

Transitional Technology Plan

School Years 2012 – 2017

Submitted by:

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Ludlow Public Schools

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Ludlow, Massachusetts

District Mission Statement

It is the mission of the Ludlow Public Schools to provide a quality education for every student by working in partnership with parents and community to assist each student in realizing his/her full potential.

We believe that ALL students are capable of learning and achieving his or her highest potential.

Information and Instructional Technology Goal

It is the goal of the Ludlow Public Schools to use current and future technologies to increase student achievement and develop true 21st Century literacy.

Information and Instructional Technology Mission

The Ludlow Public Schools will provide leadership in the use of district and building-based technology resources and services that support the Strategic Plan. The mission of the Technology Department is to provide reliable, efficient and effective access to information, applications, the Internet and the tools necessary to facilitate an informed and progressive learning environment.

CIPA (The Children's Internet Protection Act) Compliance

The Ludlow Public Schools are CIPA compliant. As part of the implementation of the current Internet safety policy, The Ludlow Public Schools does maintain CIPA compliant internet content filtering through one Sophos firewall at Ludlow High School and a current Sophos subscription, annually renewed.

While we transition to a digital learning environment, a long range technology plan is still under development. The plans and progress indicated below, apply through June 30, 2017.

On behalf of the Technology Committee for the Ludlow Public Schools, we do propose that a sound and viable technology plan must include these benchmarks, and we list them below.

Commitment to a ...

○ Clear Vision and Implementation Strategies

The Ludlow Public Schools will endeavor to unify communication, collaboration and learning among all stakeholders.

○ Technology Integration and Literacy (Area of Focus: Curriculum)

The Ludlow Public Schools will implement a broader use of Google Apps for Education, not only for staff but especially for students.

GAFE, and all web-based tools as extensions of the brick and mortar classroom

2015 - 2017 Emphasis on digital literacy skills and digital footprint, not only with GAFE, but all digital tools

2014 - 2017 Embed use at all levels, technology skills not taught in isolation, ongoing

2014- Open Google Sites to Grades 8 – 12

2014-Open email Grades 4 – 12

2014- All students, Grades 3 to 12 have GAFE accounts (no email Grade 3)

Mid 2013- Begin student Google Docs pilots Grades 9 – 12

Use in Grades 4 and 5 fully embedded in all classrooms

2013- Begin student Google Docs pilots Grades 6, 7 and 8

2012- Begin student Google Docs pilots Grades 4 and 5

2012- Begin BYOD pilots Grades 4 through 12

2011- Adopt GAFE for staff, primarily for email, calendar

Aspen Student and Parent Online Portal

The Ludlow Public Schools has expanded access to the portal in order to facilitate greater teacher, student, and family interaction. This will also broaden the possibilities for the adoption and integration of Aspen IMS in all classrooms.

2014 - 2017 Grow portal use in conjunction with Aspen IMS, ongoing

Mid 2013- Issue accounts to all students in Grades 4 through 12

2013- Migrate to true parent accounts and separate student accounts

2012- Parents have access to student accounts upon request

Aspen IMS

The Ludlow Public Schools will leverage Aspen Instructional Management System (formerly Aspen Curriculum and Learning), an online platform with its foundation on our Aspen Student Information System. This will serve to improve student learning and strengthen the curriculum, by further developing a standard virtual learning environment.

Internet Bandwidth

2017- Projecting need for increased bandwidth

2015- MBI 250Mbps connection at Ludlow High School shared with the middle school, 3 elementary schools as well as the district administration building.

2014- MBI activated with a 250Mbps connection spring 2014

2014- Internet bandwidth will increase from the 100Mbps currently available to the district pending MassBroadband installation and activation at Town Hall anchor.

2013- The Ludlow Public Schools will increase use of Internet resources and Web 2.0 tools with expanded Internet bandwidth.

o **Technology Professional Development** (Area of Focus: PD)

GAFE

2015 – 2017 Professional development ongoing in all buildings

2013 – 2015 Teacher to Teacher professional development ongoing in all buildings

2012 – 2015 The Ludlow Public Schools will provide ongoing professional development in the use of Google Apps for Education in a variety of ways, from small group instruction with the District Instructional Technology Specialist, to building based PD with the Library Media Specialists or other teachers, even the building Principals, ongoing

Summer/ Fall 2013 The “Teacher to Teacher Institute” course was offered to, and taught by Ludlow Public Schools Teachers. This course also included Google Apps.

Aspen IMS

2014 – 2017 Use of Aspen and Aspen IMS, ongoing

2013 – Pilot use of Aspen CL, particularly at secondary level

Winter 2013 – Curriculum Instructional Leaders (CILs) receive vendor training on the new Aspen CL features available to staff and students. They will introduce the learning platform and its integration with their Gradebook and new online Planner to their colleagues. (Note: Google Docs are embedded in Aspen CL.)

Fall 2013 – Adopt Aspen Curriculum and Learning

○ **Accessibility of Technology** (Area of Focus: Infrastructure)

2017- Capital Request for matching funding for ERate application for full replacement of wired infrastructure (all switches) at Paul R. Baird Middle School. An ERate application will be submitted by January 2016 for matching funds.

2016- Capital Request denied for matching funding for ERate application for full replacement of wired infrastructure (all switches) at Ludlow High School. ERate application to go forward with the possibility of using another funding source.

2016- Capital Request denied for matching funding for ERate application to add additional wireless access points at Ludlow High School. ERate application to go forward with the possibility of using another funding source.

2015- **1241** Chromebooks are in use

All Staff have use of an assigned Chromebook 284

Student Chromebooks available: LHS- 373, Baird Middle- 258, Veterans Park- 176, Chapin Street- 134

2015- Each classroom continues to have, but now likely limited to, at least one current, wired computer

2015- Replaced both CAD and Business Labs at LHS

2015- Capital Request funded for continued replacement of key aging switches (\$20K)

2014- Capital Request funded for replacement of key aging switches (\$20K)

Digital learning is fully dependent on a healthy and current network infrastructure.

2014- Capital Request not funded but critically needed servers at Baird Middle and Ludlow High School replaced through School Choice funds

2014- Capital Request not funded but 700 Chromebooks were purchased for staff as well as dedicated student use.

Distributed by building for student use:

210- Ludlow High School, 100- Baird Middle School, 40- Veterans Park and 40- distributed in Grades 2 – 3. There are 35 available for district student use.

While we will never be truly 1:1, this helps us to achieve a functional level needed for both student learning and assessment. Chromebooks are PARRC compliant for state mandated testing, and, more importantly facilitate use of student GAFE accounts.

2014- Ludlow High School (Grades 9 -12) WiFi installation completed throughout remaining areas of the building before that start of school year. All buildings now have full wireless access throughout.

2013- Paul R. Baird Middle School (Grades 6 – 8) WiFi installed throughout the building

2013- \$25,000 Capital Request Funded to replace key network switches

2013- 45 Lenovo Netbooks purchased

2013- 10 Samsung Chromebooks purchased for review

2013- Chapin Street and East Street Schools WiFi installation completed throughout remaining areas of the building

2013- East Street server replaced

2012- Veterans Park Elementary School (Grades 4 and 5) WiFi installed throughout the building (Note: Enterprise level, secure wireless availability is necessary to increase student access to the Internet and 21st Century learning tools.)

2012- 85 Lenovo Netbooks purchased (55 ASUS netbooks available prior year purchase)

2011- As part of the BYOD initiative and to provide access for mobile users, WiFi was installed in pilot areas at all schools.

○ **Virtual Learning and Communications** (Area of Focus: Web-based Tools)

2015-2017 Google Classroom in use many classrooms in Grades 3 through 12

2014-2017 Growing discussion of blended learning, with some teachers taking the lead with Aspen and other tools of their own choosing

2014-2017 Projected use of digital subscriptions paid resources, under discussion, pending budget approval

2013-2017 Ludlow High Students have access to Virtual High School Courses not available in district

2013-2017 While we continue to use wikis and other free collaborative tools, the GAFE and Aspen IMS platforms will be our primary area of growth for virtual learning, ongoing

- **Safety, Security and Data Retention**

The Ludlow Public Schools will continue to review all safety and security measures regarding data as information is accessed by more diverse users.

2015 Migrated from Postini to Google Vault