

BERKELEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

TO: BSEP Planning and Oversight Committee
FROM: Jay Nitschke, Director of Technology
DATE: April 26, 2016
SUBJECT: Recommendation for Expenditures in 2016-15 of Funds Allocated to Technology from the *Berkeley Public Schools Educational Excellence Act of 2006* (BSEP Resource 0862)

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

In compliance with *The Berkeley Public Schools Educational Excellence Act of 2006* (BSEP/Measure A), nine percent (9%) of the available revenues of the Measure are allocated to three purposes: Professional Development, Educational Program Evaluation, and Technology in schools. Currently Technology receives slightly more than a third (3.24%) of the 9% allocation. The following recommendation is for the allocation of funds for the Purpose of Technology in accordance with BSEP Measure A of 2006, Section 3.C:

... providing and maintaining computers and technology in schools. All costs attendant to providing these services are permissible.

Program Objectives

Up-to-date technology is an asset for schools in several ways:

The use of technology engages students in learning, improves attendance, increases graduation rates and facilitates parent involvement.

The use of technology improves learning skills, such as thinking and problem-solving skills, information and communication skills, and interpersonal and self-directional skills.

The use of technology helps schools meet the needs of all students with opportunities for differentiated instruction.

The use of technology promotes equity and access in education.

assistance for school technology purchases made by school governance councils and committees.

A Technology Workgroup consisting of Assistant Superintendent Scuderi, Tech Director Jay Nitschke, Library Coordinator Becca Todd, and Allison Krasnow convened to create a plan for professional development for teachers around instructional technology, focusing on the upper elementary grades in 2016-17. Todd and Krasnow chaired a 3-day planning session with elementary teachers and principals. The resulting plan for staffing classrooms where the Chromebooks are available constantly throughout the school day (1:1), with teachers becoming Google Certified Educators is an exciting outcome of this work.

Other developments during the 2015-16 school year:

Common Core State Standards (CCSS) were adopted in 13-14 and continue to be implemented. These standards incorporate guidelines of how all students need to be competent with technology.

There were 2,846 Chromebooks in the district at the time of last year's plan. At this writing there are now 3,627, a significant increase.

The biweekly meetings of the "DigiTech" committee¹ (Library and Technology) have been productive on two levels:

1. To create a framework for instructional technology within the new CCSS curriculum; and
2. To troubleshoot problems that teachers were having incorporating technology.

Some schools have aggressively addressed the need for keyboarding and other computer literacy skills, other schools have not. A keyboarding curriculum continues at many of the elementary schools.

A significant staffing addition was made starting on October 1, 2016. The position of Technology Supervisor was created

Wireless coverage was much improved in all schools with the installation of Ruckus Wireless access points that utilize the latest protocols and have larger radio arrays than previous wifi access points. wireless capacity to ensure all classrooms are able to fully utilize a computer cart.

Initiatives in 2016-17:

Ongoing integration of instructional technology tools into the professional development given in core subjects.

Continue individual, department, and district-wide professional development on technology tools and student engagement.

¹ The DigiTech committee consists of Library Coordinator Becca Todd, the Library's half-time TSA Mary Ann Scheuer, K-8 Instructional TSAs, and Tech Supervisor Bradley Hilton; with visits from BHS TSA Matt Albinson or Keldon Clegg.

Middle School STEM focus in conjunction with the Berkeley Public Schools Fund.

3rd-8th grade focus on using technology in math classrooms through graphing and geometry strands.

Mouse Squad teams of students at B-Tech, Longfellow, and Willard.

More Chromebooks: Common Core money will provide additional devices.

With this amount of Chromebooks, there is sufficient resources to provide SBA testing without movement of carts between schools.

BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS for FY 2015-16

Staff		\$645,836
School Computer Technicians	6.20 FTE	
Technology Supervisor	0.75 FTE	
Instructional Technology TSA	0.50 FTE	
School Computer Technicians		6.2 FTE

Technology Teacher Leaders

\$36,000

Funding for 17 TTL at \$2098 per stipend for the 2016-17 school year. Teachers are interested in doing more with technology, but some are unsure how to implement these pedagogical shifts or how to integrate their current curriculum with the increased use of technology. A cohesive, long-range plan

Revenue	793,600
Expenses	
Technology Staff	703,900
Classified Hourly Extra Duty/Summer Work	3,000
Technology Teacher Leaders	39,000
Equipment and Supplies	70,000
Reserve for Personnel Variance	20,000
Indirect Cost (6.41%)	53,581
Total Expenses	889,481
Net Change to Fund Balance	(95,881)
Fund Balance	