

River Valley Charter School Technology Plan

November 17, 2006

River Valley Charter School Long Range Technology Plan

*River Valley Charter School Technology Plan Mission:
To teach and encourage children and other members of our school community to integrate the use of technology as a tool for learning, research and communication.*

Goal 1: To acquire technology in adequate amounts that will foster the appropriate use of such learning and communication tools.

Goal 2: To encourage children to effectively use technology in their daily lives.

Goal 3: To promote in children a lifelong quest for technology skills as a means of acquiring information.

Goal 4: To financially and technically support the aforementioned goals.

Goal 5: To ensure that staff members have a working knowledge of and access to the latest technology as a means of accomplishing their educational goals.

Goal 6: To use technology as a means of gathering information, which is then used to make data-driven decisions.

Goal 7: To use electronic communication tools to increase parent education and involvement with the school.

Technology Team

The district has a technology team with representatives from a variety of stakeholder groups. Teachers, parents and administration have direct input into the school budget preparation and hence allocation of technology resources. The technology team has the support of the district leadership team.

Budget

RVCS has a budget for its local technology plan with line items for technology in its operational budget. The RVCS budget includes staffing, hardware, software, professional development, support, and contracted services. In addition, parent volunteer services are utilized as a means of increasing technology in the school at a minimal cost. As funding allows, the school plans for a five-year cycle on computer technology and related devices.

Use of State, Federal and Private Resources

When possible, the district leverages the use of state, federal, and private resources. Levels of external funding fluctuate, which makes acquisition of goals difficult.

Access

Our goal is to attain a student-to-computer ratio of in excess of 5:1, with increased acquisition of wireless technology. These computers must be modern, fully-functioning, Internet-enabled devices.

Infrastructure for Connectivity

The school's goal is to provide connectivity to the Internet in all educational workspaces, including classrooms, library, music room and faculty room. Wireless connectivity will be utilized where appropriate. In addition, every administrative workspace shall have the appropriate technology and Internet connections. As the level and sophistication of technology grows, updates to the school's electrical and computer server systems may be required.

Technology Support, Curriculum Integration and Professional Development

The school makes a commitment to provide timely in-classroom technical support with clear information on how to access the support, so that technical problems will not cause major disruptions to curriculum delivery. The school provides a part time network administrator on a contractual basis. The school, when financially possible, will provide a curriculum

integration/technology specialist who will mentor staff, administration and students. The school will have an acceptable use policy for students and staff. When financially possible, at least 85 percent of our staff will have participated in high-quality technology professional development covering technology skills and the integration of technology into instruction.

Accurate Data Reporting

The school will maintain accurate data that meet state IMS standards, such as timely reporting of SIMS student data to the Massachusetts Department of Education.

Access to the Internet Outside of the School Day

The school will work with students to inform them of points of access for technology within their communities. This will include technology access in our own school beyond school hours.

Web Site

The school will maintain an up-to-date Web site, providing public access to school information. The school will also provide every educator with the opportunity for an Internet account which is capable of sending e-mails and accessing the World Wide Web.