

**Fannin County School System
Blue Ridge, Georgia**

**District Technology Plan
FY 19-21**

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Vision for Technology Use

District Mission/ Vision and Access

Technology tools are woven in almost all aspects of our daily life, and educational experiences should not be an outlier. Technology is no longer a tool that enhances education, it has become the medium in which we design, deliver, and assess academic expectations. Aligning with the mission of the Fannin County School System- “Developing Young Futures; learning for tomorrow, today”- the technology department seeks to provide the infrastructure, tools, and technical support to empower 21st learners as they collaborate, create, and contribute to a technically advanced society.

The vision of the Fannin County School System is to achieve a 100% graduation rate with successful student progression at each level. This vision can only be realized with support from the district leadership that implements policies and programs that support growth at every level. The integration of technology in teaching and learning is a fundamental component of all existing district and school improvement plans. The district’s continuous improvement plan acts as an umbrella for all improvement efforts and is aligned around the three Strategic Objectives of the Fannin County School District: 1) Attaining High Student Achievement & Success; 2) Developing Organizational Effectiveness; and 3) Ensuring Stakeholder Support and Satisfaction. Technology is regarded as all-inclusive in the performance of these three objectives, and they guide the vision of the Fannin County School System Technology Department, which is:

- To provide ALL stakeholders the opportunity to collaborate, create, and contribute to the global society through the use of technology and access to information;
- To provide the tools and support that allow students to engage in rigorous academic work through personalized learning that includes access to online learning, media-rich resources, and digital tools;
- To support instructional practices that integrate technology so that students, parents, and educators have more flexibility over the time, place, path, and pace of learning;
- To provide access to reliable programs that connect information, such as an electronic grade book linked to a secure parent portal, to keep stakeholders informed of student matters, such as academic progress, discipline, and attendance;
- To keep stakeholders informed through social media, websites and other technologies, such as web portals, email, SMS, and telecommunications systems;
- To continue working toward the realization of a one to one environment where students’ learning is not dictated by scheduled access to technology, but rather in real time initiated by students when and where they need it;
- To ensure equal opportunities for all students, including those with special needs or who are members of disadvantaged subgroups; through providing training and tools that support a Universal Design for Learning;
- Provide training and support to stakeholders that guide them to being Digital Citizens that practice safe, responsible, and legal use of technology;
- Provide a robust, reliable network along with a dependable wireless network that supports multiple mobile devices per user;

- Stay current with new technologies and replace aging ones, while maintaining a sustainable inventory that is provided by a variety of funding sources all the while being good stewards of taxpayer monies.

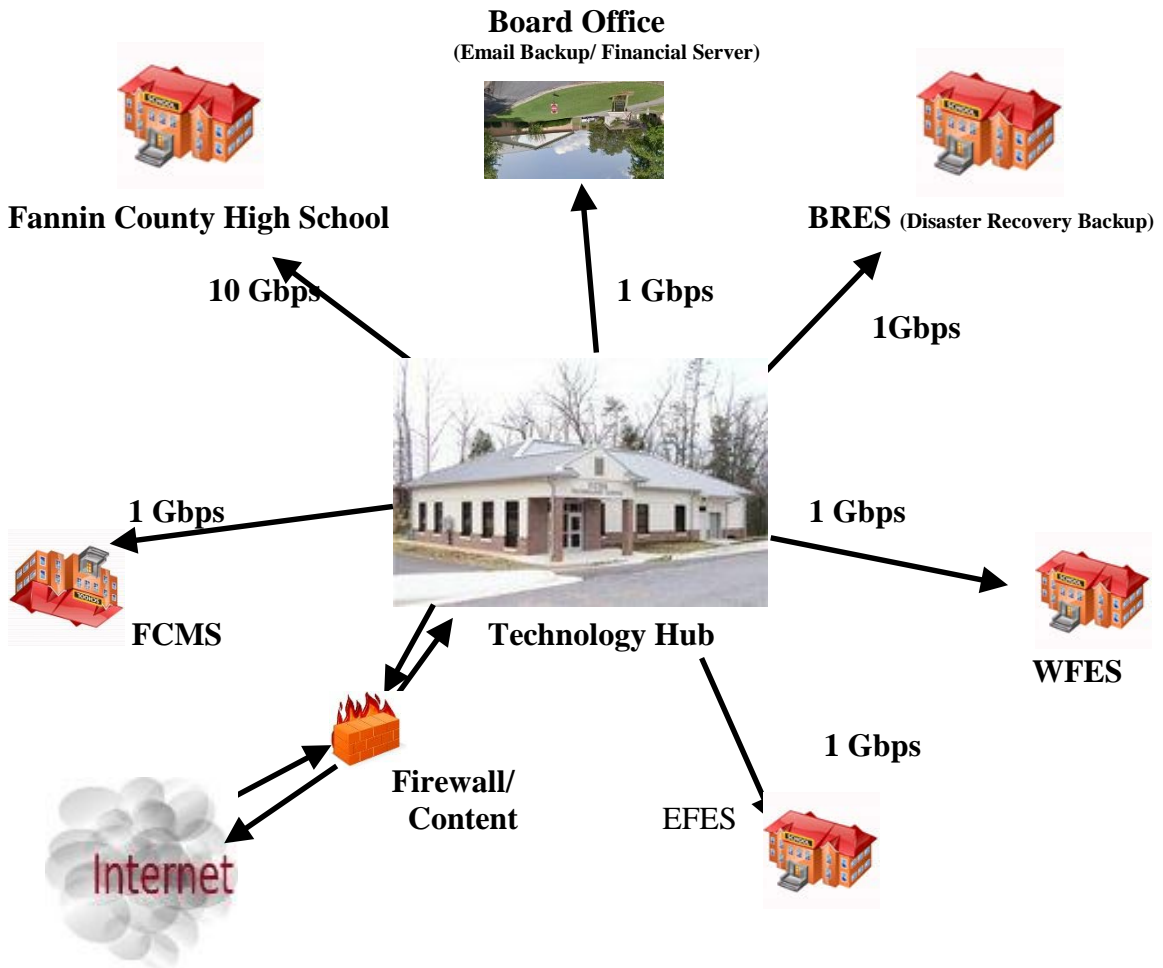
Current Reality

Access to Technology/Data Sources

Infrastructure:

Over the past three years, the district has made a concerted effort to improve the network infrastructure and create a reliable and robust network. We have 500mb of internet bandwidth provided to us through the State of Georgia and ATT. We purchase an additional 250mb of supplemental bandwidth through TDS, which we will be upgrading to 1gb in early 2018. We are in the final stages of completing a project (initially funded by E-Rate and Connections for Classrooms) that will connect all schools with 10gb WAN connection.

Current WAN:



FCSS maintains servers for staff email and server based storage for all employees and students. G-Suite is used for cloud based data storage for all employees and students in grades 3-12. We have upgraded our virtual environment this year, and have a backup environment in a separate location in case of disaster.

FCSS provides wireless internet connectivity at each location within our school district. Outside devices are allowed to connect to our “BYOD” network. Usernames and passwords are required for login to the BYOD and main network. We currently have the following wireless access points at each school/location:

School	# of Access Points	Ratio to Instructional Spaces
FCHS Main Building	21	1:2
FCHS CTAE/ Vocational	5	1:2
FCHS GYM	7	1:1
FCHS PAC	8	1:1
FCHS New Business Wing	5	1:1
FCHS Field house (upper)	1	1:4
FCMS	19	1:2
BRES	13	1:3
EFES	15	1:3
WFES	14	1:3
BOE	2	Non- Instructional Admin only
Technology Hub	1	Non- Instructional Admin only
Nutrition	1	Non- Instructional Admin only
Maintenance	0	Non- Instructional Admin only
Middle School Annex	1	Non- Instructional Admin only

We provide wireless access on five buses currently. This allows students to access learning to and from school and during after school activities that are away from home and school (field trips, sports,etc)

Devices

Over the past three years we have purchased additional computer labs and mobile devices in order to give our students greater access to technology. We have been leveraging SPLOST and Federal Funds to purchase these additional computers. We have a large amount of tablets (IPADS), they have provided an ample amount of academic enrichment for students, however they have not provided the collaborative and creative platforms that desktops and laptops have. Currently, we have 430 Chrome based laptops. All students enrolled in an advanced placement courses at FCHS are given a Chromebook to use at home and school. Additionally, we plan on purchasing an additional 300 Chromebooks (210 at FCHS, 30 at each elementary) this school year, we will use a combination of SPLOST and Federal Funds for these purchases.

Student Instructional Computers (less than 5 years old)

***based on 16-17 Annual Technology Survey**

*Five years old or newer	BRES	EFES	WFES	FCMS	FCHS	District
Desktops	276	216	175	631	476	1774
Laptops-Chrome	0	26	2	30	372	430
Laptops-Windows	35	20	58	23	8	144
Tablets	196	143	268	395	553	1555
Netbooks	0	0	0	61	0	61

Technology Use

District-level technology leadership and support is currently comprised of personnel in the following roles: 1) Director of Technology & Media Services, 2) District Technology Specialist, 3) Network Administrator, 4) Student Information System (SIS) Coordinator, and 5) Assistant Student Information System Coordinator. These five district-level personnel provide leadership and advanced support to five school-based technology specialists, manage the five LANs and WAN, oversee system-level hardware and applications, maintain the email servers and system website, and administer the student information database. The Fannin County School System’s delivery of school library/media services is coordinated through the technology department. The media center is the “information hub” of the school, and each of the five schools has a full-time media specialist. In addition, student-related state reporting functions are coordinated through the technology department.

The Fannin County School System uses many strategies to teach technology literacy. The goal is to ensure students are afforded the opportunity to embrace and utilize various forms of technology, become familiar with how it is used to complete tasks, and have an understanding of its role in modern society. District technology use emphasizes higher order thinking processes, and the goal of all implementation is to integrate student learning with the academic standards.

Beginning at the elementary level, students utilize a variety of technologies to access interactive websites, conduct research, and use virtual manipulatives. A variety of programs are used to differentiate content and provide intervention for students who have skill gaps or need acceleration. Teachers use media-rich resources on interactive boards to immerse students in real world visuals to enhance their instruction. Student in elementary begin to use various software programs to creatively communicate and construct in the digital world. Beginning in grade 3, students have access to the G- Suite of tools, including a learning management system. The use of technology at the elementary level provides students with fundamental skills to build on in later grades.

At the middle and high school levels, students become more advanced and independent with their use of technology. Each student has an individual username and password; this helps teach

students about responsibility and accountability with the use of technology. This name and password allows them to access server based storage within the school network, in addition to providing a secure network access. In addition, students have Google Accounts that allow them to store files in the cloud, so they have 24/7 access to their work. Students use technology in classes by accessing mobile computer labs, interactive boards, and classroom computers to conduct research, create presentations, and interact through a variety of learning management systems (primarily Google Classroom). Students also use technology to create publications, as well as video presentations, that allow them to communicate with the school community. The use of a variety of web-based learning sites, tools, and applications allow for the rapid assessment and evaluation of learning.

Technology is an integral part of the curriculum with many programs used to support instruction. Universal Screeners are conducted through computer-based assessments. Prescriptive, individualized instruction is possible through a variety of digital programs that are used to support instruction. High school students are afforded the opportunity to take courses online for credit recovery, or to take courses not offered on campus. An online learning lab has been created to support students with disabilities in grades 9-12 that need access to personalized learning in order to be successful. The use of technology ensures that students from all populations are provided with equal access to the curriculum; students with special instructional needs may be provided with word processing tools and assistive/adaptive devices, as needed, in order to guarantee equal opportunities to learn and achieve.

Fannin County School system has been using G- Suite EDU for three years, and its use continues to expand throughout the district as a core set of tools that allows stakeholders to produce and collaborate. Google Classroom use continues to grow across the district. FCSS Staff use G- Suite products as collaboration tools to share information and create course content and mapping. A recent staff survey provided the following information:

- 60% of Staff use Google Products on a daily basis, only 2% report they never use Google Products;
- Staff rated YouTube as the most widely used tool, next to Gmail, Drive, and Docs
- 72% of staff have participated in at least one Google Product Training;
- We have one Level One Certified Google Educator, however 56 % are interested in becoming Google Certified;
- 38% of teachers agree that they cannot use Google Tools on a daily basis because access to devices is a barrier;
- 50% of staff report that reliable wireless connections are a barrier to using Google Tools on a daily basis;
- 70% of staff report that BYOD has increased their ability to use Google Tools in the classroom;
- 90% of staff believe that the integration of technology is critical to post-secondary success;
- 80% of staff agreed that support staff and parents need training in use of Google Products;

The Fannin County School System benefits immensely from the Georgia Statewide Longitudinal Data System (SLDS). This initiative, which was implemented by the Fannin County School system during the first semester of the 2010-2011 school year, integrates individual student assessment results and other data with our district's student information system, Infinite Campus. A powerful component of the SLDS is that it provides users with immediate access to data for those students currently enrolled at the school. In addition, the program is capable of producing a variety of useful reports, and is easily accessible from within Infinite Campus. To remain compliant with *Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act* (FERPA) requirements, only those personnel with access to Infinite Campus are permitted to view the data of the students for whom they have a legitimate educational interest.

Administrative Uses of Technology

All administrative users are provided with Internet access, an email account (through the school system), access to the web portal, and appropriate logins for access to student information, electronic teacher gradebook accounts, Google EDU accounts, and other applications, as needed. Appropriate personnel within the finance, nutrition, maintenance, technology, and personnel departments are provided access to specific programs necessary for the performance of their duties.

Currently, the Fannin County School system uses Infinite Campus to manage its student information. Data for Infinite Campus is consolidated and managed at the district level. The school system utilizes an electronic grade book program through Infinite Campus that can be accessed by personnel via the Internet.

Administrators and academic coaches monitor the instructional program and implementation of the curriculum through a "Focus Walk" process. A Focus Walk is a brief visit to a school learning environment. It is intended to create a data "snapshot" of classroom activities, and the implementation of the instructional program, not the teacher, is what is assessed. We currently use Google Forms to create and conduct Focus Walks.

Since the inception of Focus Walks, the process has evolved from a paper form that was used by observers to gather data to a modern electronic form. Which has minimized any delay between the time of collection and the ability to conduct an analysis of the data. The form is customizable, reviewed annually, and updated as needed. This helps district and school leaders quickly identify trends, strengths, and areas in need of improvement to guide instruction within the academic program.

All Staff have access to G- Suite EDU products to create and collaborate in all facets of their professional tasks. Curriculum mapping and digital content is created and share with teachers who teach the same content across the district. Information is easily shared and updated in Google Docs and Sheets. The use of Team Drives allows select groups of people to access specific documents related to a project or specialized content. Team Drives are a cloud based platform that provides an efficient way to organize important collaborative documents pertaining to a specific group of people.

PC Genesis continues to be utilized as the district's financial management software package. This program is a client-server based DOS program written in COBOL. Access is limited to central office employees only. All district financial, personnel, and purchasing information is controlled and managed through the PC Genesis program.

Other administrative uses of technology include the utilization of programs to control HVAC and monitor cafeteria coolers for better energy management. In addition, the network is used to support the use of security cameras to improve campus security.

A remote management system, LANDesk, is utilized by the district. This application allows technology personnel to access computer equipment remotely to manage, update, inventory, and service hardware. This is a significant time-saver for the department, as it allows personnel to provide real-time support to end-users without necessarily being on-site.

Parent/Community Uses of Technology

Technology is an essential part of parental and community involvement. The Fannin County School System utilizes the following technologies to keep stakeholders informed:

- The Fannin County Board of Education utilizes an Internet-based program – eBoard – to conduct meetings, post information and policies, to keep the public informed;
- District schools utilize eBoard to keep stakeholders informed regarding meetings of school councils, leadership and improvement teams, and related advisory groups;
- The school system has a website at www.fannin.k12.ga.us that contains information from individual schools and the district;
- The school system offers parents the opportunity to access their child's grades and attendance information through an encrypted parent portal;
- Through a pilot implementation with the Georgia Department of Education, parents are provided access to SLDS data for their child(ren) through the Infinite Campus Portal;
- Progress reports may be generated through the teacher grade book program, and these reports may be emailed to parents as needed;
- The school system utilizes an automated rapid-calling system, as well as static information lines, to notify parents of upcoming events, closings, and other important information;
- The district and schools use a variety of electronic social media applications, including Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter, to keep parents informed; and
- The school system utilizes email and telecommunications to remain in two-way contact with parents.

The Fannin County School System has accommodated parents with limited English proficiency, as needed, by providing documents and automated information calls in their native language, as well as in English.

Gap Analysis

Technology is an essential component of the daily operation of the Fannin County School District. It is a part of teaching and learning, assessment, instructional planning, classroom and records management, school improvement, and communication. It also plays an essential role in

parental and community involvement. To be successful in the support of these endeavors, a school district must have a strong technology infrastructure; it is an essential component of the modern education process.

As indicated in the previous plan, the need for bandwidth has increased exponentially. We have 500mb of internet bandwidth provided to us through the State of GA and ATT. We purchase an additional 250mb of supplemental bandwidth through TDS, which we will be upgrading to 1GB in early 2018. We are in the final stages of completing a project (initially funded by E-Rate and Connections for Classrooms) that will connect all schools with 10GB WAN connection. Approximately 98% of all classrooms have access to wireless internet, however with the increase of wireless devices we tend to experience lagging wireless connections due to the demand capabilities of the wireless access points. A wireless site survey needs to be conducted in order to determine what upgrades are needed to the current wireless in order to provide the coverage needed for all users to use the wireless network and have a reliable and fast connection. Once the survey is conducted a plan will be made on how to increase the access point coverage throughout the system.

The current replacement cycle process has been a crucial component of the ongoing improvement noted in the district's student-to-computer ratio since the development of the last technology plan. The replacement timeline is currently at approximately five years for a desktop computer and four years for a laptop computer in these applications.

The future in instructional technology is real time connectivity that allows students the ability to determine the time, place, pace, and path of learning. The computer to student ratio is technically 1:1. However the majority of these devices are desktops in classroom labs. Most classrooms must schedule a time to use a stationary lab or sign out a cart of devices for classroom use. This limits a student's ability to have access to the tools necessary in order to collaborate and produce products that are relevant in today's classrooms. In addition to real time access at school, it is equally important that students have access to devices beyond the hours of the school day. Recent student survey results also indicated at approximately 25% of our students do have access to a working device at home, however only 15% stated they did not have access to Internet. There is a digital divide when it comes to real-time access to devices within the classroom and at home. A sustainable plan for moving to a 1:1 mobile device for every student, with access to technology labs that incorporate the use of computers and other digital devices with creative spaces and areas for student collaboration is needed to continue the forward motion of the technology department.

As evidenced on the state inventory, significant strides have been made to equip classrooms district-wide with modern technology items. The overwhelming majority of classrooms now have a mounted projector and interactive board; there is also greater access to computer hardware, including laptop and Chromebooks, as well as mobile/handheld devices. Tablets, iPads, iPods, student response systems, document cameras, audio systems, digital photography equipment, and software applications have been acquired since the last technology plan. Although the numbers have improved, many previous challenges with funding remain but now with the additional need to update and replace previously acquired equipment as needed. Efforts should continue to have all classrooms equipped with modern hardware and applications, and the

district should evaluate instructional needs and plan accordingly for the ongoing replacement of this equipment.

Access to modern equipment is essential; however, the access to and effective use of technology in the classroom is not measured by the presence of a computer. The faculty, staff, and students should be able to understand and embrace technology during the course of their daily activities. Meaningful professional learning will better enable faculty and staff members to use, explain, and demonstrate technology applications to their students. A district wide technology professional learning plan needs to be developed that focuses on using digital tools in the classroom.

District staff will ensure that each school receives the resources and support necessary to nurture an environment that is safe, secure, and conducive to individual student success. These resources and support include the use of digital media and access to an online environment to be used for research, collaboration, and to support active learning environments for faculty, staff, and students. The use of technology is not a fad and will not diminish, and the district must remain committed to long-term sustainability.

Progress has been made to develop better software purchasing standards during the past three years. The current process has both curriculum and instructional personnel involved with the technology department to evaluate the technical aspects of all proposals. This joint involvement assures that system compatibility and technical support requirements are feasible before purchase. Efforts should be made to continue this practice and to expand the technology department's role in instruction.

Instructional software should not be purchased without the collaboration of the leadership of both the curriculum and technology departments.

Gaps in Administrative Uses of Technology

The use of technology has become a critical component of the success of administrative personnel – both certificated and classified. Perception data indicates that administrators and administrative support personnel in the school system vary widely in ability; however, actual practice indicates that all utilize technology to perform their jobs. Although some may lack the necessary skills to utilize existing administrative applications to the maximum extent, all achieve functional competency and reach out for assistance as needed, hence the importance of offering ongoing professional learning.

As with the teaching faculty and staff, ongoing professional learning is needed to ensure that users take advantage of existing equipment and applications. Building- and district-level administrators have a growing need for technology literacy in terms of data management. The use of data as the foundation for instructional decisions continues to increase, and administrators must be able to assimilate and utilize data on demand and in real-time. Ongoing training and support is required to make certain that data is used effectively.

As stated in the previous three-year plan, the PC Genesis program is the school system's oldest administrative system. Although it continues to remain a viable solution, there is concern regarding the state's ongoing support of the software. Only the central office staff members have access to this program. All purchase orders must be processed with the information from the requisition being entered into the PC Genesis program. Neither a viable replacement option has been determined, nor needed, at this point; however, the concern remains. As a result, an ongoing recommendation between the finance and technology departments to assess the continued use of this program remains.

A continued and ongoing evaluation of the school system's student record and data entry procedures are necessary. This evaluation includes the continuation of steps to ensure common, district-wide procedures for data entry, system maintenance, training of staff members, and reporting procedures. The reliability and security of student data is essential for compliance with confidentiality requirements, as well as maintaining the accuracy of the information. These records establish our system's funding allotments from the state and adequate support is essential in this area.

Currently, technology items are inventoried using Google Sheets and shared with personnel in charge of inventory control. While this method has served us well, the ongoing acquisition of equipment and devices has become hard to manage through this application. A review of inventory software and transition to a new inventory management system is warranted.

Gaps in Parent/Community Uses of Technology

Online access to a secure parent portal remains available to parents. The past three years have seen upgrades to the Infinite Campus Parent Portal, including the new access for parents to the SLDS data for their children. Updated student grades and attendance, as well as discipline and other information, may be accessed, too, and this information is updated through daily synchronization with the school system's student information database.

Having access to updated information on their children's academic performance has become a standard expectation of parents. The technology infrastructure is in place; however, the inputting of grades, assignments, and other class data is inconsistent among the schools. An effort to standardize expectations regarding the timeliness of how class assignments and grades are inputted was noted in the previous plan. Since the last technology plan, procedures to facilitate uniform data entry, including assignments, due dates, and grades, have been implemented at the schools; however, enforcement of these procedures is not necessarily consistent district-wide. Although improvements have been made, ongoing administrative monitoring remains necessary to ensure these systems continue to be offered and stay functionally reliable for parents. Training opportunities should continue to be provided, as needed, so parents understand what is available and how it may be accessed.

The school district currently utilizes a website and a Facebook, Instagram and Twitter page to keep the community informed. The website – www.fannin.k12.ga.us – features a great deal of information about upcoming events, calendars, menus, and individual webpages for each of the schools. The district website has been in place for many years now, and its use has expanded significantly among the individual schools within the past three years. Many individual grade

levels, departments, and/or teachers also post information to their own pages linked to the district's site. The current website has become a little cumbersome and cluttered with the infiltration of information overtime. The website needs a fresh look and reorganization so that is more user friendly to stakeholders. The district website averages over 1000 visits per day, and over half of those are mobile users. An enhanced and robust mobile app should be created for easier interface for stakeholders. Evaluation of the current website host needs to be conducted, and review of other hosts is needed. Training and support for faculty and staff members should continue to guarantee they have the skills necessary to utilize the school system's website in a manner that maximizes benefits for parents and the community.

GOALS, STRATEGIES, AND BENCHMARKS

GOAL 1: Infrastructure and Devices				
CONTINUE TO UPDATE, EXPAND, AND IMPROVE ACCESS TO 21ST CENTURY TECHNOLOGIES, INCLUDING THE NETWORK INFRASTRUCTURE, AS WELL AS END USER HARDWARE AND ACCESS TO DEVICES				
<u>Strategies</u>	<u>Benchmark</u>	<u>Evaluation Method</u>	<u>Funding Source/Amount</u>	<u>Person Responsible</u>
Continued upgrade and expansion of servers, network applications, and end user hardware, as needed	FY 18-21 A robust network capable of supporting growth with the use of web-based learning applications, cloud based learning management systems, and a 1:1 mobile environment	Annual State Technology Inventory Local inventory records E-rate Applications	Local funds SPLOST E-rate (excluding end-user hardware) Applicable grants Amount: \$450,000 (est.)	Superintendent Technology Director Network Administrator
Continue to provide LAN/WAN and expand wireless access capable of handling streaming applications and multi-device per user environment	FY 18 Survey of WAP Wan and Lan's increased to 10 Gbps FY 19-21 1:1 WAP to instructional space in school buildings	Annual State Technology Inventory Local inventory records E-rate Applications	Local funds SPLOST E-rate Applicable grants Amount: WAN: \$45,000 annually (est.) WAP: 125,000 (est)	Superintendent Technology Director Network Administrator

E-rate applications will be filed to apply for discounted rates for leased lines, Internet connectivity, and telecommunications (ongoing strategy)	FY 18-21 E-rate applications will be filed annually for eligible services	Annual technology budget Telecommunications bills E-rate Applications	Local funds E-rate (Amount: Final amounts TBD and contingent upon USAC awards)	Technology Director
Replace obsolete interactive Boards with updated Interactive Panels/Projectors.	FY 18-21 Replace aging and end of life interactive boards as needed.	Annual State Technology Inventory Local inventory records	Local funds SPLOST Federal Funds Applicable grants Amount: 850,000 (est)	Technology Director Curriculum Director Federal Programs Directors School Leaders Technology Specialists
All students in grades 3-8 will have a personal mobile device for real time learning Tablets redeployed for use in grades K-2	FY 19 1:1 Grades 8-12 Chromebooks FY 20 1:1 Grades 3-7 Mobile Device FY 20-21 Begin Annual refresh of devices two grade levels per year FY 19-21 Redeployment of Tablets K-2 <small>*Mobile devices must meet state online testing requirements</small>	Annual State Technology Inventory Local inventory records	Local funds SPLOST Federal Funds Applicable grants Amount: 750,000 (est)	Technology Director School Leaders Technology Specialists
Obsolete labs will be converted to digital learning spaces that house a variety of technologies that allow for collaboration and creativity	FY 20-21 Labs that no longer need to be in replacement cycle will be converted in multipurpose learning spaces	Local inventory records	Local funds SPLOST Federal Funds Applicable grants Amount: \$100,000 (est)	Technology Director Curriculum/STEM Director Federal Programs Directors School Leaders Technology Specialists

<p>Continue with the previously established obsolescence-based replacement cycle for district computers, optimally 4-year for laptops and 5-year for desktops (Lab replacements contingent upon status of 1:1 and online testing needs)</p>	<p>FY18-21 Ensure that all students and personnel have access, as required, to a modern computer</p>	<p>Annual State Technology Inventory</p>	<p>Local funds QBE funds SPLOST Amount: \$200,000 annually (est.)</p>	<p>Superintendent Technology Director</p>
<p>Evaluate needs and assess options for wireless access for students beyond the school campus</p>	<p>FY18-21 Increase wireless access points available on buses Work with local internet providers and agencies to provide internet to families that cannot afford service at their home Work with Businesses to establish free “Wi-Fi” zones that are promoted through the school media</p>	<p>Wireless Student Surveys Local Technology Inventory</p>	<p>Local Funds Community Partnerships Applicable Grants Amount: 15,000 annually (est)</p>	<p>Technology Director Transportation Director Network Administrator</p>

GOAL 2: Stakeholder Engagement/ Use of Technology		UTILIZE TECHNOLOGY APPLICATIONS TO ENHANCE COMMUNICATION WITH THE COMMUNITY TO ENSURE STAKEHOLDERS REMAIN INFORMED AND CONNECTED WITH THE SCHOOL AND DISTRICT		
<u>Strategies</u>	<u>Benchmark</u>	<u>Evaluation Method</u>	<u>Funding Source/Amount</u>	<u>Person Responsible</u>
Provide Stakeholder Trainings that support use of current technologies and Digital Citizenship skills	FY 18-21 Social Media Live Videos and Web based Videos/Information School based parent technology trainings	Agendas, Sign In Sheets	Local funds QBE funds Federal funds	Technology Director District Technology Specialist School Leaders Media and Technology Specialists Parent Liaisons
Continue to provide parents with access to instructional materials, information, and other assistance through the district website (app), as well as school sites and learning management systems	FY 19 Revise and Revamp District/School Websites and mobile based app access FY18-21 Expand use of cloud based learning management systems that can be accessed anytime, anywhere by parents and students (i.e. Google Classroom)	Monitoring of school website and learning management system analytics	Local funds QBE funds Title funds Amount: \$15,000 annually (est.)	Technology Director District Technology Specialist Curriculum Director School Leaders Faculty and Staff Media and Technology Specialists Parent Liaisons

<p>Utilize Internet-based web portals, communication APPS, automated calling/texting systems, and email communications to keep parents and stakeholders informed (ongoing strategy)</p>	<p>FY 18-21 Teachers and administrators will continue to utilize Internet-based portals, automated calling/texting systems, and email to keep parents and stakeholders informed, as appropriate and needed</p>	<p>Automated call records Portal records Analytics Reports Email records</p>	<p>Local funds Title funds Applicable e-Rate funding awards Amount: \$25,000 annually (est.)</p>	<p>All District- and School-Level Leaders Faculty and Staff District Technology Personnel Parent Liaisons</p>
<p>Utilize Social Media to create a “brand” for the Fannin County School System</p>	<p>FY 18-21 Broaden use of Use Social Media to engage the local community through an interactive use of social media Use Social Media to not only inform, but to chronicle the milestones, happenings, and successes of the school district Use of social media boosting</p>	<p>Analytics Reports Social Media Usage Reports Climate Surveys Title Parent Surveys</p>	<p>Local Funds Amount \$2,500 (est)</p>	<p>All District- and School-Level Leaders District Technology Personnel Parent Liaisons</p>

GOAL 3: Instructional Technology				
IMPROVE STUDENT TECHNOLOGY USE THAT ALLOWS STUDENTS TO COMMUNICATE, CREATE, AND COLLABORATE IN THE DIGITAL GLOBAL SOCIETY				
<u>Strategies</u>	<u>Benchmark</u>	<u>Evaluation Method</u>	<u>Funding Source/Amount</u>	<u>Person Responsible</u>
Create a K-12 plan for incorporating Digital Citizenship into the current curriculum.	FY 19 Create grade level expectations for Digital Citizenship and begin implementation FY 20-21 Full implementation of Digital Citizenship Plan	Review by school leaders of practices already in place, Digital Citizenship Grade Level Plan created	N/A	Technology Director District Technology Specialist School Leaders Media Specialists
All classrooms in grades 3-8 will offer blended-learning by using cloud based learning management systems (i.e. Google Classroom)	FY 19 50% of classrooms 3-8 FY 20 75% of classrooms 3-8 FY 21 100% of classrooms 3-8	Utilize instructional monitoring software and equipment to monitor instructional use of technology by students Staff and Student Surveys	Local funds SPLOST QBE funds Title funds Applicable grants Amount: 50,000 (est)	Technology Director District Technology Specialist School Leaders Faculty and Staff Curriculum Director Media and Technology Specialists Parent Liaisons
Increase use of technology devices that incorporate STEM initiatives such as: Interactive panels/tables, virtual/augmented reality robotics, 3-D printers, digital scientific tools	FY 19-21 Continued training in STEM and integration into curriculum Training in use of high tech tools in the classroom	Focus Walk Data STEM Certifications	Local funds SPLOST QBE funds Title funds Applicable grants Amount: \$250,000 (est.)	Technology Director Curriculum Director/STEM Coordinator Federal Programs Directors District Technology Specialist School Leaders

GOAL 4: ADMINISTRATIVE USES OF TECHNOLOGY	INCREASE THE APPLICATION AND USE OF TECHNOLOGY EQUIPMENT AND APPLICATIONS TO ENHANCE JOB PERFORMANCE AND PRODUCTIVITY			
<u>Strategies</u>	<u>Benchmark</u>	<u>Evaluation Method</u>	<u>Funding Source/Amount</u>	<u>Person Responsible</u>
Provide in-depth training for all personnel based on instructional program goals and administrative software needs through a train-the-trainer model and evaluate proficiency of use	FY 18-21 All current and new personnel will be trained directly or through a train-the-trainer model, as required, and will achieve proficiency in all job-related applications	Locally conducted Gap Analyses Professional learning surveys Personnel evaluations	Local funds Professional learning funds Title Funds Applicable Grants Amount: \$50,000 annually (est.)	Technology Director Personnel Director Curriculum Director Federal Programs Directors School Leaders District- and School-Level Technology Personnel
Ongoing evaluation of current software used for administrative purposes (i.e. email, accounting, data management, student information systems, technical support, inventory management)	FY 18 Inventory current administrative Software and Renewal Dates FY 18-21 Review Inventory Software for Technology for purchase If needed, evaluate new software and purchase or renew current software for administrative purposes	Inventory Lists Quotes and Specifications from Vendors	N/A Cost for Inventory Software: \$7500.00 (est)	Technology Director Finance Director Personnel Director Curriculum Director School Leaders District- and School-Level Technology Personnel

Appendix A: District Acceptable Use Policy

Public Notice and Hearing


The Fannin County School System published a public notice in the local newspaper concerning a scheduled meeting (public hearing) at the Board of Education office. An agenda item included revisions to the Acceptable Use Policy (Technology Protection Measure and Internet Safety Policy). The meeting was conducted at the time and location that was published in the newspaper and indicated on Board agendas.

An Internet Acceptable Use Policy was discussed during a publicly-held Board work session meeting on February 7, 2012. It was an agenda item and discussed again and tabled for public review during the regular monthly Board meeting held on February 9, 2012. The proposed and tabled policy was brought before the Board again for review during a publicly-held Board work session meeting on March 6, 2012. It was an agenda item and discussed again and approved in its current form at the regularly scheduled Board meeting held on March 8, 2012.


February 2012 and March 2012 agendas and minutes are included in this document, and they are also on file at the district's central office: Fannin County Board of Education, 2290 East First Street, Blue Ridge, Georgia.

February 9, 2012: Meeting Agenda/Excerpt of Minutes

<https://eboard.eboardsolutions.com/Meetings/PrintItem.aspx?S=4066&M...>



Regular Meeting
2/9/2012 6:00:00 PM
2290 East First Street
Blue Ridge, Georgia 30513
Phone: 706-632-3771 Fax:706-632-7583



Printed : 4/20/2014 6:35 AM EST

FANNIN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Superintendent
Mark Henson

Board Members
Sandra Mercier, Chair
Steve Stanley, Vice Chair
Bobby Bearden
Terry Bramlett
Lewis DeWeese

1. Call To Order
2. Invocation
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Consent Agenda
 - A. Approve Agenda
 - B. Approve Minutes
 - C. Requests
 - a. School Facility Use Requests
 - b. School Field Trip Requests
 - c. School Fund Raiser Requests
5. Public Comment
6. Financial Report
7. Construction Update
8. Review of Local Board Training
9. Review Revised Board Policy IFBG- Internet Acceptable Use Policy
10. Budget Calendar
11. Personnel
12. Superintendent's Comments
13. Board Members' Comments
14. Adjourn

1 of 1 4/20/2014 6:35 AM

Mr. Henson stated paving of the subsoil parking area was complete and seeding of the drainage area was complete.

Karen Walton, Director of Curriculum and School Improvement, reviewed the current Board Code of Ethics Policy BH and the Board Member Conflict of Interest Policy BHA with board members. Mrs. Walton stated the purpose of this review was to ensure the Board is in compliance with the mandate issued by the Georgia Department of Education regarding local board training.

Dr. Michael Gwatney, Director of Technology & Media Services, reviewed with the Board the current Internet Acceptable Use Policy. Due to a recent order from the FCC, school districts receiving e-rate funds must have an Internet safety policy in place that provides for the education of students regarding appropriate online behavior. The change is an addition to the existing federal requirement that school districts monitor online activity.

Moved, seconded, and carried to table revised policy IFBG – Internet Acceptable Use (see attached).

Moved, seconded, and carried to approve the FY2013 budget calendar (see attached).

March 8, 2012: Meeting Agenda/Excerpt of Minutes

complete; 12) the suspended ceiling installation is 50% complete; 13) the firework installation is complete; 14) the interior and exterior doors are onsite; and 15) the lockers are fabricated and awaiting delivery.

Moved, seconded, and carried to approve the financial report for the month ending January 31, 2012. Mark Henson, Superintendent, stated the SPLOST check received in February for the month of December was \$264,670.10.

Moved, seconded, and carried to approve revised policy IFBG – Internet Acceptable Use (see attached).

Moved, seconded, and carried to approve the purchase of four 72 – passenger Thomas school buses from Peach State Truck Sales. The total cost will be \$346,736.00 and SPLOST funds will be used to pay for the buses (see attached).

Moved, seconded, and carried to set the 2012 Fannin County High School Prom for Saturday, May 5, 2012, at North Georgia Technology College, and to set the graduation date for the 2011 – 2012 school year for Friday, May 25, 2012, at 8:00 p.m. in the football stadium. The rain date will be Saturday, May 26, 2012, in the

<https://eboard.eboardsolutions.com/Meetings/PrintItem.aspx?S=4066&M...>

 [Print](#)



Regular Meeting
3/8/2012 6:00:00 PM
2290 East First Street
Blue Ridge, Georgia 30513
Phone: 706-632-3771 Fax: 706-632-7583

Printed : 4/20/2014 6:34 AM EST

FANNIN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Superintendent
Mark Henson

Board Members
Sandra Mercier, Chair
Steve Stanley, Vice Chair
Bobby Bearden
Terry Bramlett
Lewis DeWeese



1. Call To Order
2. Invocation
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Consent Agenda
 - A. Approve Agenda
 - B. Approve Minutes
 - C. Requests
 - a. School Facility Use Requests
 - b. School Field Trip Requests
 - c. School Fund Raiser Requests
5. Public Comment
6. Construction Update
7. Financial Report
8. Approve Board Policy IFBG- Internet Acceptable Use Policy
9. Approve Bus Bids
10. Set Date for Prom and Graduation
11. Recommendation for School Calendar 2012-2013
12. Personnel
13. Superintendent's Comments
14. Board Members' Comments
15. Adjourn

The approved Internet Acceptable Use Policy (Fannin County Board of Education Policy IFBG) was last revised March 2012.

ACCEPTABLE USE AND INTERNET SAFETY GUIDELINES FOR THE COMPUTER NETWORK OF THE FANNIN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Fannin County School District is pleased to make available to students access to interconnected computer systems within the District and to the Internet, the worldwide network that provides various means of accessing significant educational materials and opportunities.

Access to the School District's computer systems and the Internet is provided for educational purposes and research that is consistent with the school district's educational mission and goals. In order for the school district to be able to continue to make its computer network and Internet access available, every student must take responsibility for appropriate and lawful use of this access.

The Fannin County School District will enforce the following Acceptable Use and Internet Safety Guidelines. Upon reading the guidelines, each student must sign an approved Internet Network Access Agreement before they will be given the opportunity to enjoy Internet access at school. If a student is under the age of 18, his or her parents or legal guardian must also read and sign the agreement. The school district will not provide access to any student who fails to obtain the required signature on an approved agreement.

Below are the provisions and guidelines users must agree to comply with and uphold. If there are any questions about these provisions, users should contact the school administration or the Director of Technology at the Fannin County School System Technology Department (706-258-2791). Anyone violating these guidelines shall be subject to, at least, the revocation of privileges.

I. PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

The act of signing an approved Internet Network Access Agreement signifies agreement to follow not only the rules in these guidelines, but also agreeing to refrain from any other misuse of the computer network that is not included in the guidelines but has the effect of harming another or his or her property. Students and their parents will be responsible for compensating the school district for any losses, costs, or damages incurred by the district relating to or arising out of the misuse of the school's network or equipment.

II. TERM OF PERMITTED USE

A student who submits to the school, as directed, a properly signed agreement and follows the guidelines to which she or he has agreed will have computer network and Internet access during the course of the student's enrollment in the Fannin County School System.

III. ACCEPTABLE USES

The school district is providing access to its computer networks and the Internet for only educational purposes and research consistent with the school district's educational mission and goals. Anyone who is unsure about whether a particular activity is educational or consistent with the school's mission-should consult with a teacher to help decide if a use is appropriate.

IV. UNACCEPTABLE USES

Among the uses that are considered unacceptable and which constitute a violation of the guidelines are the following:

A. Accessing, sending or posting materials or communications that are:

1. Damaging to another's reputation

2. Abusive
3. Obscene
4. Sexually oriented
5. Threatening
6. Contrary to the Board of Education policy on harassment
7. In violation of the Board of Education policy on bullying
8. Illegal

B. Using the network for any illegal activity, including violations of copyright or other contracts or transmitting any material in violation of Federal or State laws and regulations

C. Using the network for private financial or commercial gain

D. Utilizing technology resources in a manner not approved by the school

E. Utilizing any program or device having the purpose of damaging the school district's network, hardware, software, or other user's system

F. Gaining unauthorized access to resources or entities

G. Invading the privacy of others

H. Using another user's password or account

I. Posting material authorized or created by another without his or her consent

J. Posting of anonymous messages

K. Using the network for commercial or private advertising

L. Forging of electronic messages

M. Attempting to read, delete, copy or modify the electronic messages of other system users without authorization from the teacher or to deliberately interfere with the data of others.

N. Using the network while access privileges are suspended or revoked

O. Using the network in a fashion inconsistent with directions from teachers and other staff and generally accepted network etiquette

P. Making use of any communication program, tool, or application not approved by the school

Q. INTERNET SAFETY AND EDUCATION

A. Individual Responsibility of Parents and User: All users and their parents or guardians are advised that due to the nature of the Internet, it is extremely difficult for the Board of Education to completely regulate and monitor the information received or sent by students. Students will be required to make independent decisions and use good judgment in their use of the Internet.

B. Personal Safety: Be safe. When using the computer network and Internet, users should not reveal personal information such as name, home address or home telephone number without authorization from the school.

C. Users should not arrange an in-person meeting with someone they "meet" on the computer without their parent's permission.

D. In order to promote the safety and security of students when accessing the Internet and any online communication programs, the school district will provide age-appropriate education regarding appropriate online behavior, including interacting with others

on social networking websites and in chat rooms, as well as cyberbullying awareness and response. At all grade levels, this shall consist of instruction in the computer lab setting. In addition, at the elementary level, special group sessions with the counselor and school resource officer will be provided. At the middle school level, group sessions with the counselor and resource officer will address this topic, and classroom instruction in business/health education will focus on required state standards regarding Internet and general safety. At the high school level, all students shall complete a required computer course that addresses these issues, and student advisement sessions will address appropriate online behavior and response.

E. "Hacking" and Other Illegal Activities: It is a violation of these guidelines to use the school's computer network or the Internet to gain unauthorized access to other computers or computer systems, or to attempt to gain such unauthorized access.

F. Active Restriction Measures: The school district, either by itself or in combination with the Data Acquisition Site providing Internet access, will utilize filtering software or other technologies to prevent students from accessing visual depictions that are (i) obscene, (ii) child pornography, or (iii) harmful to minors. The school will also monitor the online activities of students, through direct observation and/or technical means, to ensure that the students are not accessing such depictions or any other materials which are inappropriate for minors.

VI. PRIVACY

Electronic devices, as well as access to the network and Internet, are provided as a tool for education. The school district reserves the right to monitor all computer and Internet activity by a user. Therefore, privacy is not guaranteed. All such information files shall be and remain the property of the school district and no user shall have the expectation of privacy regarding such materials.

VII. FAILURE TO FOLLOW GUIDELINES

The use of the computer network and the Internet is a privilege, not a right. Anyone violating these guidelines shall be subject to having their privileges revoked and face potential disciplinary or legal actions.

Appendix B: Child Internet Protection Act (CIPA) Compliance

Internet Safety and Education

The Fannin County School System has an Acceptable Use Policy (IFBG) in place that addresses Internet safety. It outlines processes for the education of students regarding appropriate online behavior and Internet safety, including educating students about interacting with others on social networking websites and in chat rooms, as well as cyber-bullying awareness and response.

In order to promote the safety and security of students when accessing Internet resources, the school system provides age-appropriate education regarding appropriate online behavior, including interacting with others on social networking websites and in chat rooms, as well as cyberbullying awareness and response. At all grade levels, this consists of instruction in the computer lab setting. In addition, at the elementary level, special group sessions with the counselor and school resource officer will be provided. At the middle school level, group sessions with the counselor and resource officer address this topic, and classroom instruction in business/health education will focus on required state standards regarding Internet and general safety. At the high school level, all students complete a required computer course that addresses these issues, and student advisement sessions address appropriate online behavior and response.

Technology Protection Measures

The Fannin County School District utilizes a variety of methods and technologies to protect all network users – both adults and minors – against access to visual depictions that are obscene, pornographic, or, with respect to use of computers with Internet access by minors, otherwise harmful or inappropriate. District technology personnel are proactive and strive to maintain a safe network environment. Technology staff and instructional personnel are constantly monitoring online activities to ensure that our students are being protected when they are online.

In addition to active monitoring by faculty and staff members, the district uses a wide array of devices and programs to ensure end-user security while utilizing the network and Internet. A WatchGuard Firebox appliance is used as the district firewall. It filters all incoming and outgoing Internet traffic. This appliance is also used to block specific programs and ports, as needed.

In conjunction with the firewall appliance, the district utilizes the iBoss program as a content filter and network use manager. This program prevents access to any non-educational websites. The network users – administrators, faculty, staff, and students – operate behind the content filter, and an approval process is in place allowing blocked sites to be reviewed and approved prior to unblocking. iBoss also monitors all search engine queries for inappropriate terms. If any are detected, an automated report is sent to the technology director and network administrator for review. These personnel then contact school administrators for follow-up, as needed.

A Barracuda appliance is used by the district to filter email activity. Its function is to monitor each incoming email message for SPAM, inappropriate content, and viruses. It is also used to monitor overall email usage trends, and it adds an automated message disclaimer to all outgoing email from our system that email is for professional/educational use only.

Each student at the high school and middle school is provided with a student login account on the network; each student has his/her own unique login/password on the network. By having students individually login to the network, district officials are able to monitor computer activity more effectively. In addition, with an individual login, students are provided with a mapped network drive that is exclusive to them for storage of their student work and other projects. Group policy is used for all student accounts to prevent access to many administrative functions, such as the control panel and the run command. Should an issue arise, it is dealt with in a prompt manner to protect the safety of all users and the network.

Appendix C: Internet Access Agreement

Administrative Regulation IFBG-R(1)

As required by Fannin County Board of Education Policy IFBG-Internet Acceptable Use, the following form shall be distributed to all students and parents upon enrollment in any Fannin County School. Both student and parent shall sign the agreement prior to the student being allowed to utilize this resource.

INTERNET NETWORK ACCESS AGREEMENT

I accept responsibility to abide by the Board of Education's Acceptable Use Guidelines. I understand that the use of the computer network and Internet is a privilege not a right, and I agree:

- To use the computer network and Internet for appropriate educational purpose and research;
- To use the computer network and Internet only with permission of teachers and administrators;
- To be considerate of other users on the network and use appropriate language for school situations;
- Not to intentionally degrade or disrupt Internet network services or equipment. This includes but is not limited to tampering with computer hardware or software, vandalizing data, invoking computer viruses, attempting to gain access to restricted or unauthorized network services, or violating copyright laws;
- To immediately report any security problems or breeches of these responsibilities to appropriate School staff;
- To comply with all of the rules and expectations included in the policy and procedures;
- Not to divulge personal information such as addresses and telephone numbers over the Internet.

I understand that I have no right to privacy when I use the school Internet network, and I consent to staff monitoring of my communications.

I also understand that any conduct that is in conflict with these responsibilities is inappropriate and may result in termination of network access and possible disciplinary action.

Student name (please print): _____

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

Due to the nature of the Internet, it is neither practical nor possible for the Board of Education to enforce compliance with user rules at all times. Accordingly, parents and students must recognize that students will be required to make independent decisions and use good judgment in their use of the Internet. Therefore, parents must participate in the decision whether to allow their children access to the Internet and must communicate their own expectations to their children regarding its use.

As the parent/legal guardian of the above student, I have read, understand and agree that my child or ward shall comply with the terms of the School District's Use and Internet Safety Guidelines for student access to the School District's computer network and the Internet.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

Appendix D: Procedures for Ensuring Interoperability and Redeploying Equipment

The Fannin County School System's procedures for interoperability require that all schools purchase hardware and software that is compatible with all the other schools. This allows the movement and redeployment of equipment to different schools in the district as needed. The school system uses a Microsoft Windows network environment and all equipment and software purchases must be compatible with this network.

When new equipment is purchased to replace older equipment, the older equipment is redeployed to an instructional area that has an instructional use for the equipment. If no instructional needs are found, then the equipment is used for parts. If the parts are no longer needed, then the equipment is discarded according to state guidelines.