

**Lee County School District
Technology Plan
July 1, 2013-June 30, 2016**



LEE COUNTY SCHOOLS

Dr. Cleo Richardson, Superintendent

RichardsonC@lee.k12.sc.us

Charletta Campbell, District Technology Coordinator

Charletta Campbell

CampbellC@lee.k12.sc.us

310 Roland Street, Bishopville, S.C. 29010 Phone: 803-484-5337, Fax: 803-484-4171

<http://www.leeschoolsk12.org>

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District Profile

6 Schools plus 2 Additional Sites

- 1 Primary School
 - *Bishopville Primary School*
 - 2 Elementary Schools
 - *Lower Lee Elementary*
 - *West Lee Elementary*
 - 1 Middle School
 - *Lee Central Middle School*
 - 1 High School
 - *Lee Central High School*
 - 1 Technology and Vocational School
 - *Lee County Career And Technology Center*
 - 1 Alternative School
 - *Lee County Academic Learning Center*
-
- **2243 Total Students Enrolled in Lee County School District**
 - **86% of those Students on Free or Reduced Lunch Status**
 - **30 Students that are English as a Second Language (ESL) Students**
 - **_2.3_ Dropout Rate for the 2011-12 School Year**
 - **86% Graduation Rate for the 2012-2013 School Year**
 - **Lee County School District had a 90% E-Rate Discount**

Executive Summary

This Technology Plan for Lee County School District will provide a direction for the future use of technology over the next three years. The Lee County School District Technology Plan will be closely aligned with the style and intent of the new state technology plan. The Office of Technology provides leadership in the use, implementation, integration of computers and related technology into the classroom and throughout the district. By providing heightened levels of interactive support and training, the Office of Technology is striving to make a positive impact on student achievement, productivity, and overall successful technology utilization.

Lee County Public Schools have embraced the vision that all students will be able to use technology to develop the knowledge and skills necessary to be productive, informed citizens and lifelong learners. Effective use of technology depends on the knowledge and skills of the teacher, school administration and tone set by the district.

The vision and mission led the team to focus on curriculum, academic and social development and learning environments that include students, staff, and the community. The focus empowers all participants to be involved in lifelong learning opportunities.

The district's plan will address all E-Rate areas which will focus on the infrastructure and connectivity. Utilizing these matching funds will enable our district to provide the connectivity needed to enhance the technology smart classroom. The second area will address district purchasing plans for classroom and school site equipment. It is imperative that we continue to upgrade and expand our computer technology for teachers and students to have the necessary tools to maintain the effective teaching practices. Software, academic and professional software applications will be evaluated and researched for upgrade or change.

The teacher is the person with the greatest impact on the classroom environment, therefore, our vision includes a charge to support our instructional staff, and provide them with continuing technical support and professional development. In the past, the E2T2 Grant has given Lee the opportunity to hire a tech coach to extend the training opportunities into the classroom. With ISTE standards in place, teachers will be required to demonstrate mastery through coursework to meet the requirements for Proviso 1.40.

District Needs Assessment

The latest district needs assessment was conducted during the Spring of 2013 by the district technology staff. Needs were categorized in the following areas.

Summary of District Needs Assessment

- Network Infrastructure (Hardware)
 - Outdated servers as part of the E-RATE equipment rotation
 - Outdated network switches with POE switches as part of the E-RATE equipment rotation
 - Outdated routers as part of the E-RATE equipment rotation
 - Replace standard UPS's with larger UPS's that can be monitored via the network.
- Workstations
 - Continue to dispose of outdated equipment
 - Lease replacement cycle for desktops
 - Continue to upgrade and provide equipment for classrooms, labs, media centers and offices as needed.
 - Possible upgrade to Windows 7
- Peripheral Equipment for school sites
 - Equip classrooms with interactive equipment
 - Digital Cameras
 - Smartboards
 - Smartables
 - Student Response Systems
 - Printers- Network
 - Projection Units
 - iPad carts
- Support
 - Strive to hire technicians on staff for District
 - One Network Specialist outsourced through E-rate
 - One full-time technician for LCHS and LCMS
 - One full-time technician for elementary schools
- Software
 - Upgrade to Office 2013
 - Asses Curriculum Software at school sites consistent
 - Orchard
 - Star Reader /Star Math

- Accelerated Reader
 - Reading Counts
 - Apex
 -
- Training
 - Tech Support Staff Training Needed
 - Microsoft Active Directory
 - Cisco Training
 - Teacher/District Staff Training
 - Proviso 1.40 Requirements
 - Curriculum Software Training
 - Administrative Software Training
 - Mandatory Technology Introduction Training
 - Technology Assessment

District's Vision and Mission Statement

The mission of the Lee County School District is to ensure that all students are successful as members of an ever-changing society through effective teaching of a challenging and relevant curriculum.

The mission of the Lee County School District's Technology Department is to support and maintain an optimal technology environment for student education and administrative operations.

Plans for Individual Technology Dimensions

Technology Dimension 1 – Learners and Their Environment

This dimension emphasizes helping students use technology in ways that will enhance their knowledge and understanding of content adopted by the state curriculum standards. The environment should remain conducive to learning while increasing academic achievement.

Goal:

Lee County School District will ensure that district technology accommodates/supports curriculum geared toward high student achievement.

Snapshot of Current Technology Use:

Lee County School District's current technology use includes:

- Internet access in all classrooms.
- Computer labs at all schools.
- Technologically equipped Media Centers.
- Access to curriculum driving software
- Access to remediation software.
- Access to interactive equipment.

Objectives, Strategies, and Action List to Reach Goal:

- Gain support of Administration to encourage teachers to utilize technology in the classroom.
- Continue to ensure that students and teachers have continuous access to adequate technology based resources.
- Continue to explore the use of mobile computing and elimination of traditional labs, allowing for increased and improved student access to technology. One laptop for every student.

Implementation Action Steps for Districts and Schools:

- ❑ Open and encourage communication of staff on all levels about the importance and the effects of technology.
- ❑ Encourage teachers to incorporate student lessons that include the use of technology.
- ❑ Update operating systems, classroom computers and computer labs based on the industry standard.
- ❑ Wireless technology implemented as costs allow.

Funding Considerations for District and Schools:

- ❑ Equipment replacement needs
- ❑ Maintenance of hardware and software
- ❑ Additional Technology Staff
- ❑ Professional Development for teachers
- ❑ Evaluation tools for students and teachers
- ❑ Additional hardware and software needs

Evaluation of Objectives:

- ❑ “Request to Attend” forms on file at the Lee County School District Office
- ❑ District Technology Inventory
- ❑ Increase in statewide achievement test scores
- ❑ Technology surveys
- ❑ Routine observations

Technology Dimension 2 – Professional Capacity

Goal:

To provide adequate technical professional development for educators that will increase their competency of effective integration of technology in the classroom.

Snapshot of Current Technology Use:

The Lee County School District currently offers periodic technology workshops and training for all staff members. Onsite courses are available to promote integration of technology and instruction related tasks. Many of these courses are approved for district renewal credits.

Objectives, Strategies, and Action List to Reach Goal:

- ❑ Direct needs based training programs developed for integrating technology into instruction.
- ❑ Create individualized professional development for faculty and staff based on grade level and subject matters.
- ❑ Inform staff of available technology resources.
- ❑ Engage educators into creating technology enhanced activities that align with state standards.
- ❑ Provide educators with adequate guidance and assistance in incorporating technology into curriculum.

Implementation Action Steps for Districts and Schools:

- ❑ Provide training for educators that target core subject matters.
- ❑ Maintain knowledge of current technology and communicate it to appropriate staff.

Funding Considerations for District and Schools:

- ❑ Enhancing technical expertise of staff
- ❑ Technology Conferences
- ❑ Grant writing

Evaluation of Objectives:

- Site visits

Technology Dimension 3 – Instructional Capacity

Goal:

We will ensure that technologies allow the introduction of new curricula, new instructional approaches, and alternate information accessing capabilities.

Snapshot of Current Technology Use:

Lee County’s instructional capacity is as follows:

- Internet access for all classrooms
- Well-equipped computer labs and media centers at all schools
- Network printers at all schools
- Remediation software

Objectives, Strategies, and Action List to Reach Goal:

- ❑ Provide a variety of technological options, consistent with student needs, differentiated learning styles, and alignment with ISTE Technology and the S.C State Curriculum standards, that explore stimulate exploration.
- ❑ Provide a variety of technological options, consistent with student needs, differentiated learning styles, and alignment with ISTE Technology and the S.C State Curriculum standards that provide for skill practice.

Implementation Action Steps for Districts and Schools:

- ❑ Technology Coach to assist teachers in the integration of technology into the curriculum.
- ❑ Creating “smart classrooms” with state of the art equipment such as: Smart boards, Active boards, student response systems, LCD Projectors, digital cameras and scanners, graphing calculators, digital science probes, iPAD’s, Chromebooks, etc. and many other instructional peripherals.
- ❑ Software and hardware will be adopted that is compatible with existing systems and computers.

Funding Considerations for District and Schools:

- ❑ Software and on-line programs
- ❑ Equipment needs
- ❑ Evaluation tools
- ❑ Professional Development

Evaluation of Objectives:

- ❑ District Technology Inventory
- ❑ District quarterly benchmark testing

Technology Dimension 4 – Community Connections

Goal:

Our goal is to collaborate with local stakeholders and to identify technological resources and opportunities.

Snapshot of Current Technology Use:

The Lee County School District uses technology as a means of communication to the community.

Objectives, Strategies, and Action List to Reach Goal:

- ❑ Use email, school website, Powerschool Parent Portal, School Messenger, and other forms of technology to communicate with the parents and other community stakeholders
- ❑ Create an environment where parents and the community can be involved in technical implementations.
- ❑ Allow community to use labs when available.

Implementation Action Steps for Districts and Schools:

- ❑ Encourage community to use the available technical resources as a communication method with schools.
- ❑ Encourage students to engage parents in the use of technology.

Funding Considerations for District and Schools:

- Technology Budget
- The use of available technology in the district

Evaluation of Objectives:

- ❑ Community and Parent feedback

Technology Dimension 5 – Support Capacity

Goal:

Lee County School district will maintain and enhance an infrastructure that is capable of supporting all instructional processes and initiatives determined by the district's strategic plan.

Snapshot of Current Technology Use:

Lee County School District technology staff's role as technology advisors for the district to continue to improve the site-based decisions of hardware, software and training. An area of growth needs to be in the support staff for technology. The district must recognize the need for additional support staff to accommodate the growing demand for maintenance and training support at each site and budget accordingly.

Objectives, Strategies, and Action List to Reach Goal:

- ❑ Maintain and Adapt Infrastructure to provide adequate access to technology based on differentiated needs and educational level through a variety of avenues such as portable classrooms, media and other specialized labs for computer access.
- ❑ Implement a three year network upgrade to keep pace with increasing demand and changes in technology.
- ❑ Establish district-wide standards for hardware/software.
- ❑ Establish a web-based inventory system to track equipment: purchases, repairs and recycling.
- ❑ Implement a disaster recovery plan for all points of failure in LANs and WANs, including redundant data storage, automated backup, and immediate hardware recovery.

Implementation Action Steps for Districts and Schools:

- ❑ Establish a viewpoint for applying technology to different levels of education- elementary, middle and high schools.
- ❑ Establish a minimum and maximum number of computers for schools based on enrollment, replacement cycles, and special needs.
- ❑ Establish a district-wide forum for decision-making in technology

Funding Considerations for District and Schools:

- ❑ Equipment inventory assessment/needs.
- ❑ Technology director, networking engineer, networking technician, and tech coaches.
- ❑ Technology needs to comply with district, state, and industry standards.
- ❑ District Budget allocations to Technology

Evaluation of Objectives:

- ❑ District Technology Budget

Projected Costs

| <i>ALL COMPONENTS -</i> | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|-------------------|
| GRAND TOTAL – Dimension 1 | | | \$ 79500 |
| GRAND TOTAL – Dimension 2 | | | \$ 10000 |
| GRAND TOTAL – Dimension 3 | | | \$ 100000 |
| GRAND TOTAL – Dimension 4 | | | \$ 6000 |
| GRAND TOTAL – Dimension 5 | | | \$ 200000 |
| | | | |
| <i>GRAND TOTAL ALL COMPONENTS -</i> | | | <i>\$ 395,500</i> |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

Cumulative Benchmarks

2010-13

Learners –Environment

The district will ensure that students and staff will have sufficient access to the Internet and network programs to enhance and support the curriculum.

The district will encourage teachers to utilize technology in the classroom.

Thirty percent of the students will demonstrate a sound understanding of the operation of technology systems in the network environment.

Thirty percent of the students will use technology to grade-level-appropriate competencies as well as their use of a variety of technology tools to complete authentic tasks.

Students and teachers will be assessed by using online evaluation tools.

Professional Capacity

Seventy percent of the professional staff will demonstrate technology proficiency as evidenced by the proficiency assessment or technology training course certificate.

Twenty percent of the professional staff will work with a technology coach/ specialist in integrating technology into the curriculum to teach the state curriculum standards.

All teachers will receive grade level guidance and assistance in incorporating technology into curriculum.

Instructional Capacity

Fifty percent of the students will meet the ISTE standards for technology skills and literacy.

Students at the middle and elementary levels will have full access to remediation software.

All students will have access to state of the art equipment.

Community Connections

Each school and district will have a website with up to date information for the community.

Parents will have full access to their child's\children's schedule, grades, daily assignments, and attendance via the Parent Portal of Powerschool.

All schools will offer after-hours access to computers labs for parent and community use.

Acknowledgements

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- Juan Viera – Lee County School District, Technology Assistant
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- Veronica McDaniel, Lee County School District, Instructional Technology Coach
- Kristie Stokes -Lee County School District Director of Finance

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US Department of Education. 2005. National Educational Technology Plan. Washington: US Department of Education.

US Department of Education. 2002. No Child Left Behind Act. Washington: US Department of Education.

Appendixes

Appendix 1: No Child Left Behind Action Plan

1. Long-Term Actions for Improving Student Academic Achievement
Addressed on pages 8 of the technology plan.
2. Equity of Access
Addressed on page 8 of the technology plan.
3. Actions to Ensure Equity of Access
Addressed on pages 8 of the technology plan.
4. Statewide Technical and Professional Development Assistance
Addressed on pages 10 of the technology plan.
5. Encouraging Collaborations and Partnerships
Addressed on pages 14 of the technology plan.
6. Promoting Parental Involvement
Addressed on pages 14 of the technology plan.
7. Action Plan for Evaluation and Accountability
Addressed on pages 18 of the technology plan.

Appendix 2: Teacher Technology Proficiency Proviso Professional Development Plan

International Society of Technology in Education
National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education

National Educational Technology Standards and Performance Indicators for Teachers

Technology Operations and Concepts

Teachers demonstrate a sound understanding of technology operations and concepts. Teachers:

- Demonstrate introductory knowledge, skills and understanding of concepts related to technology (as described in the ISTE National educational Technology Standards for Students).
- Demonstrate continual growth in technology knowledge and skills to stay abreast of current and emerging technologies.

Planning and Designing Learning Environments and Experiences

Teachers plan and design effective learning environments and experiences supported by technology. Teachers:

- Design developmentally appropriate learning opportunities that apply technology-enhanced instructional strategies to support diverse needs of learners.
- Apply current research on teaching and learning with technology when planning learning environments and experiences.
- Identify and locate technology resources and evaluate them for accuracy and suitability.
- Plan for the management of technology resources within the context of learning activities.
- Plan strategies to manage student learning in a technology-enhanced environment.

Teaching, Learning and the Curriculum

Teachers implement curriculum plans that include methods and strategies for applying technology to maximize student learning. Teachers:

- Facilitate technology-enhanced experiences that address content standards and student technology standards.
- Use technology to support learner-centered strategies that address the diverse needs of students.
- Apply technology to develop students' higher order skills and creativity.
- Manage student-learning activities in a technology-enhanced environment.

Assessment and Evaluation

Teachers apply technology to facilitate a variety of effective assessment and evaluation strategies. Teachers:

- Apply technology in assessing student learning of subject matter using a variety of assessment techniques.
- Use technology resources to collect and analyze data, interpret results, and communicate findings to improve instructional practice and maximize student learning.
- Apply multiple methods of evaluation to determine students' appropriate use of technology resources for learning, communication and productivity.

Productivity and Professional Practice

Teachers use technology to enhance their productivity and professional practice. Teachers:

- Use technology resources to engage in ongoing professional development and lifelong learning.
- Continually evaluate and reflect on professional practice to make informed decisions regarding the use of technology in support of student learning.
- Apply technology to increase productivity.
- Use technology to communicate and collaborate with peers, parents, and the larger community in order to nurture student learning.

Social, Ethical, Legal, and Human Issues

Teachers understand the social, ethical, legal and human issues surrounding the use of technology in PK-12 schools and apply that understanding to practice. Teachers:

- Model and teach legal and ethical practice related to technology use.
- Apply technology resources to enable and empower learners with diverse backgrounds, characteristics and abilities.
- Promote safe and healthy use of technology resources.
- Facilitate equitable access to technology resources for all students.

Appendix 3: Lee County Schools Student Acceptable Use Policy

Policy

USE OF TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES IN INSTRUCTION

Code IJNDB-E2 Issued October/12

Purpose: To establish the board's vision and the basic structure for the use of technology resources in instruction.

The board recognizes that as telecommunications and other new technologies shift the ways that information may be accessed, communicated and transferred by members of the society, those changes may also alter instruction and student learning. The board generally supports access by students to information resources along with the development by staff of appropriate skills to analyze and evaluate such resources. In a free and democratic society, access to information is a fundamental right of citizenship.

Students are expected to follow the rules set forth in the Acceptable Use Policy, as well as any applicable school, state, or federal rules.

Students are also expected to disclose to their teacher or school personnel any message they receive or are exposed to that they feel is inappropriate or makes them feel uncomfortable.

Parents should also educate their children on any material they think would be inappropriate for them to access. The District expects students to adhere to their parents instructions.

District and school computer technicians who are working with a computer and come across sexually explicit images of children must report this to local law enforcement. The report must include the name and address of the owner or person in possession of the computer.

The board authorizes the superintendent to prepare appropriate procedures for implementing this policy and for reviewing and evaluating its effect on instruction and student achievement.

Internet Safety Policy

This rule includes provision to address and enforce access by minors on the internet; the safety and security and security of minors when using electronic mail, chat rooms and other forms of direct electronic communications; unauthorized access including “hacking” and other unlawful activities by minors online; unauthorized disclosure, use, and dissemination of personal information regarding minors; measures designed to restrict minors' access to materials harmful to minors.

Access by Minors to the Internet or World Wide Web

The Internet can provide a vast collection of educational resources for students and employees. It is a global network that makes it impossible to control all available information. Because information appears, disappears and changes constantly, it is not possible to predict or control what students may locate. The school district makes no guarantees as to the accuracy of information received on the Internet. Although students will be under teacher supervision and measures are designed to restrict minor's access to materials harmful to minors while on the network, some students might encounter information that is not of educational value. Students will be allowed independent utilization of telecommunications and electronic information resources upon submission of permission forms and agreement forms by parents of minor students (under 18 years of age) and by students themselves.

Students should not use the internet or World Wide Web to access or send material that is profane, vulgar, lewd, indecent, obscene, threatening, and illegal or that advocates violence or discrimination.

Students who mistakenly access inappropriate information or images should immediately disclose this to their teacher or school personnel.

Safety and Security of Minors

Students should not participate in direct electronic communication unless authorized by the district. This includes, but is not limited to electronic mail, chat rooms, social networking sites, and blogs.

Student should not use the internet or network for commercial or for-profit purposes, product advertisement, political lobbying or illegal activity.

Unauthorized Access

Students should not attempt to gain unauthorized access to the electronic network or any computer beyond your granted access. This includes attempting to access unauthorized websites, attempting to access another person's account or files, or hacking.

Students should not search for security problems in the electronic network. This is considered an illegal attempt to gain unauthorized access.

Social Networking

Students should not engage in social networking while using any of the district's electronic resources, unless authorized by an administrator. Students who engage in social networking should be mindful of shared information, even if done while offsite.

Students should not post information on social networking sites that would negatively impact the district, school, students, teacher or administrators.

Unauthorized Disclosure of Personal Information

Students should not post, email, or disclose personal contact information about themselves or other people unless it is approved by administration. Personal information includes, but is not limited to, names, addresses, telephone numbers, pictures, etc.

Students should not agree to meet with someone they meet online.

Students should not respond to or receive information from others that disclose personal information about themselves or others, without authorization.

Technology Protection Measures

In compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), the district uses filtering software to protect students from inappropriate material. Student Internet activities will be monitored to ensure students are not attempting to access inappropriate sites. However, due to the dynamic nature of the internet, the district cannot warrant the effectiveness of its internet filtering.

Students should not attempt to *violate* the protection measures that are in place.

Public Notice and Hearing or Meeting

The Lee County School district staff will provide the public with information about our technology protection measures. This communication may be in the form of a meeting, electronic mail, flyers, or any other form of distributed communication.

Cyber bullying

Cyber bullying is defined in legal glossaries as

- actions that use information and communication technologies to support deliberate, repeated, and hostile behavior by an individual or group, that is intended to harm another or others.
- use of communication technologies for the intention of harming another person
- use of internet service and mobile technologies such as web pages and discussion groups as well as instant messaging or text messaging with the intention of harming another person.

The Lee County School District prohibits acts of cyber bullying a student, staff and third parties that interfere with or disrupt a student's ability to learn and the school's ability to educate students. Cyber bullying is prohibited in classrooms, on school premises, on a school vehicle, at a school sponsored function or activity or any activity where the school is responsible for the student. The district will educate minors about cyber bullying and response.

STUDENT ELECTRONIC-MAIL

Lee County School District recognizes that electronic mail (e-mail) has become a vital communication tool. The primary purpose of the student electronic mail system is for students to communicate with school staff, outside resources related to school assignments, and fellow students to collaborate on school activities. It is the policy of the Lee County School District that student e-mail will be used in a responsible, legal and ethical manner by our students. Failure to do so may result in the termination of e-mail privileges and/or disciplinary actions being taken.

Conditions of the Electronic Mail Usage:

As a condition of a user's right to use e-mail, a student must agree to use e-mail as described below:

- I shall use the electronic mail for legitimate educational purposes with the permission of a staff member.
- I will not attempt to examine or acquire inappropriate language or graphics through e-mail. If I should receive material(s) inappropriate for a school setting, I will report and remove it immediately.
- I will not forward or share inappropriate material with others.
- I will protect myself and others by not issuing any names, addresses, telephone numbers, or any personal identifying information.
- I will report any unusual activities such as "spam" communications, obscene e-mail, attempts by adults to lure me into dangerous behaviors, and the like to the school's technology contact for action. I will not forward chain letters, jokes, or graphic files.
- I understand that e-mail sent through the Lee County School District Student E-mail System is not confidential. The administration reserves the right to retrieve the contents of user mailboxes for legitimate reasons, such as to find lost messages, to conduct internal investigations, to comply with investigations of wrongful acts, or to recover from system failure.

Students Internet

The Lee County School District users will abide by the following policy. All users should be aware of the public nature of information: privacy cannot be assumed.

As a condition of a user's right to access the Internet at school, a student must agree to use the Internet as described below:

- I shall use the Internet for legitimate educational purposes with the permission of a staff member.

- I understand that the school is not responsible for information acquired over the Internet.
- I will not attempt to examine or acquire inappropriate language or graphics. If I should find materials inappropriate for a school setting, I will leave that site immediately.
- I will not download, copy, or share inappropriate material with others.
- I will protect myself and others by not issuing any names, addresses, telephone numbers, or any personal identifying information.
- I will not damage any hardware or software that will disrupt the network.
- I will not engage in 'hacking' or any unlawful activity on the Internet.
- I will report any problems or breaches of these responsibilities to the appropriate staff member.

Students Acceptable Use Agreement

As a condition of a user's right to access the internet and email at school, the student must agree to adhere to the Acceptable Use Policy.

I have read, understand, and will abide by the Lee County School District Acceptable Use Policy. Should I commit any violation, my access privileges may be revoked and I may be subject to other disciplinary actions prescribed by law or School Board Policy.

Student Signature

Date

As the parent/guardian of this student, I have read and I understand the District's Acceptable Use Policy. I give my child permission to use the Internet for educational purposes and will encourage him\her to adhere to the conditions stated above. I further understand that if my child violates these conditions, disciplinary actions may be taken.

Parent Signature

Date

Adopted 8/19/96; Revised 07/01/2012, ^

Legal references:

A. Federal law:

1. **47 USC Section 254(h) - Children's Internet Protection Act.**
2. The Digital Millennium Copyright Act of 1998, Section 512 -
Limitations on liability relating to material online.

B. S.C. Code of Laws, 1976, as amended:

1. **Section 16-3-850 - Encountering child pornography while
processing film or working on a computer.**

Update 10/2012

Appendix 4: How E-Rate Areas Have Been Addressed

Wide Area Network/Internet Connectivity

Foremost in fund utilization has been the upgrade of the districts WAN and LAN. The district is currently maintaining its connectivity between its schools by the use of frame relay, or T-1 lines. These lines have been increased to provide 100 megabits of throughput. Through the utilization of E-rate funds, the district is planning to upgrade the WAN and LAN.

The increased bandwidth allows the district to take advantage of instructional resources between schools, shorten and optimize maintenance by server consolidation, and utilize available state resources such as streaming video that is aligned with standards.

Internal Connections

The district has also been able to take advantage of its higher free and reduced count to upgrade internal connections in all of its schools. Included in the upgrade are switches that allow voice, video, and data more effectively to the classroom, and upgraded cabling to be able to handle increased data flow up to 100 megabits to the desktop. These switches are now due for upgrades.

School Telephony Network and Equipment

The district has also utilized E-rate funding to maintain its current PBX system. Included are the district's phone circuits, PRI's, and the maintenance of existing PBX systems.

Conclusion

Connection to a school local-area-network (LAN) or, through such a network, to a district-wide wide-area-network (WAN) greatly expands what can be done with a computer. Access to shared resources such as printers or shared memory, or to electronic mail, or to specialized instruments or computing devices, can support collective work and increase the efficient use of resources. Incorporating technologies as learning tools opens up a whole world of riches, but a limiting consideration is the amount of bandwidth (the term refers to the amount of information that can traverse the network each second) available to each computer.

The capacity of the infrastructure and the availability of bandwidth will limit the usefulness and the effectiveness of the technologies already in place. Therefore, one of

the most important components to using technology to facilitate learning is ensuring reliable hardware and fast connectivity. A high-speed WAN will deliver instructional information at the right pace. Response time for a high-speed WAN is measured in seconds; whereas a low speed WAN's delivery of information is measured in minutes and hours. Many instructional software packages have features that require multi-media computers and the use of the Internet for instruction is also dependent on multi-media computers and a high-speed WAN. A robust WAN with minimum 100 MB/GB and/or fiber switched network is essential to fully take advantage of the technology applications available for schools and districts.

Digital integrated media offers advantages such a multiple modes of presentation, increased learner involvement and motivation, simulated experiences of learning through problem-solving and economized delivery of one program to fit many learners. Computer based modules delivered via the Internet are considered to be the delivery medium of choice because of the relative low costs associated with the distribution, revision and administration of programs including the ability to track users. The determinant of the Web's viability is the bandwidth at the user's end. An important consideration is whether the interactive audio and video components can be web-delivered successfully as determined by the sustainable download data rate on the user's computer. To deliver interactive instruction via a network, bandwidth is the most essential element.