our staff and our community have had a vital interest in the school’s technology. Everyone knew that because of the rural nature of our community our students had the most to gain from the changes that technology was to bring.

Technology planning in our school district has always been a community process. Our technology planning team is composed of a representative of our Board of Education, instructional staff, student, parents, industry and the school administration.

Our plan is drafted by the tech staff, administration and school improvement members. Once a draft is completed input is requested from instructional staff and students. The draft along with input is presented to the technology committee as a whole. After the committee as a whole finalizes its revisions it is presented to the Board of Education for review. Upon approval of the board, the plan is then forwarded on to the DIISD for final review and submission to the MDE.
Vision and Goals of this Technology Plan

The future success of each and every youth of North Dickinson County School District is tightly linked to technology and access to information. We believe that technology opens opportunities for our students to have access to a curriculum as rich and as broad as any student in the world. Therefore, North Dickinson County School District is committed to doing everything possible to provide our students with these powerful tools.

Technology Vision Statement of North Dickinson County School District

Ties to the School Improvement Plan

The “Improvement Plan 2015-2018” defines our goal for all students to improve Math, Science, Social Studies, Reading and Writing skills.

The technology that is evaluated and implemented directly relates to meeting these goals.

Major Technology Goals

- Continue to monitor, evaluate and improve network, wireless, and internet infrastructure.
- Continue to evaluate and consider BYOD.
- Continue to evaluate and implement Applications that address student needs.
- Continue to use distant learning to expand course offerings.
- Continue to plan the updating of our phone system to VOIP.
- Continue to plan for data warehousing.
Strategies for Reaching our Major Technology Goals

Our district will maintain a constant vigilance searching for opportunities to fund and or collaborate with other schools, units of government, business, and civic groups to meet our stated goals. The continued loss of general fund revenues and unpredictable funding in general, hampers our ability to draft effective specific strategic planning.

Professional development is a challenge in our school. We are seventy-five miles from the nearest state university and twenty miles from our intermediate school district. Professional development is expensive. It is essential that we use what money is available in the most financially efficient way possible. NDCS must cooperate with the Dickinson-Iron ISD and other local schools in our area to bring such in-service to our staff cost effectively. Consequently, we search out opportunities to collaborate with other schools for this purpose. We make judicious use of state and federal moneys to support this strategy. Most grants and outside funding opportunities have specific restrictions for the use of funding. We try to search out those funds based on our needs.

Our district’s technology plan is designed to support our school improvement plan. Our technology committee will meet at least annually to maintain technology planning as an on-going process. This will make it possible for us to constantly evaluate our need for telecommunication services, hardware, software and other services that we will need to improve our educational services.

This technology plan is a living document. Consequently, the “Curriculum Integration” section of this plan will have to be updated at least annually in order to keep our technology current and meet the changing curriculum standards imposed by the state. Change is certain.

We will continue to cooperate with other schools and organizations to provide distance learning for our students. Including Webinars, ITV and other web based opportunities.

Useful Technologies

The telecommunications and information technologies that NDCS sees as most useful to our district are the Internet, SMARTboards, Video Conferencing, as well as other online opportunities. As our student population falls, collaboration with other educational institutions, coupled with online course work becomes increasingly important to maintain a full, rich curriculum for our students. At the same time the internet provides the largest source of information and data that has ever existed in this world. As the amount of data in our modern world increases exponentially, the internet is the only “library” capable of holding and/or organizing this gargantuan collection. Our small school has a school library collection which is current and comprehensive, however it does have limitations. The internet’s collection has opened up a student-research resource of such size that it cannot be duplicated in any other way. For the rural student, telecommunications and information technologies have made isolation no longer a limiting factor for student intellectual growth.
Increasing Access to Technology for all Students and Teachers

Our district has made progress by providing iPads to the elementary staff and students. The district recently updated computer labs in the elementary, middle and high schools. We updated the wireless access points throughout the district. We have added computer labs in the special ed classrooms, band room and ELA classroom. We are scheduled to upgrade our 10Mbps fiber optic internet connection, to 20 Mbps with 50Mbps bursting. When it becomes available to us, we continue to invest in improved connectivity. This is key to our ability to connect and collaborate with the rest of the world. Our school has a representative working with other school districts, ISD, community colleges, universities, local government and businesses to share resources and knowledge in a collaborative manner which allows all of us to maximize our resources in the most cost effective manner possible.

Vision and Goal Development

This technology plan is a living document. That is, it will truly guide the direction of our expansion and use of technology. When the plan no longer serves our needs, it will be updated to reflect the changes in our needs and the changes in available technology. Consequently, our technology vision and goals will be established and modified annually as a normal function of our technology planning team.

Promoting Parental Involvement

NDCS wants the parents of our students to be actively engaged in the planning and use of our technology. We want parents to become close partners in our effort to capitalize on the promise of technology.

Our school’s web site provides important information to parents, such as our school improvement plan, technology plan, Bylaws and Policies, the school calendar, District Budget, and our “Annual School Report.” We intend to continue the expansion of our on-line information, with the implementation of Cloud based applications and data storage. Power School will continue to allow parents and students to check grades, homework, attendance, lunch program balances and overdue library books via the internet.
Goals for Teachers and Students

- Instructional staff of the North Dickinson County School will continue to utilize technology in their teaching for the purpose of preparing student to use technology in the real world and for the purpose of strengthening the effectiveness of their own instruction in all curriculum areas.
- Students of North Dickinson County School will graduate from high school with enough experience and training in the use of technology to be well prepared for vocational or college training or to begin employment.
- Students and Staff of North Dickinson County School will have online access to as rich a curriculum as any student in the nation.

Evaluation

The “Major Technology Goals” and the “Technology Goals for Teachers and Students” will constitute the target areas of our evaluation process. That is, our evaluation process will attempt to determine how we are doing in reaching the school improvement goals that we have set for ourselves. To accomplish this end, the Technology Committee will meet each year and review recent progress toward meeting specific goals of this plan. Evaluation of our infrastructure will be based upon common knowledge of the current state of our electronic equipment and connectivity. Evaluation of the instructional value of our infrastructure will include discussion among staff which will explore the degree to which we are meeting our technology goals for teachers and students. Student improvement data will be reviewed to determine the success of our goals. This review will carefully evaluate our progress in making our technology infrastructure serve our school improvement goals. These semester and yearly review meetings will result in a technology action plan for the following year.
Acknowledgement of Consortiums

- Dickinson-Iron Intermediate School District
- Upper Peninsula Center for Education Development.
- Dickinson/Iron/Menominee Math Science Center.
- Merit
- Link Michigan
- Northern Michigan University
- RSVP Program (Retired Senior Volunteer Program)
- ITV Spanish with Eastern UP ISD

Technology Planning Team

Paul Schuiteman, Board of Education Representative
Angel Inglese, Superintendent
Darrell Oman, Director of Support Services
Vicki Lindholm, Technology Coordinator
Instructional Staff
Angie Mattson and Amy Hord,
Parents & Industry
Dan Steinbrecher, Tom Roell
Students
Jade Driscoll, Abby Riemer.
Infrastructure

What Infrastructure do we have today?
NDCS offers the use of twenty five iPads distributed amongst 110 K-5 students which are connected to the Internet through a series of wireless access points which support the entire building. In addition to these iPads we also have three stationary labs with one located in the elementary school with twenty-five desktop computers, one in the middle school with thirty desktop computers and one in the high school with twenty-five desktop computers. We have an Accelerated Reader lab with 8 AR computers in the Elementary Library and an Accelerated Reader lab in the 1st grade room with 2 computers. The iPads and others computers amount to approximately one hundred fifty computers available for student use. In addition to this, each teacher has a computer for their own use in the classrooms. The school libraries use computers to check books in and out. The HS/MS library also houses about ten computers for online courses. Their software is also web-enabled, allowing students and staff to search the library collection online. We have recently replaced our file server and Network Operating System. We also replaced our network backup hardware. We have updated our internet connection with a 10Mbps fiber optic connection. We use a web based e-mail provider for email services. We have updated our content firewall. We have installed an ITV conference room, an ITV classroom as well as eleven SMART interactive whiteboards.

Infrastructure to be Acquired

- Continue the subscription provided by the Michigan Virtual High School and other online courses.
- Upgrade OS and application software on the school’s servers and desktops as needed.
- Upgrade the school’s server hardware as needed.
- Expand the availability of peripherals such as iPads, Chrombooks, Laptops, Digital Video Equipment, and Multimedia presentation equipment.
- Continue program for teacher and student use of mobile computers.
- Continue to upgrade computers as they become obsolete.
- Update and expand the wireless system within the building to accommodate the increased use of wireless devices.
- Explore the option of BYOD in the high school and middle school classes.

Continuous

- Our technology team will meet annually to continuously evaluate our current need for telecommunication services, hardware, software and other services for improving instruction.
Curriculum Integration

Broad Goals

North Dickinson County Schools has identified three important uses of instructional technology: 1) to teach students to use technology, 2) to use technology to teach students the core curriculum, and 3) to expand our curriculum through online coursework for our students. All are important.

For many years we have taught our students to use technology as they might use it when they enter the world of work. We are proud of what we have been able to do in this area. However to continue to provide our students with such up-to-date learning experiences, we must try our best to keep up with the changes in industry. We are committed to maintaining our technology at a level which will continue to support training our students in up-to-date vocational skills.

Technology brings new power to our teachers in their effort to help students master the Michigan learning standards. Dynamic interactive software captures the attention of students and presents information in ways that have not been possible for educators in the past. Online material puts content into our schools as never before. Technology has also allowed us to provide much more detailed and timely assessments of our instructional efforts. Technology is allowing us to implement differentiated instruction much more quickly. Our technology must be adequate to support this effort.

In the past the size of our school district has severely limited the breadth of the course work that we could offer to our students. However, modern online courses now make it possible to dramatically extend those course offerings. For the past few years, the Michigan Virtual High School and other online schools have made it possible for our students to have access to as rich a curriculum as that of other students in Michigan and any other state.

Specific Objectives

Specifically, we propose the following goals for the integration of technology into our curriculum:

Goal 1: To teach students to use technology

Prior to completion of grade 2 students will:

- Objective 1: Use input devices and output devices to successfully operate computers, SMART Boards, projectors, and other technologies. (National Educational Technology Standards -- NETSS)
- Objective 2: Use a variety of media and technology resources for directed and independent learning activities. (NETSS)
- Objective 3: Communicate about technology using developmentally appropriate and accurate terminology. (NETSS)
- Objective 4: Use developmentally appropriate multimedia resources to support learning. (NETSS)
- Objective: 5 Work cooperatively and collaboratively with peers, family members, and others when using technology in the classroom. (NETSS)
Objective 6: Demonstrate positive social and ethical behaviors when using technology. (NETSS)

Objective 7: Practice responsible use of technology systems and software. (NETSS)

Objective 8: Create developmentally appropriate multimedia products with support from teachers, family members, or student partners. (NETSS)

Objective 9: Use technology resources for problem solving, communication, and illustration of thoughts, ideas, and stories. (NETSS)

Objective 10: Gather information and communicate with others using telecommunications, with support from teachers, family members, or student partners. (NETSS)

Prior to completion of grade 5 students will:

Objective 1: Use keyboards and other common input and output devices (including adaptive devices when necessary) efficiently and effectively. (NETSS)

Objective 2: Discuss common uses of technology in daily life and the advantages and disadvantages those uses provide. (NETSS)

Objective 3: Discuss basic issues related to responsible use of technology and information and describe personal consequences of inappropriate use. (NETSS)

Objective 4: Use general purpose productivity tools and peripherals to support personal productivity, remediate skill deficits, and facilitate learning throughout the curriculum. (NETSS)

Objective 5: Use technology tools for individual and collaborative writing, communication, and publishing activities to create knowledge products for audiences inside and outside the classroom. (NETSS)

Objective 6: Use telecommunications efficiently and effectively to access remote information, communicate with others in support of direct and independent learning, and pursue personal interests. (NETSS)

Objective 7: Use telecommunications and online resources to participate in collaborative problem-solving activities for the purpose of developing solutions or products for audiences inside and outside the classroom. (NETSS)

Objective 8: Use technology resources for problem solving, self-directed learning, and extended learning activities. (NETSS)

Objective 9: Determine when technology is useful and select the appropriate tool(s) and technology resources to address a variety of tasks and problems. (NETSS)

Objective 10: Evaluate the accuracy, relevance, appropriateness, comprehensiveness, and bias of electronic information sources. (NETSS)

Prior to completion of grade 8 students will:

Objective 1: Apply strategies for identifying and solving routine hardware and software problems that occur during everyday use. (NETSS)
Objective 2: Demonstrate knowledge of current changes in information technologies and the effect those changes have on the workplace and society. (NETSS)

Objective 3: Exhibit legal and ethical behaviors when using information and technology, and discuss consequences of misuse. (NETSS)

Objective 4: Use content-specific tools, software, and simulations to support learning and research. (NETSS)

Objective 5: Apply productivity/multimedia tools and peripherals to support personal productivity, group collaboration, and learning throughout the curriculum. (NETSS)

Objective 6: Design, develop, publish, and present products using technology resources that demonstrate and communicate curriculum concepts to audiences inside and outside the classroom. (NETSS)

Objective 7: Collaborate with peers, experts, and others using telecommunications and collaborative tools to investigate curriculum-related problems, issues, and information, and to develop solutions or products for audiences inside and outside the classroom. (NETSS)

Objective 8: Select and use appropriate tools and technology resources to accomplish a variety of tasks and solve problems. (NETSS)

Objective 9: Demonstrate an understanding of concepts underlying hardware, software, and connectivity, and of practical applications to learning and problem solving. (NETSS)

Objective 10: Research and evaluate the accuracy, relevance, appropriateness, comprehensiveness, and bias of electronic information sources concerning real-world problems. (NETSS)

Prior to completion of grade 12 students will:

Objective 1: Identify capabilities and limitations of contemporary and emerging technology resources and assess the potential of these systems and services to address personal, lifelong learning, and workplace needs. (NETSS)

Objective 2: Make informed choices among technology systems, resources, and services. (NETSS)

Objective 3: Analyze advantages and disadvantages of widespread use and reliance on technology in the workplace and in society as a whole. (NETSS)

Objective 4: Demonstrate and advocate for legal and ethical behaviors among peers, family, and community regarding the use of technology and information. (NETSS)

Objective 5: Use technology tools and resources for managing and communicating personal/professional information. (NETSS)

Objective 6: Evaluate technology-based options, including distance and distributed education, for lifelong learning. (NETSS)

Objective 7: Routinely and efficiently use online information resources to meet needs for collaboration, research, publication, communication, and productivity. (NETSS)

Objective 8: Select and apply technology tools for research, information analysis, problem solving, and decision making in content learning. (NETSS)
Objective 9: Investigate and apply expert systems, intelligent agents, and simulations in real-world situations. (NETSS)

Objective 10: Collaborate with peers, experts, and others to contribute to a content-related knowledge base by using technology to compile, synthesize, produce, and disseminate information, models, and other creative works. (NETSS)

**Goal 2: To use technology to teach students the core curriculum**

- Objective 1: Teachers demonstrate a sound understanding of technology operations and concepts (National Education Technology Standards -- NETST).
- Objective 2: Teachers plan and design effective learning environments and experiences supported by technology (NETST).
- Objective 3: Teachers implement curriculum plans, that include methods and strategies for applying technology to maximize student learning (NETST).
- Objective 4: Teachers apply technology to facilitate a variety of effective assessment and evaluation strategies (NETST).
- Objective 5: Teachers use technology to enhance their productivity and professional practice (NETST).
- Objective 6: Teachers understand the social, ethical, legal, and human issues surrounding the use of technology in PK-12 schools and apply those principles in practice. (NETST).

**Goal 3: To expand our curriculum through online course work**

- Objective 1: All middle school students will “Analyze current and emerging issues related to technology.”
- Objective 2: Selected tenth grade students will have the opportunity to take online courses that cannot be offered locally.
- Objective 3: All eleventh and twelfth grade students will have the opportunity to expand their curriculum choices beyond local classes through the use of online training course work.

**Revising and Updating Goals**

Each year the North Dickinson County School District Technology Committee will review the current curriculum goals and objectives for the use of technology in the school. Each year the goals and objectives will be updated to reflect local, state and national changes. Each year the plan for technology expenditures will be driven by these goals and objectives.

**Serving Special Needs Students**

North Dickinson County School will continue to always work hand-in-hand with the Dickinson Iron Intermediate School District to search out and take full advantage of any assistive technology techniques that will improve our ability to provide an appropriate education for those students with special needs.
Collaboration

No community or school district stands alone. Nearly every activity that a school is involved in requires essential partnerships with others. North Dickinson County School is dedicated to fostering and maintaining these collaborative relationships.

Since the mid-sixties the Dickinson-Iron Intermediate School District has been a primary forum for local collaborations and consortiums. When technology began to emerge in instruction these early efforts in cooperation led naturally to cooperative projects in technology. We have worked with the DIISD for a number of years on such consortiums when they made financial sense to do so. We will continue to enthusiastically pursue, evaluate and support such efforts with the ISD, other school districts including local, regional, state and across the nation. We will continue to pursue partnerships with colleges, universities, business and industry as well as local government.

In the state of Michigan, Merit has become one of the major statewide partners for K-12 schools. We shall continue to seek ways to work closely with Merit.

For several years we have provided students the choice to enroll in online course work provided by the Michigan Virtual High School. We offer and purchase instructional courses via Video Conferencing. We offer the use of our ITV Equipment to local emergency services organizations as well as local governmental units of government for meetings and distance training opportunities.

Professional Development

Origin of our Professional Development Goals and Objectives

Every element of our professional development plan has been designed to prepare our instructional staff to assume their role in reaching the specific objectives of our curriculum plan and in fostering authentic instruction and assessment as those terms are defined in the “Michigan Curriculum Framework.” Of course, our Board of Education and our Administrative staff believe that we can be most effective in achieving our purpose if our teachers know, understand, and integrate those best practices that have been identified by research. Therefore, best practices in technology will also be addressed in this professional development plan.

Professional Development Goals and Objectives

Goal 1: Provide all staff with experience using the computer as a tool

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<th>Action Required</th>
<th>Timeline</th>
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</table>

Provide technical training in using new or updated software Yearly
Provide staff with instruction in various types of technology On-going
Provide administrative staff with community training to update skills On-going

**Goal 2: Integrate the use of Internet as an information resource**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action Required</th>
<th>Timeline</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Share websites and articles with lesson plan examples and activities</td>
<td>On-going</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide staff with instruction in using various types of equipment to better deliver curriculum</td>
<td>On-going</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide training to make better use of communication tools</td>
<td>On-going</td>
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**Goal 3: Promote ethical and responsible use of technology**

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<th>Action Required</th>
<th>Timeline</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Review district technology policies and expectations with all staff at the start of each school year</td>
<td>Yearly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase awareness of concepts in district’s Acceptable Use Policy</td>
<td>On-going</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide training regarding appropriate use of technology</td>
<td>On-going</td>
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**Goal 4: Provide in-service and visitation opportunities for new technologies**

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<tr>
<th>Action Required</th>
<th>Timeline</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Offer training on specific skills and curriculum integration</td>
<td>On-going</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide opportunities for staff to attend conferences on emerging technology</td>
<td>On-going</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide staff with notifications of grant opportunities</td>
<td>On-going</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Actively pursue new professional development funding from other resources</td>
<td>On-going</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Management of our Professional Development Training**

We have a technology director on staff and a technology coordinator to manage our technology training programs. They, along with, the superintendent, principal and office staff are all part in planning and organizing our training programs.

Our school district is small, therefore, we will also look toward a possible partnership with the Dickinson-Iron Intermediate School District to centralize the planning and delivery of this training along with other small schools in our area.

**Source of our Professional Development Training**

As is the case with many school districts, we have staff who are very knowledgeable about certain areas of technology. Thus, we actually have people in our school who are completely capable of providing some of the training that we need to meet the goals and objectives of our professional development plan. Unfortunately, all of these people are already busy with their own responsibilities. However, to the extent that it is possible we plan to foster the spread of their expertise. We will make a special effort to promote the one-on-one mentoring of less
knowledgeable staff by those who have the necessary skills. That is, we will try to organize our school so that the “expert down the hall” can actually become an important trainer in our district.

The Technology Coordinator has also held “one hour after school tech sessions”. This is to improve staff knowledge on technology being used in today’s world and in the classrooms that will effectively increase learning. The topics of the “one hour tech sessions” is decided by the staff and coordinator on what is needed and important to the school.

Teachers and staff have been able to utilize the opportunities to attend the state MACUL conference the last two years. In 2014, we were also able to send eight teachers to the U.P. MACUL Conference which was beneficial to our students.

Beyond this, we will work to join with our intermediate school district in an effort to form a coalition of schools that will cooperate in developing strategies to serve the training needs of the school district. Online training is also becoming a more viable source for professional development and training that our teachers need.

Infrastructure Hardware

We will continue to monitor internet use and bandwidth requirements. The district has updated its internet connection as greater bandwidth is made available from our ISP. Currently we have a fiber optic line providing a 10M connection with bursting to 20M. Beginning July 1, 2014 our connection will be increased to 20M with Bursting to 50M. Our internet service is currently provided by Michigan Broadband. They are the only supplier who can provide us with the bandwidth we need. Our telephone system is a Merlin using copper lines. We anticipate switching to a VoIP system once our internet connection is big enough to handle our current internet traffic, Video Conferencing needs and VoIP. This is projected to be in two years. We will continue to keep in contact with MERIT to see when they are projected to be able to provide a connection to our school.

Technical Support

North Dickinson County School understands that technology needs constant and consistent maintenance. Without that, investments in hardware, software and teacher training will be of no value. Technology that does not work consistently is worse than no technology at all, because it results in teacher frustration that hinders their use of technology. Consequently, we believe that technical assistance shares equal importance with hardware, software and teacher training.
NDCS will continue to provide teachers support to solve problems that get in the way of their use of the school’s technology. This is currently provided by a combination of outside contractors and school technology staff.

We use e-mail as a means for teachers and students to request assistance. The technology director responds to requests either in person or with a reply to the e-mail or forwards the support request to the appropriate person. E-mail provides for paperwork reduction, and better tracking of support requests. The administration evaluates the quality and timeliness of support on an annual basis. The technology coordinator and the technology director work together, to review new technology. New software and hardware implementations need the approval of the Technology Director and Technology Coordinator to ensure both hardware, and software compatibility with existing systems and to avoid duplication or overlap of services. They will suggest upgrades if a need arises.
Supporting Resources

All future acquisition and pursuit of “Supporting Resources” in our school district will be guided by the purpose of technology at North Dickinson County School as it is spelled out in detail—objective by objective—in the “Curriculum Integration” section of this plan. Future choices in technology will be for the purpose of supporting those objectives. Those resources that are already in place will be mined for this same purpose.

**Software**—North Dickinson County School will maintain current licenses for the following types of software to support our goals and objectives:

- Turnitin
- Star Reading
- Star Math
- Accelerated Reader
- MicroSoft Office Suite
- Office 365
- Vocational Training Software (i.e. Auto Cad)
- Career Cruising or other career exploration software
- PowerSchool
- Follett-Destiny
- Anti-Virus

**Internet**—We use the Internet as our primary resource of reference information, content and instructional activities. We believe that this will be the strongest supporting technology resource that our students and teachers have available to them. We take full advantage of the services of the Michigan Virtual University and other online course providers.

**Local Technical Support**—Often a source of software application support for teachers is the expert-down-the-hall. While our staff cannot possibly provide all the technical support needed, they have become a very important dimension of our overall effort to support teachers use of technology. We have a fulltime technology director on staff that is very useful to the teachers. The technology coordinator also provides ongoing support for software that is in-use and has been implemented.

**Area Technical Support**—There are three small, remote, rural schools in Dickinson and Iron County. We are all faced with the problem of providing affordable support to teachers in the use of technology. A cooperative effort through the Dickinson-Iron Intermediate School District provides extra services at a manageable cost.

**Public Domain Software**—For more than ten years a great quantity of instructional materials have been developed by projects funded by state and federal tax money. While these materials do
not rival Disney productions, they are available and they are in the public domain. The Great Lakes Collaborative, the Upper Great Lakes Educational Technologies Inc., Macomb ISD, Wayne RESA, Genesee ISD, West Iron County Public Schools, Rapid River Public Schools and many others have developed such materials. We evaluate these resources and use them in our school district when applicable.

**Maintenance and Repairs**—For technology to serve our students and teachers it must work, and it must be dependable. However, our school district must be very judicious in how we provide this support. We have constructed an effective cost conservative three tier approach.

1. Our technology director and two other staff members who work part time as technology support, are our first line in evaluating reported problems. If they are unable to resolve them then the Director contacts outside contractor for maintenance service.
2. Contracts with a vendor to do complex repairs and diagnostics and Networking Management.
3. A system to support teachers in the use of the technology which is in place. Evaluates use and projects future equipment, software and infrastructure needs.
Implementation Timeline

2014-2015
- Pursue local, state and federal grants to obtain funding to support technology. The general fund is not sufficient to support technology.
- Technology is evaluated to ensure efforts meet the School Improvement plan goals. The plan is reviewed and revised as needed.

2015-2016
- Pursue state, federal and local grants to obtain funding to support technology. The general fund is not sufficient to support technology.
- Adequacy of technology is reviewed and revised as needed.

2016-2017
- Pursue state, federal and local grants to obtain funding to support technology. The general fund is not sufficient to support technology.
- Adequacy of technology is reviewed and revised as needed.

Projected Costs

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<th>Function Titles</th>
<th>2014-15</th>
<th>2015-16</th>
<th>2016-17</th>
<th>2017-18</th>
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<td>Personnel</td>
<td>23,920</td>
<td>23,920</td>
<td>24,637</td>
<td>24,637</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Software/Cloud based</td>
<td>21,300</td>
<td>22,000</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Networking Services</td>
<td>650</td>
<td>650</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone/Voice Mail/Internet</td>
<td>26,900</td>
<td>26,900</td>
<td>26,900</td>
<td>26,900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infrastructure</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>20,000</td>
<td>1,000</td>
<td>35,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supplies</td>
<td>29,000</td>
<td>29,000</td>
<td>29,000</td>
<td>29,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New/Replacement Hardware</td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>15,000</td>
<td>15,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional Development</td>
<td>2,500</td>
<td>2,500</td>
<td>2,500</td>
<td>2,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contracted Technical Services</td>
<td>9,000</td>
<td>9,000</td>
<td>9,000</td>
<td>9,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$116,270.</td>
<td>$135,970</td>
<td>$132,537</td>
<td>$167,537</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Coordination of Resources

North Dickinson County School now operates with a small positive fund balance after recovering from a negative fund balance. Consequently NDCS must make every penny of local tax money and every penny of state foundation money stretch to the absolute limits. Beyond that NDCS must look to every possible outside source to help fund this technology plan—state and federal competitive grants, corporate partnerships, the restructuring of the use of state and federal moneys and so on.

We have a difficult time covering the costs of maintaining technologies that we have based on the local money and state foundation moneys. Because of the nature of our free and reduced lunch count, we cannot look to e-rate money for significant help for infrastructure. External sources of money are the only possible way that we can hope to grow our technology over the next five to ten years. The state 22i grant program is of little help to us because we don’t have the funds to make the initial investments.

Since the inception of the Dickinson-Iron Intermediate School District, the schools in our area have looked to this intermediate school district to provide leadership in education. Today, this is especially true as we seek partnerships that help us to leverage the expertise of the ISD, other schools in our neighborhood and our own resources to bring best practice in education and technology into our classrooms.
Evaluation

The North Dickinson County School has set the following goal for supporting our staff and students through the use of technology:

**Technology Goal:** *It is the long term goal of the North Dickinson County School to prepare our students to use technology effectively in whatever avenues that they pursue after graduation, to use technology to bring students to mastery of the learning standards of the Michigan Framework, and to expand our course offerings through online course work.*

North Dickinson County School will review the number of students taking online courses and their grades on a yearly basis. We will also analyze curriculum and state assessments annually to ensure that the use of technology is increasing our student performance. North Dickinson teachers will annually assess each student on their individual attainment of the National Education Technology Standards.

The technology committee will annually review District compliance with the technology plan timelines. To obtain a consumer perspective of the District’s performance in meeting the objectives, the District will hold an annual meeting, surveys and discussions will appraise the school’s success in reaching these technology objectives. This procedure will evaluate our success in carrying out the District’s technology plan.

Strategies for addressing unmet goals will be developed on a individual basis and will be the combined responsibility of the school improvement and technology committees.
Student Network and Internet
Acceptable Use and Safety

Students are encouraged to use the Board’s computers/network and Internet connection for educational purposes. Use of such resources is a privilege, not a right. Students must conduct themselves in a responsible, efficient, ethical, and legal manner. Unauthorized or inappropriate use, including any violation of these guidelines, may result in cancellation of the privilege, disciplinary action consistent with the Student Handbook, and/or civil or criminal liability. Prior to accessing the Internet at school, students must sign the Student Network and Internet Acceptable Use and Safety Agreement. Parent permission is required for minors.

Smooth operation of the Board’s Network relies upon users adhering to the following guidelines. The guidelines outlined below are provided so that users are aware of their responsibilities.

A. Students are responsible for their behavior and communication on the Internet.

B. Students may only access the Internet by using their assigned Internet/E-mail account. Use of another person’s account/address/password is prohibited. Students may not allow other users to utilize their passwords.

C. Students may not intentionally seek information on, obtain copies of, or modify files, data or passwords belonging to other users, or misrepresent other users on the network.

D. Students may not use the Internet to engage in “hacking” or other unlawful activities.

E. Transmission of any material in violation of any State or Federal law or regulation, or Board policy is prohibited.

F. Any use of the Internet for commercial purposes, advertising, or political lobbying is prohibited.

G. Students are expected to abide by the following generally-accepted rules of network etiquette.

1. Be polite, courteous, and respectful in your messages to others. Use language appropriate to school situations in any communications made through the Board’s computers/network. Do not use obscene, profane, vulgar, sexually explicit, defamatory or abusive language in your message.

2. Never reveal names, addresses, phone numbers, or passwords of yourself or other students, family members, teachers, administrators, or other staff members while communicating on the Internet.
3. Do not transmit pictures or other information that could be used to establish your identity without prior approval.

4. Never agree to get together with someone you “meet” on-line without prior parent approval.

5. Diligently delete old mail on a regular basis from the personal mail directory to avoid excessive use of the electronic mail disk space.

H. Use of Internet to access, process, distribute, display, or print child pornography and other material that are obscene, objectionable, inappropriate and/or harmful to minors is prohibited. As such the following material is prohibited: material that appeals to prurient interests in nudity, sex and excretion; material that depicts, describes or represents in a patently offensive way with respect to what is suitable for minors an actual or simulated sexual act or sexual contact, actual or simulated normal or perverted sexual acts, or a lewd exhibition of the genitals; and material that lacks serious literary, artistic, political or scientific value as to minors. Offensive messages and pictures, inappropriate text, or files, or files dangerous to the integrity of the Board’s computers/network (e.g. viruses) are also prohibited.

I. Malicious use of the Board’s computer/network to develop programs that harass other users or infiltrate a computer or computer system and/or damage the software components of a computer or computer system is prohibited. Students may not use the Board’s computers/network in such as way that would disrupt their use by others. Students must avoid intentionally wasting limited resources.

J. All communications and information accessible via the Internet should be assumed to be private property (i.e. copyrighted and/or trademarked). All copyright issues regarding software, information, and attributions of authorship must be respected.

K. Downloading of information onto the Board’s hard drives is prohibited. If a student transfers files from information services and electronic bulletin board services, a teacher must check the file with a virus-detection program before opening the file for use. Only public domain software may be downloaded. If a student transfers a file or software program that infects the Network with a virus and causes damage, the student will be liable for any and all repair costs to make the Network once again operational.

L. Students must secure prior approval from a teacher or the technology coordinator before joining a listserv (electronic mailing lists) and should not post personal messages on bulletin boards or “listservs.”

M. Students are prohibited from accessing or participating in online “chat rooms” or other forms of direct electronic communication (other than e-mail) without prior approval from a teacher or the technology coordinator. All such authorized communications must comply with these guidelines.
N. Privacy in communication over the Internet and the Network is not guaranteed. To ensure compliance with these guidelines, the Board reserves the right to monitor, review, and inspect any directories, files and/or messages residing on or sent using the Board’s computers/network. Messages relating to or in support of illegal activities will be reported to the appropriate authorities.

O. Use of the Internet and any information procured from the Internet is the student’s own risk. The Board is not responsible for any damage a user suffers, including loss of data resulting from delays, non-deliveries, mis-deliveries, or service interruptions. The Board is not responsible for the accuracy or quality of information obtained through its services.

P. Disclosure, use and/or dissemination of personal identification information of minors via the Internet is prohibited, except as expressly authorized by the minor student’s parent/guardian on the “Student Network and Internet Acceptable Use and Safety Agreement Form.”

Q. Proprietary rights in the design of web sites hosted on the Board’s servers remains at all times with the Board.
STUDENT NETWORK AND INTERNET ACCEPTABLE USE & SAFETY AGREEMENT

Grades K – 5

To access e-mail and/or the Internet at school, students under the age of eighteen (18) must obtain parent permission and must sign and return this form. Students eighteen (18) and over may sign their own forms.

Use of the Internet is a privilege, not a right. The Board’s Internet connection is provided for educational purposes only. Unauthorized and inappropriate use will result in a cancellation of this privilege.

The Board has implemented technology protection measures which attempt to block/filter Internet access to visual displays that are obscene, child pornography or harmful to minors. The Board also monitors online activity of students in an effort to restrict access to child pornography and other material that is obscene, objectionable, inappropriate and/or harmful to minors. Nevertheless, parents/guardians are advised that determined users may be able to gain access to information, communication and/or services on the Internet which the Board of Education has not authorized for educational purposes and/or which they and/or their parents/guardians may find inappropriate, offensive, objectionable or controversial. Parents/Guardians assume this risk by consenting to allow their students to participate in the use of the Internet. Student’s accessing the Internet through the school’s computers assume personal responsibility and liability, both civil and criminal, for unauthorized or inappropriate use of the Internet.

The Board has the right to monitor, review and inspect any directories, files and/or messages residing on or sent using the Board’s computers/networks. Messages relating to or in support of illegal activities will be reported to the appropriate authorities.

Please complete the following information:

Student User’s Full Name (please print):______________________________________________

School:____________________________________________________Grade:_______________

Parent/Guardian’s Name:______________________________________________________________

Parent/Guardian

As the parent/guardian of this student, I have read the Student Network and Internet Acceptable Use and Safety Policy and Guidelines, and have discussed them with my child. I understand that student access to the Internet is designed for educational purposes and that the Board has taken available precautions to restrict and/or control student access to material on the Internet that is: obscene, objectionable, inappropriate and/or harmful to minors. However, I recognize that it is impossible for the Board to restrict access to all objectionable and/or controversial materials that
may be found on the Internet. I will not hold the Board (or any of its employees, administrators or offices) responsible for materials my child may acquire or come in contact with while on the Internet. Additionally, I accept responsibility for communicating to my child guidance concerning his/her acceptable use of the Internet – i.e., setting and conveying standards for my daughter/son to follow when selecting, sharing and exploring information and resources on the Internet. I further understand that individuals and families may be liable for violations. To the extent that proprietary rights in the design of a web site hosted on the Board’s servers would vest in my child upon creation, I agree to assign those rights to the Board.

Please check each that applies:

__ I give permission for my child to use and access the Internet at school and for the Board to issue an Internet/e-mail account to my child.

__ I give permission for my child’s image (photograph) to be published online, provided only his/her first name is used.

__ I give permission for the Board to transmit “live” images of my child (as part of a group) over the Internet via a web cam.

__ I authorize and license the Board to post my child’s class work on the Internet without infringing upon any copyright my child may own with respect to such class work. I understand only my child’s first name will accompany such class work.

Parent/Guardian Signature:______________________________________ Date:_______________

Student

I have read and agree to abide by the Student Network and Internet Acceptable Use and Safety Policy and Guidelines. I understand that any violation of the terms and conditions set forth in the Policy and Guidelines is inappropriate and may constitute a criminal offense. As a user of the Board’s computers/network and the Internet, I agree to communicate over the Internet and the Network in an appropriate manner, honoring all relevant laws, restrictions and guidelines.

Student’s Signature:___________________________________________ Date:_____________

Teachers and building principals are responsible for determining what is unauthorized or inappropriate use. The principal may deny, revoke or suspend access to the Network/Internet to individuals who violate the Board’s Student Network and Internet Acceptable Use and Safety Policy and related Guidelines, and take such other disciplinary action as appropriate pursuant to the Student Code of Conduct.
STUDENT NETWORK AND INTERNET ACCEPTABLE USE & SAFETY AGREEMENT

Grades 6 – 8

To access e-mail and/or the Internet at school, students under the age of eighteen (18) must obtain parent permission and must sign and return this form. Students eighteen (18) and over may sign their own forms.

Use of the Internet is a privilege, not a right. The Board’s Internet connection is provided for educational purposes only. Unauthorized and inappropriate use will result in a cancellation of this privilege.

The Board has implemented technology protection measures which attempt to block/filter Internet access to visual displays that are obscene, child pornography or harmful to minors. The Board also monitors online activity of students in an effort to restrict access to child pornography and other material that is obscene, objectionable, inappropriate and/or harmful to minors. Nevertheless, parents/guardians are advised that determined users may be able to gain access to information, communication and/or services on the Internet which the Board of Education has not authorized for educational purposes and/or which they and/or their parents/guardians may find inappropriate, offensive, objectionable or controversial. Parents/Guardians assume this risk by consenting to allow their students to participate in the use of the Internet. Student’s accessing the Internet through the school’s computers assume personal responsibility and liability, both civil and criminal, for unauthorized or inappropriate use of the Internet.

The Board has the right to monitor, review and inspect any directories, files and/or messages residing on or sent using the Board’s computers/networks. Messages relating to or in support of illegal activities will be reported to the appropriate authorities.

Please complete the following information:

Student User’s Full Name (please print): ____________________________________________

School: ____________________________________________ Grade: __________

Parent/Guardian’s Name: ____________________________________________

Parent/Guardian

As the parent/guardian of this student, I have read the Student Network and Internet Acceptable Use and Safety Policy and Guidelines, and have discussed them with my child. I understand that student access to the Internet is designed for educational purposes and that the Board has taken available precautions to restrict and/or control student access to material on the Internet that is obscene, objectionable, inappropriate and/or harmful to minors. However, I recognize that it is impossible for the Board to restrict access to all objectionable and/or controversial materials that may be found on the Internet. I will not hold the Board (or any of its employees, administrators or offices) responsible for materials my child may acquire or come in contact with while on the
Internet. Additionally, I accept responsibility for communicating to my child guidance concerning his/her acceptable use of the Internet – i.e., setting and conveying standards for my daughter/son to follow when selecting, sharing and exploring information and resources on the Internet. I further understand that individuals and families may be liable for violations. To the extent that proprietary rights in the design of a web site hosted on the Board’s servers would vest in my child upon creation, I agree to assign those rights to the Board.

Please check each that applies:

__ I give permission for my child to use and access the Internet at school and for the Board to issue an Internet/e-mail account to my child.

__ I give permission for my child’s image (photograph) to be published online, provided only his/her first name is used.

__ I give permission for the Board to transmit “live” images of my child (as part of a group) over the Internet via a web cam.

__ I authorize and license the Board to post my child’s class work on the Internet without infringing upon any copyright my child may own with respect to such class work. I understand only my child’s first name will accompany such class work.

Parent/Guardian Signature:______________________________________Date:_______________

Student

I have read and agree to abide by the Student Network and Internet Acceptable Use and Safety Policy and Guidelines. I understand that any violation of the terms and conditions set forth in the Policy and Guidelines is inappropriate and may constitute a criminal offense. As a user of the Board’s computers/network and the Internet, I agree to communicate over the Internet and the Network in an appropriate manner, honoring all relevant laws, restrictions and guidelines.

Student’s Signature:______________________________________Date:_______________

Teachers and building principals are responsible for determining what is unauthorized or inappropriate use. The principal may deny, revoke or suspend access to the Network/Internet to individuals who violate the Board’s Student Network and Internet Acceptable Use and Safety Policy and related Guidelines, and take such other disciplinary action as appropriate pursuant to the Student Code of Conduct.
STUDENT NETWORK AND INTERNET ACCEPTABLE USE & SAFETY AGREEMENT

Grades 9 – 12

To access e-mail and/or the Internet at school, students under the age of eighteen (18) must obtain parent permission and must sign and return this form. Students eighteen (18) and over may sign their own forms.

Use of the Internet is a privilege, not a right. The Board’s Internet connection is provided for educational purposes only. Unauthorized and inappropriate use will result in a cancellation of this privilege.

The Board has implemented technology protection measures which attempt to block/filter Internet access to visual displays that are obscene, child pornography or harmful to minors. The Board also monitors online activity of students in an effort to restrict access to child pornography and other material that is obscene, objectionable, inappropriate and/or harmful to minors. Nevertheless, parents/guardians are advised that determined users may be able to gain access to information, communication and/or services on the Internet which the Board of Education has not authorized for educational purposes and/or which they and/or their parents/guardians may find inappropriate, offensive, objectionable or controversial. Parents/Guardians assume this risk by consenting to allow their students to participate in the use of the Internet. Student’s accessing the Internet through the school’s computers assume personal responsibility and liability, both civil and criminal, for unauthorized or inappropriate use of the Internet.

The Board has the right to monitor, review and inspect any directories, files and/or messages residing on or sent using the Board’s computers/networks. Messages relating to or in support of illegal activities will be reported to the appropriate authorities.

Please complete the following information:

Student User’s Full Name (please print):______________________________________________

School:________________________________________________________________________ Grade:_______________

Parent/Guardian’s Name:___________________________________________________________

Parent/Guardian

As the parent/guardian of this student, I have read the Student Network and Internet Acceptable Use and Safety Policy and Guidelines, and have discussed them with my child. I understand that student access to the Internet is designed for educational purposes and that the Board has taken available precautions to restrict and/or control student access to material on the Internet that is: obscene, objectionable, inappropriate and/or harmful to minors. However, I recognize that it is impossible for the Board to restrict access to all objectionable and/or controversial materials that may be found on the Internet. I will not hold the Board (or any of its employees, administrators or offices) responsible for materials my child may acquire or come in contact with while on the
Internet. Additionally, I accept responsibility for communicating to my child guidance concerning his/her acceptable use of the Internet – i.e., setting and conveying standards for my daughter/son to follow when selecting, sharing and exploring information and resources on the Internet. I further understand that individuals and families may be liable for violations. To the extent that proprietary rights in the design of a web site hosted on the Board’s servers would vest in my child upon creation, I agree to assign those rights to the Board.

Please check each that applies:

__ I give permission for my child to use and access the Internet at school and for the Board to issue an Internet/e-mail account to my child.

__ I give permission for my child’s image (photograph) to be published online, provided only his/her first name is used.

__ I give permission for the Board to transmit “live” images of my child (as part of a group) over the Internet via a web cam.

__ I authorize and license the Board to post my child’s class work on the Internet without infringing upon any copyright my child may own with respect to such class work. I understand only my child’s first name will accompany such class work.

Parent/Guardian Signature:______________________________________Date:_______________

Student

I have read and agree to abide by the Student Network and Internet Acceptable Use and Safety Policy and Guidelines. I understand that any violation of the terms and conditions set forth in the Policy and Guidelines is inappropriate and may constitute a criminal offense. As a user of the Board’s computers/network and the Internet, I agree to communicate over the Internet and the Network in an appropriate manner, honoring all relevant laws, restrictions and guidelines.

Student’s Signature:____________________________________________Date:______________

Teachers and building principals are responsible for determining what is unauthorized or inappropriate use. The principal may deny, revoke or suspend access to the Network/Internet to individuals who violate the Board’s Student Network and Internet Acceptable Use and Safety Policy and related Guidelines, and take such other disciplinary action as appropriate pursuant to the Student Code of Conduct.
The technology director shall be responsible for the management of the Board’s technology system and for making the arrangements for any networks which may be used to enhance the educational program and/or operations of the District.

S/He shall be responsible for implementing the guidelines established for program development (AG 2210 through AG 2252), the selection of materials and equipment (AG 2521A), and the District’s purchasing guidelines (AG 6320). In addition, the technology coordinator shall make sure the appropriate agreement Form 7540.04 F1 or Form 7540.03 F1 is complete for each staff member and student who will have access to Board technology and any networks.

All tentative agreements with networks or technology agencies are to be submitted to the Superintendent for review and approval.

It is essential that staff members and students be provided the following information concerning the use of the Internet. This can be done through written guidelines, professional development seminars, faculty and student meetings, and introductory remarks at the beginning of a course in which the Internet may be used.

A. Use of the Internet is to be related to one or more courses of study and is not to be used by staff or students for discriminatory or unlawful purposes. All student use is to be supervised by a staff member or approved volunteer who has signed the Staff Network and Internet Acceptable Use and Safety Agreement Form 7540.04F1.

B. Prior to disseminating information across the Internet about a student such as name, address, or other identifying data including pictures, signed parental permission forms must be on file.

C. Because of the vast amount of information that can be retrieved from the World-wide network, teachers are responsible for training students to use proper research skills when retrieving information. It is inappropriate, costly, and a waste of valuable instructional time for staff and/or students to download large quantities of information that has not been checked ahead of time for accuracy, relevancy, and probable usage. It may be helpful, therefore, for teachers to conduct some controlled exercises with students on how to differentiate between web-sites that are “attractive but superficial or irrelevant” from those that are attractive, substantive, and relevant.

D. No staff member or student will be allowed access to the Internet or other networks without first signing the Student or Staff Network and Internet Acceptable Use and Safety Agreement, Form 7540.03 F1 or Form 7540.04 F1. All student use of the Internet must be under supervision of a staff member or approved volunteer.
E. Neither staff members nor students are to use the Internet for discriminatory or unlawful purposes but only for purposes related to the Board’s educational program or to operational needs.

F. Each staff member and student will be provided a password for use with Board technology with the provision that the password is not to be shared with others. The existence of a password does not guarantee confidentiality or privacy and the Board retains the right to use any person’s password to monitor the type of use that is being made of the Board technology and does not involve the conduct of any discriminatory or unlawful business (including commercial purposes, advertising, and political lobbying).

G. Students are allowed to send or receive personal e-mail messages with the consent of the instructor.

H. Use of all other Board technology shall be in accord with AG 7530 – Personal Use of District Equipment and Facilities.