

Technology Plan Cover Sheet
2013-2015 (July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2015)

ORGANIZATION INFORMATION	
District/Agency/School (legal name):	WEST CENTRAL AREA SCHOOLS
District Number:	2342
Technology Plan Status	The District/Agency/School has an approved 2012 technology bridge plan: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
2013-2015 Technology Plan Date of Creation:	June – December 2013
IDENTIFIED OFFICIAL WITH AUTHORITY INFORMATION	
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2013-15 Technology Plan Template

Instructions: Use the format below to complete your responses.

Technology Needs Assessment: Describe the processes(s) used to determine the technology needs for the LEA for 2013-2015 and briefly summarize the needs that have been determined. Make sure to include any technology needs that will be supported through E-rate discounts, such as telephone, telecommunications access, Internet, and other E-rate eligible services.

West Central Area Schools for 2013/14 had an opening day enrollment of 740 students in grades K-12; located in three buildings. There are two elementary(K-4) buildings in Elbow Lake(WCAN) and Kensington(WCAS). In Barrett grades 5-6 are in a wing of the Secondary Building which also houses grades 7-12. There are 70 certified staff members and 20 Paraprofessionals who are employed by the District.

The Technology Committee which consists of representatives from all buildings has eight members. The Committee tries to meet regularly at monthly meetings throughout the School Year to help map out strategies for deployment of technology and its use for students and staff. The Committee also communicates regularly via a continuous message board through Schoology. The members are—Pat Westby(Superintendent), Nels Onstad(HS Principal), Chuck Ennen(Technology Coordinator), Bryan Poyzer(iPad Technology Integrationist), John Kreft(HS Instructor), Laurie Smith(5-6 Instructor), Amy Johnson(WCAN Instructor), Heidi Wetterling(WCAS Instructor).

The Technology Plan is reviewed and updated annually by the Technology Committee with periodic updates from the Administrative Group of the Superintendent, Principal, Tech Coordinator and Integrationist.

Factors identified within the District demographics and school population pointed to have the Technology Plan include a means which would enable all students to have a device which would promote multiple learning methods in class and at home. Surveys of classes to identify email and home computer(device) use were used to narrow the

focus. The BYOD policy that we had employed in grades 10-12 for online classes since 2008 also helped provide direction.

Based upon the information gathered we also would need to upgrade the wireless network infrastructure. The computer labs, teacher computers and printers, phone systems, and network backbone, including firewall and filter were also in need of updates. It appears a daunting task to try and make such substantial changes within a short timeframe. Priorities were established partially based upon what works now and how much longer will it work properly. As an example this meant aging computers running an XP Professional OS would continue to be used until the Service life of XP expires in Spring 2014. It also meant that new equipment put into service needed to have a useful life number to aid in future planning. For example in the past a teacher computer designated to be rotated in three years that instead got used for six years(its useful life) due to budget considerations.

Another part of the discussion is what and how many devices will the teacher or an administrator need to be effective and efficient at their job. Along with that conversation came a review of financial resources available including budget(purchase, loans, leases), E-rate, donations and grants.

Goals and Strategies: List the specific goals and strategies for 2013-2015 that address how your LEA will use technology to deliver education and assist with school administration:

Since 2002 WCA Schools has used a web based Student Information System(TIES) to provide teachers access to student information which helped them communicate with their students and their parents/guardians. Also included for teachers, in grades 4-12, was an online gradebook which in late 2002 was made available to parents to enable them to monitor their student's progress.

We have continually worked to expand web based programs and learning tools so that students can use sites in school and at home. IXL Math, Accelerated Reader, and recently Schoology are examples of online resources used regularly. Many specialty sites are also used by teachers when covering selected topics in such coursework Agriculture, Science, Music, and Physics.

Even with a computer lab at each K-4 elementary and two computer labs, and specialty labs in Industrial Technology and the Media Center, a portable Netbook lab, plus computer clusters(four computers) in Ag and FACS at the Secondary School there were still times when classes were unable to get access. To address this is one of our challenges.

(Expands as needed)

Professional Development Plan: Describe the professional development strategies you have in place for 2013-2015 to ensure LEA staff are prepared to use the technology infrastructure, software programs, and online resources provided:

The District Technology committee, the Tech Coordinator and Tech Integrationist work to identify needs and requests from staff. Those requests are quantified to an instructional event and delivered to Administration who work with the Staff Development committee to inform all staff about upcoming events.

These training events occur throughout the year, including summer dates, during school and non-school hours. Depending upon the number of staff affected multiple date/time options may be available. Also used are online opportunities, service coop training sessions, TIES educational events and collaborative meetings with other area school districts.. These events occur at WCA and offsite.

All of the Technology Committee members have conducted or helped conduct training sessions for WCA staff within the past (2012-2013) year.

(Expands as needed)

Evaluation: Explain the evaluation process for your technology plan for 2013-2015, including timeline, roles and responsibilities, and information gathered to assess how the technology plan goals and strategies are being met.

The Technology Plan is under continual review and evaluation especially during but not limited to Technology Committee and WCA School Board meetings. The Technology Coordinator provides monthly reports to the School Board to detail the status of the ongoing plan. Special technology projects may have additional reports including presentations by the staff members involved. All regular School Board meetings are videotaped and presented to the public through the local Public Access channel. Meetings with staff involved in technology projects always includes an evaluation process especially a section on what can be done to make the ongoing project better for participating staff, students, and public. This process may be an online or written survey; email survey or comments; or oral discussion and summary.

Currently the Technology Committee is doing an extensive evaluation of our 1:1 iPad initiative. Our major concentration is about iPad in grades 10-12; is there a better device for those students that would be more effective? We are leaning to make a change but what device would have more benefit for learning? We are asking students and teachers—what would you like to see? With a change we could then insert the reclaimed iPads back into the elementary classes to expand the benefits we have seen there. ./

(Expands as needed)

Optional Links: Provide links to district strategic planning documents, survey instruments, policies, or other resources that were used to provide data and help prepare the technology plan.

(Expands as needed)

Link to Current Technology Plan: Provide the link on the LEA website where the technology plan will be posted and updated throughout the planning period.

(Expands as needed)

Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA)

This LEA has an Internet Safety/Acceptable Use Policy in place.

Yes XX- WCA Policy # 524

No

If yes, please provide a link to access the policy at the LEA website.

This school district deploys an Internet filter to protect minors from material that is pornographic or otherwise harmful to them.

Yes XX- LightSpeed Rocket

No