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# Pennsylvania Department of Education

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COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**  
333 MARKET STREET  
HARRISBURG, PA 17126-0333

## **Educational Technology Report** **Tuesday, August 12, 2008**

**Entity:** Eastern Lebanon County SD  
**Address:** 180 Elco Dr  
Myerstown, PA 17067-2604  
**Phone:** (717) 866-7117  
**Contact Name:** Richard Nilsen

**Core Purpose**

**Mission**

**Mission Statement:** To provide quality educational opportunities for all students so that, as citizens, they can successfully meet the challenges and responsibilities of the future.

### **Vision**

The vision of the Eastern Lebanon County School District is to create a culture of achievement, improve student performance, maintain safe schools, and promote strong character.

### **Shared Values**

1. Development of “Professional Learning Communities” that make all instructional decisions through data driven research and study.
2. Development of a unified educational program tied to specific state standards that are properly mapped and universally assessed.
3. Increased community and parent communication and involvement in all district buildings.
4. Enhanced, expanded and newly developed support services and programs for struggling students as well as proficient and advanced students.
5. Expanded use of technology to increase, student achievement.

### **Needs Assessment**

The Eastern Lebanon County school district makes an emphasis on integrating the use of technology as an important educational tool within the district's classrooms. Over the years the district has been able to develop a sustainability plan that has provided all teachers with current technologies that include laptop computers, projection units, networked classrooms, and interactive whiteboards. Teachers and administrators have been included in identifying the technical and curricular needs associated with equipping the classrooms with appropriate equipment.

The district has also made vast improvements with supporting teachers, support staff, and administrators. The technology department has two divisions, one for technical support and one for professional development. A commitment has been made to both increase staff as technology usage has increase as well as to outsource areas of more advance technical needs to provide the most cost effective support available to the district.

Probably the greatest strength of the district as it relates to educational technology is in the area of professional development. With three staff members devoted to working with staff members, inservice workshops, after-school workshops, and just-in-time workshops are provided often throughout the year. The district also provides an Instructional Technology Academy (ITA) that provides intense targeted training for ten-to-twenty teachers per year. Teachers participating in ITA are released from the classroom to work one-on-one with the district's Technology Learning Coordinators (TLCs). During this release time, technology integration goals are developed and training is provided.

#### Emerging Technologies:

- Read-Write Web - blogging, podcasting, wikis
- Educational gaming
- Online lessons/curriculum/learning
- Digital media online
- Social Networking
- Personal Responders
- Cell Phones
- Data Wharehousing

#### Implementations at ELCO:

- Teacher laptops and projectors
- Wireless Carts (Both elementary and secondary)
- Online writing tools (MyAccess)
- Online professional development management (MyLearningPlan)
- Classrooms for the Future (CFF)
- Instructional Technology Academy (ITA)
- Online learning environments - BlendedSchools - Blackboard
- Broadband Internet access (Act 183 — fiber connectivity)
- Polycom Video Conferencing Unit
- Interactive Whiteboards
- Online Student Information System (SIS) - PowerSchool
- Web Help Desk for support tracking
- Communication — tech staff cell phones and PDAs
- Online budgeting and requisitioning (eSchoolMall)
- Renovations to Fort Zeller and Middle School
- Rewiring network closets at the High School
- Alternative methods of communicating with constituents — Mass email distribution (Listraks) & podcastings
- Centralized server farm
- Student data management system (Performance Tracker)
- Integrated learning systems — Plato & SuccessMaker
- Two way video distribution system (z-Band)
- Internet safety program (i-Safe)
- Participation in student technology competitions
- Cooperative learning opportunities with local technology companies (Vertex)

#### Concerns for ELCO:

- Growing need for support
- Increased class sizes (33% growth)
- Outdated policies and procedures
- Standardized technology integration at all levels
- Sustaining cost of technology
- Professional Development time needed for staff
- Backup - Storage Space

### **Goals and Strategies**

**Goal: FOUR-YEAR GRADUATION RATE (for districts and schools that graduate seniors)**

*Description:* Graduate rate will be maintained and/or improved at 97%

**Strategy: Increase Use and Effectiveness of Technology to Enhance Instruction**

*Description:* Using the tenants of the CFF grant, participants will increase implement instructional strategies that will increase student centered learning and higher order thinking skills

*Activities:*

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Description</b>	
Alternative Education	Develop a program for alternative education, cyber education, and remediation/recovery using BlendedSchools.net	
<b>Person Responsible</b>	<b>Timeline for Implementation</b>	<b>Resources</b>
Not Currently Assigned	Ongoing	\$18,000.00

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Description</b>	
Staff Curriculum Online	Train staff to post online lessons, curriculum, and activities.	
<b>Person Responsible</b>	<b>Timeline for Implementation</b>	<b>Resources</b>
Not Currently Assigned	Ongoing	\$75,000.00

**Goal: MATHEMATICS**

*Description:* At least 56% of all students will be proficient in Mathematics, as measured by the annual state-wide PSSA assessments.

**Strategy: Using technology to increase student achievement in Math**

*Description:* Utilize Study Island and Odyssey Learning to help students achieve increased achievement in Math

*Activities:*

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Description</b>	
Hardware/Software Upgrades	Sustainability plan to upgrade all hardware (computers, network equipment, projectors, etc.) and software on a 3-4 year life cycle.	
<b>Person Responsible</b>	<b>Timeline for Implementation</b>	<b>Resources</b>
Not Currently Assigned	Ongoing	\$1,000,000.00

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Description</b>	
Integrated Learning System	Train elementary staff on ILS systems, Odyssey and Study island to use with students.	
<b>Person Responsible</b>	<b>Timeline for Implementation</b>	<b>Resources</b>
Not Currently Assigned	Ongoing	\$135,000.00

**Goal: READING**

*Description:* At least 63% of all students will be proficient in Reading, as measured by the annual state-wide PSSA assessments.

**Strategy: Using technology to increase student achievement in Reading**

*Description:* Train elementary staff on ILS systems, Odyssey and Study Island to use with students.

*Activities:*

Activity	Description	
Hardware/Software Upgrades	Sustainability plan to upgrade all hardware (computers, network equipment, projectors, etc.) and software on a 3-4 year life cycle.	
Person Responsible	Timeline for Implementation	Resources
Not Currently Assigned	Ongoing	\$1,000,000.00

Activity	Description	
Integrated Learning System	Train elementary staff on ILS systems, Odyssey and Study island to use with students.	
Person Responsible	Timeline for Implementation	Resources
Not Currently Assigned	Ongoing	\$135,000.00

**Goal: STUDENT ATTENDANCE (any school that does not graduate seniors)**

*Description:* Student attendance will meet a 90% threshold and/or show growth.

**Strategy: Utilize Technology to Enhance Student Attendance**

*Description:*

*Activities:*

Activity	Description	
Blogs	Utilize blogs to provide methods for parent and community to interact over current events within the district.	
Person Responsible	Timeline for Implementation	Resources
Not Currently Assigned	Ongoing	\$0.00

Activity	Description	
Building Podcasts	Utilize podcasting to provide periodic updates of news and events to be posted online.	
Person Responsible	Timeline for Implementation	Resources
Not Currently Assigned	Ongoing	\$2,000.00

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Description</b>	
Current Homepage	Establish a system to keep an up-to-date website with district information.	
<b>Person Responsible</b>	<b>Timeline for Implementation</b>	<b>Resources</b>
Not Currently Assigned	Ongoing	\$2,000.00

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Description</b>	
Current Policies	Keep district policies up-to-date	
<b>Person Responsible</b>	<b>Timeline for Implementation</b>	<b>Resources</b>
Not Currently Assigned	Ongoing	\$1,000.00

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Description</b>	
Financial and Student Information Systems	Maintain yearly contracts on financial and student information systems.	
<b>Person Responsible</b>	<b>Timeline for Implementation</b>	<b>Resources</b>
Not Currently Assigned	Ongoing	\$250,000.00

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Description</b>	
Mass Email Distribution	Use online program (Listrak) to send important information to parents and community members.	
<b>Person Responsible</b>	<b>Timeline for Implementation</b>	<b>Resources</b>
Not Currently Assigned	Ongoing	\$0.00

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Description</b>	
Promote i-Safe	Incorporate Internet safety curriculum into Business Education curriculum and provide parent workshops on Internet safety.	
<b>Person Responsible</b>	<b>Timeline for Implementation</b>	<b>Resources</b>
Not Currently Assigned	Ongoing	\$0.00

Activity	Description	
Shared Ownership	Establish a technology advisory committee.	
Person Responsible	Timeline for Implementation	Resources
Not Currently Assigned	Ongoing	\$500.00

Activity	Description	
Upgrade Internet Filtering System	Install new filtering servers to assist in managing computers on and off of the school's network.	
Person Responsible	Timeline for Implementation	Resources
Not Currently Assigned	Ongoing	\$35,000.00

Activity	Description	
Video Conferencing	Utilize video conference system for classroom activities, professional development, distance learning, and offsite meeting opportunities	
Person Responsible	Timeline for Implementation	Resources
Not Currently Assigned	Ongoing	\$10,000.00

Activity	Description	
Web 2.0 Development	Implement blog, wiki, and podcast tools for students to use in order to collaborate with fellow students within ELCO and students globally.	
Person Responsible	Timeline for Implementation	Resources
Not Currently Assigned	Ongoing	\$10,000.00

**Goal: STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN STATE ASSESSMENTS**

*Description:* At least 95% of eligible students will participate in required state-wide assessments.

**Strategy: Utilize Technology to Enhance Student Participation in State Assessments**

*Description:*

*Activities:*

Activity	Description	
Manage Student Data	Yearly subscription to data management system - Performance Tracker - to identify students' academic strengths and weaknesses.	
Person	Timeline for Implementation	Resources

<b>Responsible</b>		
Not Currently Assigned	Ongoing	\$100,000.00

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Description</b>	
Participate in BlendedSchools.net consortium	Yearly subscription to Blackboard, online curriculum, and professional development	
<b>Person Responsible</b>	<b>Timeline for Implementation</b>	<b>Resources</b>
Not Currently Assigned	Ongoing	\$125,000.00

### Staff Development

The Eastern Lebanon County school district has adopted technology integration as a critical part of the school's professional development program. Throughout the years programs have been in place that required teachers to engage in staff development technology workshops. The district also has had programs in place that rewarded teachers who demonstrated technology integration with additional equipment and the ability to attend the state technology conference.

A couple of programs that have remained strong within the school district's professional development plan include an Instructional Technology Academy (ITA) and PowerWorkshops. For almost a decade the district has inserviced teachers through the ITA program. The program includes several days of release time to develop technology-integrated lessons. Teachers work with a district Technology Learning Coordinator (TLC) during these days to establish goals for the year, get trained on software programs, and turn to for support. The program has been prosperous for the both the teachers and the district. PowerWorkshops are held throughout the year before and after school. The district TLCs seek input from the teachers regarding the software training needed and the workshops are then offered to address the needs expressed.

Finally, as a Classrooms For the Future (CFF) school district, high school CFF teachers have begun taking the embedded learning courses required by the state. The district has found these courses to be extremely beneficial and will look to expand participation of these courses beyond the high school staff. The district plans to use the teaching staff that already completed the embedded learning courses to mentor other teachers through the courses.

### Budget

#### Summary: Potential Funding Distribution

<b>Funding Source</b>	<b>2009-2010</b>	<b>2010-2011</b>	<b>2011-2012</b>	<b>Total</b>
010 - ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET	\$660,700.00	\$525,700.00	\$525,700.00	\$1,712,100.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$660,700.00</b>	<b>\$525,700.00</b>	<b>\$525,700.00</b>	<b>\$1,712,100.00</b>

#### Goal: FOUR-YEAR GRADUATION RATE (for districts and schools that graduate seniors)

Graduate rate will be maintained and/or improved at 97%

<b>Increase Use and Effectiveness of Technology to</b>	<b>2009-2010</b>	<b>2010-2011</b>	<b>2011-2012</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Funding Source</b>
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<b>Enhance Instruction</b>					
Alternative Education	\$3,600.00	\$3,600.00	\$3,600.00	\$10,800.00	010 - ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET
Staff Curriculum Online	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$45,000.00	010 - ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET

<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$18,600.00</b>	<b>\$18,600.00</b>	<b>\$18,600.00</b>	<b>\$55,800.00</b>	
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**Goal: MATHEMATICS**

At least 56% of all students will be proficient in Mathematics, as measured by the annual state-wide PSSA assessments.

<b>Using technology to increase student achievement in Math</b>	<b>2009-2010</b>	<b>2010-2011</b>	<b>2011-2012</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Funding Source</b>
Hardware/Software Upgrades	\$200,000.00	\$200,000.00	\$200,000.00	\$600,000.00	010 - ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET
Integrated Learning System	\$67,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$67,500.00	010 - ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET

<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$267,500.00</b>	<b>\$200,000.00</b>	<b>\$200,000.00</b>	<b>\$667,500.00</b>	
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**Goal: READING**

At least 63% of all students will be proficient in Reading, as measured by the annual state-wide PSSA assessments.

<b>Using technology to increase student achievement in Reading</b>	<b>2009-2010</b>	<b>2010-2011</b>	<b>2011-2012</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Funding Source</b>
Hardware/Software Upgrades	\$200,000.00	\$200,000.00	\$200,000.00	\$600,000.00	010 - ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET
Integrated Learning System	\$67,500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$67,500.00	010 - ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET

<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$267,500.00</b>	<b>\$200,000.00</b>	<b>\$200,000.00</b>	<b>\$667,500.00</b>	
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**Goal: STUDENT ATTENDANCE (any school that does not graduate seniors)**

Student attendance will meet a 90% threshold and/or show growth.

<b>Utilize Technology to Enhance Student Attendance</b>	<b>2009-2010</b>	<b>2010-2011</b>	<b>2011-2012</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Funding Source</b>
Building Podcasts	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$1,200.00	010 - ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET
Current Homepage	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$400.00	\$1,200.00	010 - ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET
Current Policies	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$600.00	010 - ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET
Financial and Student Information Systems	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$150,000.00	010 - ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET
Shared Ownership	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$300.00	010 - ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET
Upgrade Internet Filtering System	\$7,000.00	\$7,000.00	\$7,000.00	\$21,000.00	010 - ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET
Video Conferencing	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$6,000.00	010 - ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET
Web 2.0 Development	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$6,000.00	010 - ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$62,100.00</b>	<b>\$62,100.00</b>	<b>\$62,100.00</b>	<b>\$186,300.00</b>	

**Goal: STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN STATE ASSESSMENTS**

At least 95% of eligible students will participate in required state-wide assessments.

<b>Utilize Technology to Enhance Student Participation in State Assessments</b>	<b>2009-2010</b>	<b>2010-2011</b>	<b>2011-2012</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Funding Source</b>
Manage Student Data	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$60,000.00	010 - ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET
Participate in BlendedSchools.net consortium	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$75,000.00	010 - ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET

<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$45,000.00</b>	<b>\$45,000.00</b>	<b>\$45,000.00</b>	<b>\$135,000.00</b>	
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<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$660,700.00</b>	<b>\$525,700.00</b>	<b>\$525,700.00</b>	<b>\$1,712,100.00</b>	
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### **Monitoring**

The school district has several mechanisms in place to ensure the success of the educational technology plan. First, the technology director meets bi-monthly with building TLCs and technology support staff members to address areas of strengths and weaknesses in the technology program. Secondly, principals identify areas of accomplishments or the need for improvement in technology integration while conducting formal observations. Finally, each year the district holds a technology symposium for all administrators and instructional technology staff members. At this symposium new technologies are introduced and goals are established to assist in making sure the long-range educational technology vision is successful.

### **Evaluation**

By establishing an advisory committee to assist the director of technology, the committee will ultimately be responsible to evaluate the plans success or failure. Evaluations will include staff, student, and parent surveys and interviews conducted by the director of technology with students and staff members. Most importantly, input from the advisory committee, who serve as a liaison to staff and students, will help to restructure the plan in order to meet the educational needs of our students.