

RACE TO THE TOP: PROJECT 4 - Technology and Personalization

Executive Summary:

Technology for Personalization of Learning Project invests heavily in funding our technology plan approved by the Board of Education in 2011 to equip our educators and students with a critical mass of 21st Century Learning tools. The \$9,655,623 includes funds to support professional development time and compensate teachers fairly beyond school time, minimizing the use of substitutes and the necessity to pull teachers out of class. Assessment coaches will be hired who will follow up with teachers during class time and during Instructional Leadership Team meetings, working with teachers to use technology effectively in the classroom. Professional development time for all teachers will be provided, comprehensively transforming the instructional environment from teaching centered to student-centered. We will roll out Chromebook devices at a 1:1 ratio for grades 6-12 and a 2:1 ratio at the elementary grades. All teachers will be equipped with Chromebooks, as well as training and support in locating and using Open Educational Resources. The District will be exploring e-textbooks rather than paper starting in 2014. Funds will also be used to increase our ongoing staffing in the IT department to support technology and users and to provide an assessment system with data bank for rapid-time feedback on student progress allowing for increased personalization of learning.

March 4, 2014

Chromebook Rollout Accelerated

All New Haven students receiving Chromebooks will have them by sometime next year, instead of in 2015-16, after the U.S. Department of Education approved the District's request to accelerate the rollout of the personal notebook computers being purchased as a result of New Haven's successful pursuit of a federal Race to the Top grant.

As one of only 16 nationwide winners in the RTTT-District competition, New Haven is receiving more than \$29 million over a 4½-year period, to personalize student learning, improve student achievement and educator effectiveness, close achievement gaps, and prepare all students to succeed in college and careers. Part of the grant is being used to purchase Chromebooks; one for every middle-school and high-school student and one for every two students to share at the elementary schools.

The Chromebooks were to be rolled out over a three-year period, with approximately one-third of the total being distributed each year. After the first distribution was completed earlier this year, however, the District requested an amendment to the Scope of Work approved last October by the Department of Education, requesting that the remaining Chromebooks be distributed next year.

“We requested this because of concerns of inequity for students, based on feedback from teachers and principals,” District RTTT-D Director Lisa Metzinger reports. “Teachers and students can look forward to receiving the student devices next fall.”

A committee will be formed this spring to review device options for kindergarten, first- and second-grade students and make adoption recommendations prior to the end of the school year, Ms. Metzinger also reported. Another committee will meet during the same time period to make recommendations for devices for special education students.

The Department of Education also approved a District request to postpone implementation of a particular segment of professional development for teachers at Alvarado, Eastin, Emanuele, and Pioneer elementary schools until 2015-16. This request was made to better coordinate professional development (teacher training) activities, Ms. Metzinger explained.

December 10, 2013

MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS GET CHROMEBOOKS

Students at Alvarado and Cesar Chavez middle schools will receive their long-awaited Chromebooks this week at informational meetings for the students and their parents.

To make it as convenient as possible for families, there will be two meetings at each school, at 6 o'clock tonight (Tuesday) and Wednesday. Parents of students in those classes that are part of the initial rollout have been notified by school principals and invited to attend the informational meetings.

For New Haven students and their families, the Chromebooks are most obvious and exciting benefit of the federal Race to the Top grant won by the District last December. One of only 16 nationwide winners of the U.S. Department of Education's RTTT competition, New Haven is receiving more than \$29 million over a 4½-year period, some of which is being used to purchase Chromebooks. The notebook computers will help meet the RTTT goals of personalizing student learning, improving student achievement and educator effectiveness, closing achievement gaps, and preparing all students to succeed in college and careers

As the Chromebooks are purchased and teachers are trained in their use, the notebooks will be rolled out over a period of three years. The initial rollout will impact roughly one-third of the District's approximately 12,500 students, with each school determining how its Chromebooks are distributed.

December 10, 2013

STUDENTS GET CHROMEBOOKS STARTING THIS WEEK

Several hundred New Haven students will receive their long-awaited Chromebooks this week at informational meetings for the students and their parents.

The first meeting, for students and parents at Decoto School for Independent Study, is at 6:30 p.m. tonight (Tuesday). Students and parents at James Logan High School can attend any of three meetings this week: at 6 p.m. Wednesday (Dec. 11) or 6 p.m. Thursday (Dec. 12) or 11 a.m. Saturday (Dec. 14).

Meetings for middle school students and their parents will be held next week. There will be two meetings at both Alvarado and Cesar Chavez middle schools, at 6 p.m. Tuesday (Dec. 17) and 6 p.m. Wednesday (Dec. 18).

The meetings will include “a session to learn about the purpose and guidelines for Chromebook use,” District Race to the Top Director Lisa Metzinger reports, along with “an overview of 21st century learning, information about Chromebooks, information about the intended use of the device (both inside and outside of the classroom), as well as information about purchasing insurance and low-cost Comcast internet.”

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November 26, 2013

CHROMEBOOK MEETINGS

Parents of students who will be receiving Chromebooks this year are urged to come with their students to informational meetings being held in December, before the notebook computers are distributed.

“During the meeting, they will be able to check out their Chromebooks after attending a session to learn about the purpose and guidelines for Chromebook use,” District Race to the Top Director Lisa Metzinger reports. “This session will include an overview of 21st century learning, information about Chromebooks, information about the intended use of the device (both inside and outside of the classroom), as well as information about purchasing insurance and low-cost Comcast internet.”

Multiple meetings are scheduled, to make attending as convenient as possible for parents. The schedule:

- James Logan High School: 6 p.m. Dec. 11; 6 p.m. Dec. 12; 11 a.m. Dec. 14.

- Cesar Chavez and Alvarado middle schools: 6 p.m. Dec 17; 6 p.m. Dec. 18.
- Decoto School for Independent Study: 6:30 p.m. Dec. 10.

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"I'd like to thank all of the members of the District's Technology Department for their hard work preparing for the rollout," Ms. Metzinger said. "A large initiative like this requires an unbelievable amount of detail work, and they've put in a lot of long hours to get us ready."

November 19, 2013

OUR CHROMEBOOKS ARE COMING! OUR CHROMEBOOKS ARE COMING!

Most New Haven students involved in the initial rollout of notebook computers will receive their Chromebooks before winter break, District Race to the Top Director Lisa Metzinger reports.

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"We're excited to see Chromebooks being used in classrooms as another tool in implementing the Common Core State Standards and 21st century learning," Ms. Metzinger said.

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"Teachers whose students will be receiving the Chromebooks attended three days of professional development over the summer, and will attend a fourth day of professional development Dec. 2," Ms. Metzinger explained.

At James Logan High, Cesar Chavez and Alvarado middle schools and Decoto School for Independent Study, students receiving Chromebooks this year and their parents will be invited to attend a meeting at their site before the devices are distributed.

“During the meeting, they will be able to check out their Chromebooks after attending a session to learn about the purpose and guidelines for Chromebook use,” Ms. Metzinger said. “This session will include an overview of 21st century learning, information about Chromebooks, information about the intended use of the device (both inside and outside of the classroom), as well as information about purchasing insurance and low-cost Comcast internet.”

Multiple meetings are scheduled, to make attending as convenient as possible for parents. The schedule:

- Logan: 6 p.m. Dec. 11; 6 p.m. Dec. 12; 11 a.m. Dec. 14.
- CCMS and AMS: 6 p.m. Dec 17; 6 p.m. Dec. 18.
- Decoto: 6:30 p.m. Dec. 10.

Students at Conley-Caraballo High will have two carts with Chromebooks placed in two classrooms. The carts and Chromebooks will be used immediately in those classrooms. The Chromebooks will remain in the classrooms for use at school. At the elementary schools, each site will receive two Chromebook carts to be shared between two classrooms.

May 21, 2013

CHROMEBOOKS COMING FOR STUDENTS

After several months of “discussion and compromise,” the Samsung Chromebook has been selected as the technology device to be purchased for New Haven Unified students as part of the Race to the Top-District grant, District RTTT-D Director Lisa Metzinger reports.

“The device selected for grades 3-12 is the Samsung Chromebook,” Ms. Metzinger reports. “All teachers will receive an HP Chromebook by the start of next school year. Teachers who are part of the Year 1 Roll Out will receive the device as part of the Summer Professional Development. A decision about the K-2 devices will be made next year, once we see how well the Chromebooks work in grades 3-5, and if they would be able to work with our youngest students.

“The student device roll out will take place over the next three years,” Ms. Metzinger continued. “The Year 1 Roll Out includes all sites, as each school will receive a certain number of devices. The principals, with input from their site leadership team and school staff, will determine how the number of devices allocated to their site should best be rolled out. The selection of which teachers will be involved is based on specific criteria ... Once sites determine their plan for roll out, principals will assist teachers with enrolling in the summer professional development. The Teacher Selection Guiding Principles are:

- Teachers who are willing to collaborate with other teachers;
- Teachers willing to commit to Summer Professional Development;
- Teachers who are willing to coach/mentor other teachers;
- Teachers who are willing to let others learn from their experiences.

“We send out a big thank you to all members of the Technology Committee, who spent many hours on this work,” Ms. Metzinger concluded. “It was not an easy task, but they rose to the occasion to all of our benefit.”

February 26, 2013

This project, currently facilitated by Chief Academic Officer Dr. Arlando Smith, involves a committee of classified, certificated and administrative staff, community members, students and parents who have been working hard over the last several weeks. Their task is to review research based evidence of best practices and structural configurations to most effectively meet the technological needs of NHUSD. They have been learning about 21st century education and the skills students will need to be successful in this ever changing world. Specifically, the task force is charged with recommending a plan based on the requirements of the RTT-D Grant and the personalization requirement therein. The task force has six subcommittees:

- User Policy
- Product Review
- Professional Learning/Professional Development
- Personalization and Product Usage
- Online Forms and Blended Learning
- Infrastructure

These committees are working to identify specific outcomes for all students and staff concerning technology use; recommend a model or series of models to the superintendent that effectively address the needs of all staff and students in the district; recommend plans for implementation; recommend plans to engage and communicate to stakeholders any proposed changes; and recommend models based on research to address the needs of all students in the district. Most recently, a subgroup from the committee visited New Tech High School in Napa, and another group will soon be visiting Apple to learn about successful practices in other schools and districts in order to incorporate those best practices into our plan.