

Technology Modernization

Frequently Asked Questions

Why was the Technology Modernization Project created?

The Technology Modernization Project was created in response to a growing need for updated technology in CCSD classrooms, computer labs and media centers in 2008. The project's primary focus is to create equal access to technology across the district, standardize the equipment and reduce the financial burden on schools.

As we face a difficult budget year, why are we investing in technology when we are reducing staff and discussing furloughs?

The money used to modernize classrooms (i.e. capital funds) is NOT the same as the money from the General Operating Fund (i.e. the money used for salaries and operating expenditures). These are separate funding sources that cannot be mixed according to Sections 59-71-30 and 59-71-20 of the Code of Laws of South Carolina (1976). The technology funding was specifically designated for modernizing classrooms, computer labs and media centers.

Is CCSD taking money from facility and building funds to purchase technology?

The Technology Modernization Project does not take money that is used to build schools and improve facilities. Although they are both capital funds, they are not the same accounts. In addition, the money is not coming out of the revenue generated from the passage of the one cent sales tax in November of 2010.

What is the cost of an iPad and how many iPads is CCSD purchasing through technology modernization?

Breakout of Expenses

iPad2- \$479

3 Year Technical Support/Extended Warranty- \$79

Application software- \$25

Protective iPad Cover- \$29

Classroom Storage Cart- \$771 (secure storage and charging)

School Data Cart-\$2,100 (one per school to distribute software apps/student work)

Wireless Infrastructure per school-\$TBD

2,500 iPads will be deployed. The iPads will provide 1:1 learning for two schools and a few other focus groups (English as a Second Language, Exceptional Children, Early Childhood).

Besides improving student outcomes, does the iPad offer any other benefits such as long term cost savings?

A study conducted by Project Red (a national organization dedicated to education technology research) indicates a potential cost-savings of \$459 per year per 1:1 student device.

Examples of cost savings include reductions in copy and printing charges, online professional development for teachers, decreases in credit recovery courses and the cost of remediation programs and lastly, improving access to digital materials. The district will be studying these cost savings to see if they can be replicated for CCSD.

How is this plan being funded?

The Technology Modernization Committee has worked diligently to identify and implement cost saving measures since the project started. As the district enters year three of the Technology Modernization Project, some of those savings were approved by the Board to initiate a small scale 1:1 learning project at Drayton Hall as well as a Title I school which has not been identified yet. The savings will not only pay for the devices but will also assist with upgrades and implementation of a wireless network.

Will iPads be destroyed, damaged, or stolen if students take them home?

The iPads are not going to be distributed directly to students for personal use. Currently, students are not allowed to take the devices home with them. They are only being used in the classroom to deliver one-to-one instruction.

What if an iPad breaks or malfunctions?

CCSD iPads have 3 years of customer and technical support. There is a 24 hour turn around with technical repairs. CCSD is exploring the cost effectiveness of accidental damage protection and self insurance replacements in the event a device cannot be repaired or is stolen. The iPads also come with a free tracking service so CCSD can quickly identify the location of any iPad in the district, if lost or stolen.

Why did the district decide to initiate a 1:1 learning environment at Drayton Hall Elementary School?

The 1:1 learning pilot started in January 2011 and is a small part of the district's overall five year technology modernization plan. The original plan included replacing 2 student desktops in each classroom but data gathered from formal and informal classroom observations as well as teacher feedback showed that teachers favored something other than the replacement of the 2 classroom computers.

Many teachers explained that it is just not feasible to cycle 30 students through two desktop computers to complete an assignment or administer an assessment and that a 1:1 learning solution for the classroom would be more realistic.

Using teacher feedback, the Technology Modernization Committee researched a variety of alternatives. The iPad offers an affordable 1:1 solution with multiple capabilities therefore; the district designed a plan to explore this device as the classroom solution. Because this is a change from the previous plan, CCSD has opted to delay year four of classroom technology modernization for 12 months. The next 12 months will be used to study the process of a implementing 1:1 learning environment and will closely examine student achievement, technical aspects, professional development and cost savings for the district.

The criterion to select the 1:1 learning schools includes associate superintendent approval, principal and teacher commitment, adequate technology infrastructure, and School Quality Review Ratings. Drayton Hall

served as a Technology Showcase school in the past and continues to take a leadership role integrating technology and building on that foundation.

Is there proven research that student devices such as iPads improve student outcomes?

There is evidence that implementing 1:1 student devices improves student outcomes. However, it is not the device that is going to improve student achievement; it is what the teacher does with the device. Devices such as the iPad allow teachers to efficiently provide differentiated instruction to meet the needs of every student. Early data from the initial pilot suggests that students who have been using the devices in the classroom -- no matter their initial level, learning needs, or abilities -- have experienced growth when compared to their counterparts not using these devices. Again, we are in the early stages of implementation of 1:1 learning and it would be premature to draw any significant conclusions at this point, but early indications are positive.

What is differentiated instruction?

Differentiated instruction is varying the way information is provided to meet the needs of all students. A teacher can modify how the information is provided to the students, how students interact with the content, or how students demonstrate mastery of the standards.

What professional development will teachers receive?

The Department of Educational Technology is working with Apple, teachers in the pilot program and experts in the field to create ongoing professional development. The professional development will not only cover technical training but will also include curriculum integration strategies so teachers can effectively deliver differentiated instruction for all students.

Where can I find more information about Technology Modernization? Call us at 937-6303 or visit www.ccsdschools.com.