

Model Classroom - Other Issues:

1. What flexibility will principals have within their schools?
 - a. Principals will have the flexibility to move equipment within their schools to accommodate individual teacher needs. When teacher changes take place, principals will need to ensure that classrooms can be returned to the model configuration. The District will not pay to add network drops to classrooms if the configuration decided upon requires more drops than the model supports.
 - b. When new programs, specific classes, or grade level rooms are either added to or removed from the school, the Principal will work with his or her Area Director to acquire or transfer the equipment.
2. What about "Vista" Microsoft's new operating system?
 - a. The new operating system will take one to two years to become 'production ready' after a December 2006 release. At this time, we do not plan to use the new operating system during this five year plan in keeping with our 'consistent' desktop priority. We will continue to use Windows XP since it has proven to be a reliable system over the course of the last several years. We will write into our bids, the capability to upgrade as needed and continue to evaluate the operating system choice annually.
3. What about using 'thin client' technology?
 - a. We are continuing our pilot of the thin client technology at a few schools until we determine if the technology is suited to our environment. If the feedback we receive from the pilots is positive, it will become a part of the overall implementation plan.
4. What is the District's strategic plan for printing?
 - a. The District goal is to reduce dependency on inkjet printers because of their high cost per page. Our contract for large copier/printing devices was the first step in providing high speed, low cost printing. We will deploy networked laser printers in each room or clusters of rooms as appropriate. The model calls for a color laser printer to be networked and available to all users in a school.
5. What is the District's strategic plan for wireless networking?
 - a. We have used wireless networking in a few situations around the District where it was workable. Typically it is more expensive to deploy and the performance is usually not as good as wired. New developments continue to improve the technology and we will continue to watch it for use in schools.
6. Are we providing monitors with PC's?
 - a. We anticipate buying a large number of monitors to take care of those that are unusable. Flat panel monitors are likely not going to be affordable as part of the plan and would make a good investment for PTO and other school funds.
7. How will the District manage the ecological and economic impact of disposing of old PC's?
 - a. There is a cost to properly dispose of old technological equipment. We will work with organizations that refurbish equipment to be given to needy students and use recyclers for others. We will work out the logistics of disposal on a school by school basis.
8. How will the District approach a "software model" to go along with the hardware model?
 - a. The support of curriculum delivery is the primary function of student technology equipment. We will be working with Curriculum Supervisors to review software currently in place and determine its appropriateness, functionality and supportability. We hope to provide guidance to teachers regarding software during the coming school year (2006-07).
9. What is the "optional" equipment list and how will it be used?
 - a. The list includes the following items:
 - i. SmartBoard
 - ii. DVD/VCR Players
 - iii. Classroom Sound Systems
 - iv. Document Camera System
 - v. Digital Camera
 - vi. Fax/Scanner/Printer
 - vii. Remote Personal Response Systems ("Clickers")
 - b. These are items that are included in the model, but for which no District funds are available. We anticipate that schools will use PTO or other funds to provide these items as needed. We will provide pricing that includes support for up to three years for these items.