

4. Executive Summary

This plan is the final product of an on-going process that began during the 1997/1998 school year. At that time a committee was formed and charged with the responsibility of creating a visionary plan for the use of technology in Plainfield Community Consolidated School District #202. Since the origin of that committee, our vision embraces the reality that the Technology Plan is an on-going fluid work in progress that supports learning for all members of Plainfield Community Consolidated School District #202. Our committee membership is fluid. We see ourselves as a learning community that supports the efforts of learning with technology, not just learning to use technology.

We recognize that the Technology Plan is an essential tool we need in our rapidly growing District. It provides direction along with our District Curriculum Guide and Trac (Instructional Strategies) Book.

The current Technology Plan is a culmination of work from community members, teachers, media specialists, support staff, and administration. Next Steps surveys were utilized to gather data from administrators, teachers, parents and students. Results of these surveys were utilized as part of the Gap Analysis. Informal assessments were taken at each building pertaining to Engaged Learning. Results of those surveys may be found in Appendix A of this document.

This plan addresses four major areas: Community Involvement, Engaged Learning, Professional Development, and Technology Deployment. The goals, implementation strategies, and activities that were developed clearly relate to the gaps that were identified in the Gap Analysis process. In addition, the plan lays the groundwork for connecting to the School Improvement Process as identified by the Illinois State Board of Education.

In our Community Involvement section, we strive for multiple learning opportunities for students, families and community members outside our “school day”. We will continue to support our current business partnerships as well as develop new partnerships that support learning. We will utilize video and web pages to provide authentic audiences for our students’ work.

Our Engaged Learning components support multiple opportunities for students’ use of technology to create new understandings and demonstrate growth over time through multiple learning venues. Our design teams support Engaged Learning efforts across the District.

The Professional Development section focuses upon a tiered staff development scheme that supports technology use: Literacy uses (the tools and how to use); adapting uses (students and teachers working with technology together); and transforming uses (students facilitating new learning in new innovative ways). This plan also holds student

products and evidence of student learning as an integral part of staff development. Participants in staff development are “charged” to collect this evidence and reflect upon its impact on instruction.

As we reflect on the past three years, we see amazing growth in Technology Deployment. In the school year 2001/2002, we provided each building with a new server; all buildings were upgraded to switches; wireless access is in place in all K-8 buildings; standards and procedures have been put in place for technology purchasing, software, network gear, web page design and publications, donations, and repairs; a technology budget is in place, a three-year Riverboat fund spending plan is in effect, and a wireless point to multi-point network is currently under construction. With the rapid growth that continues in the District, we see the need to encourage the technical support staffs’ learning, update aging equipment, and provide a clear communication tool for District 202 employees and the technology department.

As a “tech team”, we felt the need to re-assess the entire Technology Plan. We, therefore, have revised the entire plan not just those sections required for peer review. We celebrate our accomplishments over the past three years and are committed to assess the plan every year to make sure that we are providing the best learning opportunities for all members of the Plainfield Community Consolidated School District #202.

This Technology Plan will map our vision for technology over the course of the next three years. The plan will be reviewed, assessed, and revised to meet our needs as we accomplish our goals and move forward in our rapidly growing community.