



LITTLETON

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## Technology Report to the Board of Education

10-23-2008

The following changes in technology and related services are taking place in the district.

- 32% increase in student access to computers.  
*On October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007, the district owned a total of 5,642 computers and/or 'windows seats' licensed in LPS. Staff computers district-wide accounted for 1,513 of those, leaving 4,029 computers available for student use. As of October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008, the district owns 6,851 systems in LPS, including Windows, Ncomputing stations, ASUS, and/or other Linux-based systems. This net change results in 5,308 systems available for student use, and increase of 1,279 computers (32%) over last year's total. The change has been fueled by the generous support of the LPS Foundation, a grant from CDE, school PTOs, individual school supply budget allocations and the \$35,000 savings from E-rate the district received last school year.*
- Training protocols include embedded activities.  
*Technology Integration Specialists have increased the classroom focus of training activities with schools to offer team-teaching opportunities to the current slate of workshops and PLC support efforts. The emphasis in most efforts is on writing to align with the district focus.*
- Greater equity in school Microsoft licensing allocations and overage fees.  
*By renegotiating the Microsoft licensing fees for the next three years, LPS has realized a significant savings to enable all school license allocations to be increased to a more equitable level. Only four schools will have any overage fees at all this year (compared to years past when nearly every school had overage fees). Normally, the ITS department collects over \$28,000 from schools from their supply budgets to cover these additional license fees. We will need to collect less than \$3,000 this year which will positively impact school budgets in 2008-2009.*
- Internet safety workshops have reached half of LPS schools.  
*All LPS schools report having an Internet Safety program in place. A nationally-recognized expert, Detective Mike Harris, has spoken with over half of our schools to deliver an age-appropriate message to students. New for Fall 08 are parent education course on online behaviors for students.*
- "Powering Up the Writer's Workshop" grant underway with all systems deployed and training progressing.  
*In July, LPS and Englewood Schools were awarded approximately \$225,000 for the EETT Title IID Grant. This money was used to design, deliver and equip the "Powering Up the Writer's Workshop" professional development plan. In this initiative, 5<sup>th</sup> grade students in LPS' highest academic need schools will have access to laptops to engage in the writing process. Teachers receive ongoing support to help them achieve school improvement plans. LPS schools not involved directly in the grant are able to take advantage of the professional development plan and services of the ITS team. LPS will be able to leverage*

*the resources of this grant for years to come. Data gathered by external evaluator will help us set direction for future efforts: We'll learn how students, teachers, and achievement are impacted by ongoing access to technology.*

- **Fileway operational for staff and coming online for students.**  
*The Fileway system is a web-based access service to the network file folders stored on servers in the Educational Services Center. This service allows access to these files from anywhere whereas previously such files were only accessible from computers located inside LPS buildings. All staff have this service and now schools are activating for student use.*
- **Infinite Campus hardware challenges**  
*The student management system utilized by the district is managed by the host company, Infinite Campus. For over a year, the ITS department has warned Infinite Campus that the hardware currently in place is not sufficient to meet the full demands the district is capable of generating. This year, just prior to the October Count window and the first quarter parent conferences, the server began reporting significant memory errors causing short, unexpected outages for the system. The company has now sent a replacement server with much improved specifications. However, as of 10-14-08, the problem is improved but still not fully resolved.*
- **AlertNow auto-dialing system operational and in full use.**  
*The district replaced the Family First reverse-911 system with AlertNow which serves both our auto-dialing needs and attendance calls at the high school level. By merging these services, the district saved about \$10,000 and increased the performance of both services. Whereas attendance calls automated through Infinite Campus would take over an hour to complete each day, now the service completes in a matter of minutes. The service is fully web-based and all schools have access to use for notifying parents of events at school. Community Relations uses the system to alert families about late start days and emergencies district wide.*
- **Spam and telemarketing phone calls on the rise.**  
*ITS has received increased reports of spam email making it past the current Microsoft and Symantec email filters. Currently, ITS systems block over 50% of email sent to the district as unsolicited email. Also, telemarketing calls are being made to district phones at a rate of over 60 per day. The District has filed complaints with Qwest, the FCC, the Colorado Public Utilities Commission and the State District Attorney all to no avail. Qwest offers no service to selectively block known telemarketing calls and the District Attorney reported that the district does not qualify for the "Do Not Call" list and will take no action on behalf of the district. The issue may become an item for Legislative consideration this session as many school districts are suffering from this rash of unsolicited calls that occupy phone lines thus disrupting school operations.*