Chester Union Free School District

Latest Update: Fall 2021

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DRAFT Technology Plan (2022-25)

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The Chester Union Free School District Technology Committee

The Chester Union Free School District Technology Committee is a district wide committee comprised of members from each building. It includes administrators, principals, teachers, library media specialists, and IT members. The new three-year Technology Plan (**2022-2025**) guides the committee in prioritizing projects.

2021-2022 Committee Members

Ed Spence	Director of Technology & Data Management
Catherine O'Hara	Assistant Superintendent of Instruction
Michele Thompson	Academy Teacher / CTA President
John Flanagan	Academy Principal
Rolando Aguilar	Academy Assistant Principal / Athletics Director
Mary Kate Boesch	Elementary Principal
Jeff Rodman	Academy Technology Teacher
Benjamin Heyer	Academy Technology Teacher
Maggie Bieger	Academy Computer Lab Aide
Jennifer Rende	Elementary STEM Teacher
Carolyn DiIorio	Academy Teacher / Library Media Specialist
Jennifer Randacciu	Academy Teacher
Lisa Edwards	Academy Teacher
Maggie Bieger	Academy Computer Lab Aide
Ryan DeJong	Elementary Computer Lab Aide
Rob Bowen	Community Member
Caleb Garver	Former Chester UFSD Student
Simon Riegelhaupt	Academy Student
Nick Patel	Network Specialist
John Siecenski	Computer Operator

CUFSD Technology Department

Ed Spence	Director of K12 Instruction and Technology / District Data Administrator
Nick Patel	Network Specialist (Dhruvamit Corp.)
John Siencenski	Computer
Kimberly Fusco	Secretary of Technology & Athletics
Maggie Bieger	Chester Academy Lab Aide
Ryan DeJong	Chester Elementary Lab Aide

CUFSD District Administration

Denis Petrilak	Superintendent of Schools
Erin Brennan	Business Official
Rachel Loftus	Director of Pupil Personnel and Special Education
Ed Spence	Director of K12 Instruction and Technology / District Data Administrator
Matthew DeRosa	Director of Buildings & Grounds
John Flanagan	Academy Principal
Mary Kate Boesch	Elementary Principal
Rolando Aguilar	Academy Assistant Principal & Director of Athletics

CUFSD Three Year Technology Plan 2022-2025

Mission and Introduction: "Vision and Goals"

I) Curriculum

A) Goals and Strategies Aligned with Challenging State and National Standards

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D) Parental Communications and Community Relations

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II) Professional Development

A) Professional Development

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III) Infrastructure, Hardware, Technical Support, and Software

A.) Increase Access

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Introductory Material

Creating a Collaborative and Collegial Learning Community

District Mission Statement

"Each student will achieve mastery of the New York State Learning Standards and will develop academically, socially, emotionally, and physically in a safe, orderly, and positive environment where learning is valued and differences accepted."

Technology Plan Mission Statement

"The Chester Union Free School District Technology Plan is to serve and support all students and staff members at both the elementary and secondary level. The district is committed to the continued creation of a technology inspired collaborative learning community in which all stakeholders commit themselves to lifelong learning and exploration and Digital Citizenship. A key focus of our plan is on the creation of a five-year STEM/STEAM and Project-Based Learning (PBL) plan to better prepare our students for the 21st Century."

Introduction

The Chester School District is located in Orange County. The District is comprised of the Chester Elementary School and the Chester Academy. The Elementary School is for grades Pre-Kindergarten to fifth with approximately **390** students. The Chester Academy is a middle and high school combination for grades six to twelve with approximately **590** students.

Of the approximately **590** Chester Academy students, approximately **25** of these students are Greenwood Lake students who tuition-in to Chester Academy (High School). These figures are as of mid-November 2021.

Chester Schools was the first K-12 school district in the Hudson Valley, NY to send home 1-to-1 student and teacher Chromebooks starting in 2012-13. We went on to be awarded a NYSSBA "Innovative School" competitive award in 2014. The 1-to-1 plan initially covered Grade 8-12 students and teachers. During the 2019-2020 school year, the plan was expanded to cover all K-12 students and teachers. We completed NYS Smart Schools Bond Act projects and reimbursements during the 2018-19 school year. A major focus of our projects addressed upgrades in the area of: district-wide security cameras, network infrastructure upgrades, Newline Boards for K-12 classrooms and the acquisition of additional K-12 Chromebooks. We almost put in place significant upgrades to our network for Cybersecurity during the 2019-2020 school year. The District Technology Committee met several times during the 2021-22 school year to share feedback from a variety of stakeholders, to upgrade our District Technology Plan and make continued improvements based upon growing technology needs around the district. In 2021-22 the Technology Departments shared an updated NYS Digital Equity Survey with all K-12 parents to assess any technology needs in regard to remote learning. The district has provided home Internet access "hotspots" to families in needs as part of this plan.

Vision and Goals

Vision

The Chester Union Free School District is committed to providing every student with a comprehensive educational experience which maximizes individual potential. To support the mission of the District, it is imperative that there is a seamless integration of technology which enhances, facilitates, and supports teaching and learning. Our students utilize technology in every aspect of their lives. We must continue to work towards the establishment of a technology infused collaborative learning community. This type of environment will encourage inquiry, creativity and the development of 21st Century skills.

Four Requirements to Achieve Our Mission:

Underlying the goals and recommendations are four key requirements for success:

1. District will maintain a **technology infrastructure** that provides ready access to technology among all stakeholders. The District will remain committed to this goal by allocating funds for this annually along with the annual 20% replacement of computer hardware (i.e. computers, printers, projectors, Smartboards, etc.) so as not to become outdated all at one time. This annual investment should save the district from having to make a sudden, much larger investment to "catch up" to the latest technology needs.

2. As the lead agent, the District recognizes the importance of establishing an integrated **professional development program** for technology that provides opportunities for differentiated staff training in order to develop 21st Century learners. The district will continue to reach out to Chester faculty in an effort to **continue to promote** a "Teacher's Academy" of offerings for fellow teachers. Research shows that the best professional development is in having *teachers provide training to other teachers*.

3. Provide support for the **integration of technology into lesson planning/curriculum and teacher evaluation systems,** in order to promote and model innovative thinking and inventiveness.

4. Establishing student grade by **grade level benchmarks** that are clearly defined and communicated according to the International Society of Technology in Education Standards and Next Generation Learning Standards Technology Scope & Sequence (**http://tinyurl.com/zfezgv7)**

I. National Educational Technology Standards (NETS•S) and Performance Indicators for Students

Students will:

Demonstrate Creativity and Innovation

- apply existing knowledge to generate new ideas, products, or processes
- create original works as a means of personal or group expression
- identify trends and forecast possibilities
- use models and simulations to explore complex systems and issues

Use Digital Media and Environments to Communicate and Work Collaboratively

- interact, collaborate, and publish with peers, experts, or others employing a variety of digital environments and media
- communicate information and ideas effectively to multiple audiences using a variety of media and formats
- develop cultural understanding and global awareness by engaging with learners of other cultures
- contribute to project teams to produce original works or solve problems

Apply Digital Tools to Gather, Evaluate, and Use Information

- plan strategies to guide inquiry
- locate, organize, analyze, evaluate, synthesize, and ethically use information from a variety of sources and media
- evaluate and select information sources and digital tools based on the appropriateness to specific tasks
- process data and report results

Use Critical Thinking Skills to Plan and Conduct Research, Manage Projects, Solve Problems, and Make Informed Decisions Using Appropriate Digital Tools and Resources

- identify and define authentic problems and significant questions for investigation
- plan and manage activities to develop a solution or complete a project
- collect and analyze data to identify solutions and/or make informed decisions
- use multiple processes and diverse perspectives to explore alternative solutions

Demonstrate a Sound Understanding of Technology Concepts, Systems, and Operations

- select and use applications effectively and productively
- troubleshoot systems and applications

- transfer current knowledge to learning of new technologies

II. National Educational Technology Standards (NETS•S) and Performance Indicators for Teachers

Teachers will:
Facilitate and Inspire Student Learning and Creativity

- promote, support, and model creative and innovative thinking and inventiveness
- engage students in exploring real-world issues and solving authentic problems using digital tools and resources
- promote student reflection using collaborative tools to reveal and clarify students' conceptual understanding and thinking, planning, and creative processes

Design and Develop Digital-Age Learning Experiences and Assessments

- design or adapt relevant learning experiences that incorporate digital tools and resources to promote student learning and creativity
- develop technology-enriched learning environments that enable all students to pursue their individual curiosities and become active participants in setting their own educational goals, managing their own learning, and assessing their own progress
- customize and personalize learning activities to address students' diverse learning styles, working strategies, and abilities using digital tools and resources

Model Digital-Age Work and Learning

- demonstrate fluency in technology systems and the transfer of current knowledge to new technologies and situations
- collaborate with students, peers, parents, and community members using digital tools and resources to support student success and innovation
- communicate relevant information and ideas effectively to students, parents, and peers using a variety of digital-age media and formats

Promote and Model Digital Citizenship and Responsibility

- advocate, model, and teach safe, legal, and ethical use of digital information and technology, including respect for copyright
- intellectual property, and the appropriate documentation of sources
- address the diverse needs of all learners by using learner-centered strategies and providing equitable access to appropriate digital tools and resources
- promote and model digital etiquette and responsible social interactions related to the use of technology and information

Engage in Professional Growth and Leadership

- participate in local and global learning communities to explore creative applications of technology to improve student learning
- exhibit leadership by demonstrating a vision of technology infusion, participating in shared decision making and community
- building and developing the leadership and technology skills of others, evaluate and reflect on current research and professional practice on a regular basis to make effective use of existing and emerging digital tools and resources in support of student learning

III. ***National Educational Technology Standards (NETS•S) and Performance Indicators for Administrators***

Visionary Leadership

Educational Administrators will:

- inspire and facilitate among all stakeholders a shared vision of purposeful change that will maximize use of digital-age resources to meet and exceed learning goals, support effective instructional practice, and maximize performance of district and school leaders
- engage in an ongoing process to develop, implement, and communicate technology-infused strategic plans aligned with a shared vision

Digital Age Learning Culture

Educational Administrators will:

- ensure instructional innovation focused on continuous improvement of digital-age learning
- model and promote the frequent and effective use of technology for learning
- provide learner-centered environments equipped with technology and learning resources to meet the individual, and diverse needs of all learners
- ensure effective practice in the study of technology and its infusion across the curriculum
- promote and participate in local, national, and global learning communities that stimulate innovation, creativity, and digital-age collaboration

Excellence in Professional Practice

Educational Administrators will:

- allocate time, resources, and access to ensure ongoing professional growth in technology fluency and integration
- facilitate and participate in learning communities that stimulate, nurture, and support administrators, faculty, and staff in the study and use of technology
- promote and model effective communication and collaboration among stakeholders using digital-age tools

Systemic Improvement

Educational Administrators will:

- lead purposeful change to maximize the achievement of learning goals through the appropriate use of technology and media-rich resources
- collaborate to establish metrics, collect and analyze data, interpret results, and share findings to improve staff performance and student learning
- establish and maintain a robust infrastructure

Digital Citizenship

Educational Administrators will:

- ensure equitable access to appropriate digital tools and resources to meet the needs of all learners
- promote, model, and establish policies for safe, legal, and ethical use of digital information and technology
- promote and model responsible social interactions related to the use of technology and information

District-Wide Technology Goals

Professional Development

Staff Development Opportunities Will Ensure Appropriate and Effective Use of Technology

Goal 1: Teachers will continue to align the NYS Standards with the National Education Technology Standards (NETS) from ISTE and the Next Gen Learning Standard Technology Scope & Sequence.

Goal 2: Assist faculty/staff in the best practices of technology to develop 21st Century Learners including the use of blended learning environments in K-12 classrooms (such as Google Docs, Moodle, Edmodo etc.).

Goal 3: Provide support for the integration of technology into lesson planning/curriculum and also training for administrators on technology tools to implement new state APPR / teacher evaluation requirements.

Goal 4: Training opportunities will focus on the continued implementation of state requirements such as: Next Generation Standards and Computer-Based Testing (3-8 Math/ELA NYSED and K-8 NWEA online assessments).

Curriculum

Technology Will be Used to Improve Student Learning and Achievement

Goal 1: The district will allocate needed resources and training in order to create a Makerspace in Chester Academy. The plan will also continue to support the needs of the Chester Elementary Makerspaces for students and teachers.

Goal 2: Provide opportunities for differentiated staff development in technology including continuing to reach out to our faculty to offer ***In-Service Academy*** in-service classes to fellow teachers in district.

Goal 3: Students will be instructed using National Educational Technology Standards (NETS) as integrated into K-12 lessons. The District Technology Plan seeks to identify technology knowledge/skills/outlooks which students should possess at the conclusion of Grade 5, Grade 8 and Grade 12. With this we seek to identify areas of strength and weakness, providing training/support to our stakeholders as needed.

Communication and Collaboration

Develop a Stronger Relationship with All Stakeholders in the Chester School District Using Technology

Goal 1: Expand the use of electronic communication in order to communicate effectively with the community. This includes a review of our current Blackboard.com district website (www.chesterufsd.org).

Goal 2: Provide training as needed for the community in order to help support our initiatives.

Goal 3: Review our district Chromebook Plan / BOE Policy through the Technology Committee to be reviewed by the Board of Education. Re-form the District Technology Committee to meet during the 2021-22 to update our existing, NYSEED-approved 2017-2020 Technology Plan. Share important updates related to our computer network and Cybersecurity news with all stakeholders to keep them informed in a timely manner.

Infrastructure, Hardware and Software

Ensure the Availability of Technology Support to Enhance Organizational Efficiency

Goal 1: The District will continue to provide resources to support the implementation of technology through the continued commitment to the annual 20% replacement policy for computer hardware (i.e. Computers (*including Chromebooks*), Printers, Projectors, Newline/Smartboards, etc.)

Goal 2: Provide system upgrades and software compatible with current technology and subscribe to useful classroom technology integration websites in an effort to phase out locally-install and maintained software, to be replaced by web-based software which is available to students and teachers alike remotely 24 X 7.

Goal 3: Ensure that all students and classroom have equitable access to current technology. This includes the expansion of our NYSSBA award-winning 1-to-1 Chromebook Plan to cover all students K-12.

Chester Union Free School District
Technology Plan 2022-2025

I) Curriculum

Curriculum

Our 2022-2025 Technology Plan embraces idea of creating a 21st Century Professional Learning Community (PLC) into all areas of curriculum and instruction. This will be done by providing the necessary training and support during the next three years.

Goals:

- We expect our community of students and staff to continually learn the use and application of technology within the context of their work.
- Provide collaboration among all stakeholders district wide, including teachers, administrators and the community.
- The District will continue to explore online opportunities for our students, in addition to our current use of Educere online classes. This will extend formal learning beyond the typical classroom environment.
- The curriculum in grades K-12 will be aligned with technology in order to offer our students a 21st Century education.
- The following section of the Technology Plan captures the ***current technology*** usage in place and go on to delineate our plans for the future.

A. Goals and Strategies Aligned with Challenging State and National Technology Standards

Goals and strategies, aligned with challenging state and national standards, for using telecommunications and technology to improve teaching and learning

Current Elementary Curriculum Integration – Chester Elementary School

- We will continue to shift technology integration to ***mobile, web-based solutions rather than relying upon locally configured PC software*** which are time-consuming and available remotely to stakeholders.

- Teacher/class websites, Parent Portal and Google Classroom are used for home/school connection to communicate with parents, display homework. We will continue to implement best-practices in the use of teacher websites. Teachers have asked for feedback on webpage requirements.

- Teacher have full access to enter student assignments/grades into our electronic Gradebook and to share student grades from their Gradebook immediately with parents via the Parent Portal at Chester Academy. Currently, there is no elementary school in the region which has access to an electronic Gradebook. We will continue to investigate options in this regard.

- All Elementary classes will have access to Chromebooks and/or tablets so that computer technology is integrated across the curriculum spectrum. In this way, technology is not seen as a "once a week special" but instead is integrated into the classroom lessons on a regular basis.

- Many of the software titles and website subscriptions contain databases that record and track student progress. These include the research-based, web-based Fast Math and Accelerated Reader programs.

- These titles are supplemented by the use of Google Docs and/or Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint as well as free internet sites that are used for specific curricular purposes.

- Teachers can also access web-based software/apps and educational internet sites on their classroom computers for whole class instruction. *Teachers will review software/apps prior to requesting so that the district can be sure that all content is educationally sound and all levels are included in the cost.*

- The library computers are used by individual students as part of scheduled library instruction time. The library Follett Destiny can be accessed from home. In 2011, the district converted from the BOCES DYNIX system to the Follett/Destiny. at a substantial cost saving and benefit. This also granted home access for students and teachers.

Various software and web-based applications used in the computer lab and classrooms to support curriculum. ***All software/apps must have a signed NYS Data Privacy form received***.

1. System 44 is aimed at helping assess and support struggling readers. Primary users are students in receiving special education services in grades 3-5.

2. BrainPOP is a streaming video web based program that provides teachers with curriculum related videos that can be used.

3. Audacity is a free program that allows for the recording and manipulation of audio files. Primarily used for podcasts.

4. Microsoft Word, Publisher and PowerPoint are used for writing/visual presentations and learning activities. Chester Middle School computer classes will instruct students in the similarities and differences between Microsoft Office and Google G-Suite (Apps) to teach eclectic skills.

5. Kidspiration is used to build graphic organizers including concept maps, webs, bubble diagrams and Venn diagrams.

6. Reading, Writing and Science A-Z programs give teachers access to comprehensive collection of downloadable lessons and materials.

7. Teachers and students have access to a Konica color copier which allows them to print out digital images.

8. Please reference the inventory list to get a listing of all available software. We will continue to shift to web-based software in place of locally installed applications.

9. BOCES provides such resources as Tumblebooks, Grolier Encyclopedias, e-books and others. We will continue the conversation to convert more of our books to e-books format.

10. Elementary Library provides full access to current on-line of Encyclopedia Britannica that is accessible from home and the school. The library staff will continue to investigate further e-books for our school Media Centers.

11. At Chester Academy all Chester Academy Grade 6-12 are provided 1-to-1 take home Chromebooks. The CA Library also has loaner Chromebooks for students who may need one.

12. At Chester Elementary, there are mobile Chromebook and/or tablet carts in each grade level from PreK through Grade2. Grade 3-5 student are provided 1-to-1 take home Chromebooks.

13. Smart Response System (Student Remotes): Chester Elementary

currently has 4 sets of SMART Response System (remote "clickers") which allow teachers to create questions students can answer for Data Driven Instruction.

14. Every classroom is equipped with a computer, Newline Board, and projector in order to promote student centered learning.

□ Newline Boards/IWBs & SmartBoards for interactive lessons across the curriculum. As Smartboards have begun to be phased out at our districts, we will discuss a trialing of interactive projectors, Smart TVs, interactive-wall boards and other tools as an eventual replacement to our Smartboards.

1. Internet is used across the curriculum, through Smartboard floating tools.

2. Digital media (videos, sound clips, etc) can be displayed and manipulated on the Newlines / SmartBoards.

3. The "Do Now" and other lesson goals can be displayed for the students.

4. The image gallery can be used by all content areas.

5. Charts, graphs, protractors, and clocks can be used as a math manipulative.

6. Incorporating virtual storybooks and interactive read aloud through web and PowerPoint.

7. Various texts can be scanned, captured or e-books used to model reading strategies interactively and visually.

8. Handwriting, especially cursive, taught through backgrounds and characters in the gallery.

9. Interactive stop watch to time student activities and communicate the amount of time remaining for a certain project.

10. The SMART Recorder software can record any computer lesson into a video format which then can be shared with students and parents alike. These videos can be linked to the teacher's website in order to be useful in several ways – for students who were absent, for extra homework help, a unit review materials and for students who may want the challenge of going ahead in the curriculum materials posted on the teacher website. Teachers are encouraged to use these tools at their dispersal.

11. Maps and continents used from gallery to teach geography, etc.

Topics Discussed at Technology Committee Meetings:

Google G-Suite / Chromebook Plan (we decided **against** BYOD for security reasons)

Newline Board upgrades of Smartboards K-12 around the district

Makerspace Planning including curricular, budgeting and professional development

Pre-K Technology Needs

Internet Safety & Digital Citizenship

Grade-by-Grade Computer / Instructional Technology Standards

APPR tools

Library Software Updates

Multimedia cross-curricular

Projects & packages K-12

Web 2.0 platform

(wiki/moodle/edmodo that teachers use thoughout curriculum)

E-Books across the curriculum and in the Library Media Centers

Student Achievement

Overall Technology Integration

- Teachers and support staff require appropriate professional development in the use of SmartBoards and other new technology. We will need to continue to research and discuss an eventually replacement for our Smartboards. We will continue a variety of training at different levels that will address all teachers' needs and ensure optimal use of technology in the classroom. Needs will be continued to be based up teacher surveys and MyLearningPlan.com sign ups.

- Create a series of "Class Technology Tips" videos for teachers, as requested by the Technology Committee, in order to supply teachers with best practices ideas on resources available to them currently in their classrooms. These videos would then we linked to a Technology Integration website for teacher reference.

- Implement the ability for our high school students to take part in Educere virtual classes that would open up a number of new courses that are not offered at the Academy.

- Explore more distance learning classes offered with college credit.

- Continue to implement Chromebook 1-to-1 across K-12. This supports our goal (above) of providing wireless, mobile learning environments for our teachers and students**. As of Fall 2021, we have had ten (10) districts contact Mr. Spence to schedule Chromebook tours.** Continue to support our 1-to-1 take home Chromebooks for students in grades 8-12 and look to future use and/or repurposing of our computer labs in both buildings. There is no longer a need to have classes sign up to use a computer lab 1-2 a week for a period of instruction. As the computers are now in the classrooms K-12, there is a need to discuss and consider the future use of the computer labs. We will also discuss the possibility of having the Computer lab aides used more for classroom technology support if the labs are re-purposed. **In 2014, Chester UFSD was awarded an Innovative Schools Award by NYSSBA**.

- Explore the idea of purchasing additional tablets and bringing wireless connectivity to each classroom. Our teachers in our Technology Committees had been demonstrated and loaned several type of tablets during the 2013-14 school year. A choice was made by the Technology Committees as to the model of tablets to purchase. We must though be mindful of how quickly technology changes. We will implement Google Classroom as a tool for teachers across K-12 classrooms, to reach their students via the Web and provide a consistent Learning Management System (LMS) district-wide.

- Integrate Internet Safety lessons for our students in order to meet E-Rate regulations.

- Provide computer safety training classes for teachers which will enable them to obtain unblocked computers.

B) Technology Delivery

Current Technology Delivery

Students that have been taking Mandarin Chinese through the Orange Ulster BOCES have been using a Polycom system with a flat screen television to communicate with their teacher. The class is made up of one teacher located at a central location along with a teacher aide overseeing the students. Along with the students from Chester, they are also joined by another school district during the same time period.

Future Technology Delivery

The Chester UFSD is constantly investigating more ways to offer our students a larger perspective outside of the typical classroom. Therefore, we are currently looking into several programs that will benefit our students from the elementary to secondary level.
This includes examining:

- Skype in the classroom
- Open source software that will create virtual classrooms that can be accessed by students and teachers outside of the classroom.
- Educere online/virtual classes which will offer students more electives.
- Credit recovery courses that will offer students an ability to gain class credit towards graduation (Naviance, etc.). Student career paths will be created by the CA Guidance Department through the purchase of the Naviance web-based Guidance software.
- Free websites such as NING, Edmodo, Moodle, etc which will allow for the development of social networks for students and teachers to share work.

C) Parental Communication and Community Relations

The Chester Union Free School District is establishing a stronger network of communication with the community through different forms of media.

- School District Web Site, Facebook and Twitter
- SchoolTool Gradebook (Parent Portal)
- School Messenger
- Hambletonian Newsletter
- Board of Education Presentations
- Teacher/Parent Email

- Local Newspapers (The Chronicle and Orange County Post)
- Instruction & Technology Newsletter three times a year (planned)
- Google Sheets K-12 Curriculum Mapping and Lessonplan.com

The above mentioned methods of media will be used to disseminate the necessary information presented in this plan. The District will present this plan annually before the Board of Education in order to openly discuss important information and also offer stakeholders a chance to provide their input into what they feel could better the education of our children.

E) Collaboration

This section is not applicable to the District because we work closely with area BOCES in order to provide these services to our students.

The Chester UFSD recognizes that internet safety is a very important element in the teaching of technology. In our efforts, the District has taken several strategies that have and will be put in place to ensure the safety of our students and staff. The students at the elementary and secondary level will continue to receive age appropriate lessons focusing on the safety and dangers related to the internet. We will also provide training for our staff in order to help them recognize and personally identify the dangers associated with the internet. We have also provided our students and staff with an acceptable use form and will be providing further information focusing on internet safety.

II) Professional Development

A) Professional Development
The District currently offers a number of different opportunities for our staff to receive the necessary training in order to use technology to improve student learning.

- Member of the Model School Program through Orange Ulster BOCES (OU BOCES).
- Budget for professional development to provide our teachers a chance to receive training offered at local service providers (BOCES, MLP.com, MHRIC) based upon district and tech committee goals.
- Use faculty meetings to turn key new techniques and technology that can be used in the classroom.
- In-service Academy recruits faculty to teach in-service classes.

<u>Professional Development in the Future</u>
Staff Development opportunities will ensure appropriate and effective use of technology

Goal 1: Provide opportunities for differentiated staff development in technology. (Ongoing)

Goal 2: Introduce staff to novel use of technology to develop 21st Century Learners. (Ongoing)

Goal 3: District wide push to provide support for the integration of technology into lesson planning and curriculum maps. (Year One)

B) Supporting Resources

Strategies and supporting resources such as services, software, other electronically-delivered learning materials, and print resources that will be acquired to ensure successful and effective use of technology.

- Continue receiving differentiated support and training through regional BOCES.
- Developing a professional development program which will use district employees to train fellow staff members.
- Use of data to determine the strengths and weaknesses in order to focus in on the necessary training.
- Fix/investigate more collaboration among all stakeholders in order to share ideas for best practices. This will be accomplished by using online social networking to share and gain different strategies.
- Develop tutorials that can be accessed on the District web site by all stakeholders.
- Use electronic media to provide support for staff and students. This will be made easily accessible and cut back on paper use.
- Continue supporting teachers and administrators who want to access webinars in order to receive online training.
- Provide in-service class support for any staff member that requests or requires proper training when times allows.

III) Infrastructure, Hardware, Technical Support and Software

A) Increase Access

The District constantly looks to ensure that all students and teachers have increased access to technology. In doing so, we plan on purchasing more equipment and redistributing the older equipment into the classrooms. This will allow for students to have available technology resources throughout the buildings. Also, the District will look to provide more opportunities for children to gain more access to computers during after school hours and through club participation. Also, the District will look into web-based and open-source software that will allow students to access different forms of instructional support and courses via the internet.

IV) Funding and Budget

A) Budget and Timetable

APPENDIX B

B) Coordination of Resources

Funding will be provided from several resources including, but not limited to:

- Title III
- District Commitment
- Grants
- Partnership with BOCES
- PTA /PTSA

Title I, Title IID, and Title III are used to fund our technology initiatives. We make it a point to make our school board and community members aware of our vision and look to them for support. The funds received are distributed according to building and District needs. Expenditures include infrastructure, hardware, software, maintenance/repair, telecommunications, library automation, and professional development.

V) Monitoring and Evaluation

A) Measuring the Integration of Technology

The District understands that we will need to continuously evaluate the integration of technology throughout the entire district. In order to do so, we will measure through:

- Examining technology developed projects and lessons produced by the students and staff.
- Monitoring the overall use of the computer labs by looking at the sign out sheets.
- Take an annual student and teacher survey to identify areas of strength and weakness in order to develop programs that will help everyone succeed.

Assessment

The District will look to annually meet with its Technology Committee to assess how the plan is being carried out. The committee will also need to look at:

- The Districts inventory and purchases. Currently computer inventory is tracked through the application Parago. This application allows us to track both technology inventory and also faculty/staff/students/parents Helpdesk Ticket System requests.
- Whether the staff has the tools to meet the needs of our students.
- Professional Development needs and assessment.
- The student learning capacity and the technology benchmarks to ensure our students are prepared.

B) Monitor District's Policy's for Staff and Student Use

See appendices D, E, F, G, H, I

VI) Appendix – Note: Appendixes are being updated and will be available in the update Technology Plan at the next Board of Education meeting

- **A. District Inventory**
- **B. Teacher Survey**
- **C. Funding and Budget**
- **D. Instructional Technology**
- **E. Computer Network/Internet Acceptable Use Policy**
- **F. The Children's Internet Protection Act: Internet Content Filtering/Safety Policy**
- **G. Selection of Library and Audiovisual Materials**
- **H. Use of Copyrighted Materials**
- **I. Staff Use of Computerized Information Resources**