

South Iredell High School Technology Plan, 2005-2009

Overview/Vision

South Iredell High School is committed to enhancing teaching and learning through the use of technology in all of its classrooms. The North Carolina Educational Technology Plan for 2005-2009 will be the guiding influences in this commitment. The five components of our technology plan are as follows: High Student Performance; Safe, Orderly, and Caring Schools; Quality Teachers, Administrators, and Staff; and Effective and Efficient Operations.

I. High Student Performance

Current situation:

Technology is a tool that allows teachers and administrators to work more productively and enable student's access to information beyond their geographic, social, and economic barriers. Technology encourages creativity and self-direction, provides opportunities for interesting and effective lessons and activities, and offers solutions for more effective individual monitoring of student progress. The consistent and effective use of technology in our schools and classrooms has improved student academic performance. The South Iredell High School Technology Plan and the Iredell-Statesville Schools Educational Technology Plan will work to provide adequate hardware, connectivity, and instructional support to accomplish this vision for our students and community.

Currently, SIHS utilizes the following software applications in its effort to improve test scores in Math, English, and Computer Skills:

Math – SAS in Schools, Geometer Sketchpad, Quizdom
English – APCD (Online AP Review)
Computer Skills Curriculum & test – Mitirela

Other subject areas use Examview, Quia, Video Streaming (United Streaming), SAS in Schools, Fitnessgram

South provides students distance learning opportunities through our VHS (Virtual High School) which utilizes LearnNC and USDLC. Credit recovery is available through NovaNet. The EC Department utilizes Boardmaker as an assistive technology for students.

Vision:

- More computers with CD & DVD burners and players
- Computers updated to be compatible with textbook CDs, current weblinks, virtual science labs
- Computers capable of reading jump drives and memory sticks

II. Safe, Orderly, and Caring Schools

Current situation:

South Iredell High School is committed to providing a safe learning and teaching environment for our students and staff. To do so, we will seek to provide a technology infrastructure that includes security and protection systems. This includes our classroom intercom system, surveillance cameras in the school and on buses, an emergency crisis plan and a school alarm system. We also have a Student Resource Officer assigned to our school, as well as a Student Assistant Program to assist in crisis intervention, mediation, and prevention. We effectively use our SRO and SAP for the purpose of identifying and assisting in the control of illegal substances and other behavior violations, which will be reported to the administration for action. Because of our commitment to a safe and orderly school, staff and students can focus more intently on high student performance. This increased focus decreases discipline problems and because the students are more motivated and successful, they work hard and longer, thus raising student achievement.

Vision:

- Maintain and support Student Resource Officer and Student Assistance Program
- Expansion of telephone service to each classroom
- Expand current alarm system to entire campus and utilize surveillance cameras to trigger alarm throughout campus.

III. Quality Teachers, Administrators, and Staff

More than any other implement in history, the technological development of the past two decades has given educators the advantage of ready global information—while simultaneously bringing into question the role of a teacher as information source in an age when even our address books can browse the world-wide web. Though the teacher's place in a classroom has become more dynamic (often the role of a facilitator), technology is a constant in current pedagogy. Technology provides more than efficiency; it allows us access to today's student. South Iredell High School will endeavor to reinforce current staff development of technology and through professional learning communities, will develop new opportunities for teachers, administrators, and staff to interact with one another and with students.

Current situation:

- Faculty and staff are trained on Netscape Composer for webpage design and required to publish a webpage for their classes.
- Faculty and staff are trained and receive support for several district-level programs, such as NCWise, SeaSystem, and Timekeeper.

- Faculty and staff have access to two public computer labs and multiple laptop/projector stations, including a laptop/projector with Quizdom software and devices.
- Faculty and staff have access to several online databases for information and Multimedia, such as LearnNC, NC Wise Owl, and United Streaming.
- Some faculty and staff have successfully written grants for small projects involving technology.

Vision

- Faculty and staff receive *monthly* (or at least constant in some interval through the semester) training and support for using technology, i.e. webpage development, useful online tools, etc.
- Develop a Professional Learning Community based on technology use in the classroom, where seminars are conducted instructing, supporting, and dialoguing best practices involving technology.
- Every teacher using technology and all teachers using appropriate, useful webpages for each of their classes.
- Utilizing technology to streamline data-gathering, and effectively using said data to drive school improvement plan.
- Develop a system that envelops *all* staff with technology; allow for staff from each area of the school (administration, guidance, support personnel, etc.) to communicate and interact through technology.
- Increase faculty and staff comfort level with technology to raise comfort levels with technology and encourage bringing technology to students and increasing interaction with the student body.
- Faculty and staff are trained in new computer labs when they are available, including technology related to SmartBoards, projectors, and audio technology.

Recommendations:

- Develop and administer a skills assessment survey that evaluates the skill level of all faculty members regarding technology to better facilitate focused staff development.
- Develop and implement template-driven publication standards for webpages.
- Increase student/teacher web-based interactions
- Make frequently used forms and other paperwork available online, even as online forms that can be submitted via the internet.
- Upgrade computer labs to provide a cutting-edge environment for faculty, staff, and, most importantly, students to learn in, and develop staff development opportunities to familiarize staff with new tools available in labs.
- Make technology available daily; provide situations for faculty and staff to use technology every day in their classrooms or in other elements of their jobs.
- Expand responsibilities of faculty, technology trainers and coordinators to incorporate frequent staff development and produce programs for Professional Learning Communities.
- Train faculty and staff on using the new Data Warehouse.

IV. Strong Family, Community and Business Support

Current:

Strong family, community and business support and involvement are crucial to the success of our educational system and our students. Technology plays a vital role in creating and maintaining links between family and school as well as the community at large. Good communication flow allows teachers and administrators to disseminate information quickly and effectively to its stakeholders and provides a two-way dialog between faculty and parents. All staff members have been issued e-mail accounts with which they can communicate with parents, keeping them up to date on their child's progress and any upcoming deadlines and assignments. At present 70% of our faculty maintain webpages with syllabi, important dates, project information and general class guidelines. We are also working to build and maintain a comprehensive parent e-mail database.

The SIHS webpage is another way we communicate with our parents and community. This site provides dynamic, up-to-date information about our school, upcoming events and activities, celebrations, and extensive homework help. Through this medium, as well as in our student newspaper and yearbook, we are able to recognize the contributions of our business partners. Other effective means of communication with our parents and community is through the ConnectEd phone tree system that informs parents of upcoming events and volunteer opportunities in our school. A monthly newsletter published by the faculty provides monthly calendars and essential information and is linked to the webpage.

Teachers and students have access to the Internet in every classroom and in two large computer labs. The Media Center also provides flexible hours before and after school and during lunch to students who need access to computers and other technology. Databases such as Student Resource Center Bronze and Opposing Viewpoints are leased to provide research and homework help both at school and from home. Teachers have folders located on the school server where they can store students' work and presentations.

The South Iredell webpage will soon be linked to the Town of Troutman's website providing a presence and sense of ownership in the community at large. Technology will continue to play a main role in building participation and support from our parents, community and business partners by providing an effective horizontal and vertical communication flow from school to community and back. A well-informed public is an involved public.

Vision:

- 100% Teacher webpages.
- Comprehensive and accessible parent e-mail database.
- Monthly newsletter published and mailed to all parents.
- Build on databases for research.
- Link South Iredell webpage to Town of Troutman site.
- Provide student folders on SIHS server.

V. Effective and Efficient Operations

South Iredell High School realizes the benefits of a technology rich environment that will lead to high student achievement and more effective time management for its staff. Effective and Efficient Operations encompasses policy, budget, personnel, security, applications, hardware, and infrastructure.

Current situation:

South Iredell High School adopts and employs the policies and budget requirements from Iredell Statesville Schools. SIHS has 3 on-site, part-time technology representatives: one who trains, one who is the webmaster, and one who is responsible for coordinating maintenance and repair. Additionally, the student and staff benefit from 4 classroom Computer Teachers. SIHS is supported by one district technology trainer and one district technician who are shared among multiple schools and a “Help Desk” for NCWISE.

South Iredell’s infrastructure consists of 317 networked computers and 10 networked laser printers. Currently our network consists of Fast Ethernet switches and UTP/fiber transceivers connecting all buildings and networked devices to an IBM xSeries e-Server running Novell Netware OES (Open Enterprise Server). Our wireless site-to-site WAN connection provides a 100 Mbps connection to remote sites in the ISS network, as well as Internet access.

Vision:

SIHS will continue to follow and enforce district policies. As in all areas of education, SIHS is hopeful of an increase in the Technology Budget. In regards to personnel, our vision is to employ one full-time, on-site technician and one full-time instructional support person.

SIHS will continue to increase security measures. Our efforts will be concentrated on preventing access to non-educational website and to protect access to information on the servers. For additional security, our vision also includes setting up and maintaining individual accounts for log-in purposes on the school server. SIHS’ vision is for each classroom to have more than one instructional computer with Microsoft Windows XP Professional, including Pentium 4, CPU 3.00 GHz, and 504 MB of RAM. In addition to classroom computers, we want to upgrade our 4 Computer classrooms and our 2 computer labs to this capability. Furthermore, we desire to purchase wireless capability for the school and a mobile wireless computer lab.

Lastly, in an effort to increase teacher effectiveness and student learning, SIHS would like to incorporate the following software options: NetOp (allows teachers to see and interact in a computer lab and/or classroom environment); more Quizdom systems (allows students to answer teacher’s questions using remote access); and more equipment such as laptops, and digital light projectors.