



Miller County Elementary School

Five Year Technology Plan



2013 – 2018

Revised February 3, 2016

Cleve Roland, Principal



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Technology Team

James Phillips – Technology Director
Cleve Roland – Principal
Cille Richardson – Academic Coach
Dana Nunnery – Teacher
T.J. Cook - Parent

Technology Vision

The Miller County Elementary School envisions that our students will have access to the technology that they need to be skilled problem solvers. We will strive to ensure that all students will achieve the high standards listed by the State of Georgia and every student attending our school will learn to demonstrate competency in computer applications.

Mission Statement

Pirates exhibit integrity by upholding the highest ethical standards and moral values, make positive character driven choices, are responsible for creating accountable partnerships, and are empowered to respect and be respected, and believe that they can achieve excellence through confidence in themselves, their school and their community.

Demographics

Currently, the Miller County Elementary School has approximately 561 students in attendance; 257 are female and 304 are male. Of the total number of students, approximately 57 % are White, 37 % are Black, >1 % are Indian, 2 % are Hispanic, and 1 % are Asian.

Current Technology

During the summer and fall of 2013, the Miller County Elementary School's internet access was upgraded through an ERATE grant. The school's wiring was upgraded from CAT5 to CAT6, a 10 Gbps WAN fiber line was installed to connect the school to the Board Office, internet bandwidth was expanded to 100 Mbs, and new blade servers were brought on line to move the school data into a "virtual" environment. In the fall of 2013, the district funded hardware upgrades for 23 teachers and 5 office personnel within the school. Old hardware is slated for upgrade, if possible, and will be re-distributed as student computers. There is an average of <1% computers per student in the school. We currently have 37 working student computers within the classrooms. Students also have access to only 33 working laptops on the computer on wheels cart.

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Most of the student computers are obsolete or in need of an upgrade. They are all running Windows XP which is about to meet its "End of Life", which means no more security updates will be available. The processor speeds and the amount of memory of all student computers are below industry standard required for much of our learning software. As of right now, there are 25 old lab and teacher computers targeted for upgrade to Windows 7 and Office 2010 by the District Office of Technology. The technology department suggests that up to 10 of those computers may be used to replace old student computers within the elementary school.

The elementary school does not have an adequate firewall or filtering system in place. The current firewall lacks a GUI interface for rule management and creation, is past its "End of Life", and does not have levels of security which are required to provide tiered security at the school level. The filtering system was originally configured to serve as a proxy and does not comply with the recommended usage outlined by the vendor. The vendor cannot support the filter with the current configuration. The system needs reconfiguring as an in-line content filter which would filter all traffic and allow not bypassing of the filter unless approved at the district level. The main concern is that reworking the filter may bottle neck data streams due to lack of capacity. District technology is in communication with UDT, a technology firm, to determine if the filter will work in our existing system and what changes to the network will be required.

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The System conducted a Network Assessment in January 2016. The results reflected the need to begin updating the CISCO switches in the school. E-rate funds will be used in FY17 to upgrade one IDF tower by replacing 3 of the old switches with new models. The choice was made to do a complete IDF room because the newer versions are not compatible with those reaching end of life. The old switches will be stored in technology for emergency replacement of end of life switches as needed. This aligns with plans to continue upgrading IDF rooms yearly or every other year, depending on the availability of E-rate funding. Meetings with the leadership at the district level during County Wide Planning meetings have indicated that the District is updating the System Technology plan to align with each school. The Elementary school is adding District actions and planning as a component of the February 2015⁶ update to this technology plan.

Milestones

- In 2014, all old monitors were updated to flat screen models
- A 30 laptop COW (computer on wheels) was assembled from old computers updated by the technology department and put in to use in 2014.
- The student to computer ratio has improved since the creation of this plan. In 2015 the Elementary school was able to add 30 desktop units and create an onsite computer lab.

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- In 2015, 2 computer labs were built buy the technology department in the BOE buildings using old equipment. They were used by the elementary school during Georgia Milestones testing helping the System achieve a 90 percent online test rate.

Needs Assessment

We are continuously evaluating the types of technology available and the integration of technology in the Miller County Elementary School. This technology plan is based on a variety of mechanisms including informal observations by administrators, technology contacts, and teachers. We also receive student and community feedback on technology via surveys conducted during our annual needs assessment. Technology issues are discussed in leadership meetings so that feedback can be collected throughout the year. There are procedures in place that guide teachers and staff in the reporting of technology issues. In addition to the informal feedback collected throughout the school year, a committee was formed to develop specific goals and the strategies to meet those goals over the next five years. The following people served on that committee:

Cleve Roland; Principal, Miller County Elementary School
Cille Richardson; Academic Coach, Miller County Elementary School
James Phillips; Curriculum/Technology Director, Miller County School System
Dana Nunnery; Teacher, Miller County School System
T.J. Cook; Parent, Miller County Elementary School
Miller County Elementary School Council

The committee met October 31, 2013 to review the information and data collected by the individual members. The team members incorporated their ideas to plan strategies for technology improvements and enhancements in the Five Year Technology Plan Template provided by the curriculum director.

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Revisions were based on Elementary School Leadership meetings

District review team:

Cleve G. Roland, Elementary School Principal
Cille Richardson, Instructional Coach for the Elementary School
James Phillips, Curriculum and Technology Director
Preston Bowen, Lead Technology Specialist

The Elementary school leadership team holds regular monthly meetings and is revising the plan based on the needs established by the team. Their identified needs for technology include:

- Revise the Elementary Technology to ensure alignment with the District technology and strategic plans.
- Add additional computers to continue reducing the school's student to computer ratio.
- Update and or replace existing computers that are reaching their end of life

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- Work with the District to prepare for Standard 4 (Resources and Support Systems) in preparation for the 2017 AdvancED school accreditation review.
- Improve the school website so that it meets the needs of all stakeholders

Integration

Integrating Technology in the Curriculum

The Miller County Elementary school places a major emphasis on integrating technology into the curriculum in kindergarten through grade five. Teachers have (or will have) been taught to use SmartBoard, create PowerPoints, WebQuests, educational software, Student Response System, TLE, PowerSchool, Google Chrome, SLDS, and student presentations through the use of technology in the classroom.

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The school continues to pursue integration of Technology in the curriculum are working to add software that supports core content areas.

The Elementary school is proud to celebrate the following Milestones:

- 11/04/14; all ES teachers were trained to use the Student Longitudinal Data System
- 7/28/15; all teachers were trained in the use of I-Station, reading support software
- 7/29/15 Teacher in grades 1-5 were trained to use I-Learn, math support software
- Grade K has been scheduled for training on the use of I-Learn
- Sept. – April 2015; All ES teachers were provided smartboard training

Teacher Training and Technology

The focus of teacher training is to better assist teacher in the integration of software into the curriculum. Training topics are divided into the following areas: management (PowerSchool), teacher (PowerTeacher), teacher (Smart Board Training), application (word processing, database, and spreadsheet – including Microsoft Office), Multimedia including Galileo, Discovery, and PowerPoint), and Telecommunication (Internet, e-mail, creating web pages, electronic research, and others).

Instructional - Professional development to integrate technology in all areas of teaching and learning is offered on a regular and special request basis through RESA services. All offerings are listed in the professional development calendar on the RESA web site. Registration is handled through the professional learning department at the Central Office. A major emphasis will be placed on training all elementary teachers in the use of Microsoft 2010. The major emphasis of the training will be PowerPoint presentations, creating web pages, researching the internet, creating graphs from research information (spreadsheet) and corresponding with others through e-mail and other multimedia such as web pages and blogs.



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RESA and on-site training will continue moving forward.

Elementary School Milestones:

- RESA training: Tools for reading and writing grades K-5; Teachers attended split sessions by grade level on; 2/18/15, 3/12/15, and 3/18/15.
- RESA training: Innovation in K-8 Math – One teacher from each grade (K-5) attended. Sessions were as follows; Grades K-5 attended 1/25/15 and 1/27/16; Grades K-2 are scheduled for 2/29/16 Grades 3-5 are scheduled for 3/1/16
 1. In 2017 there will be four more training session to complete the Innovation in K-8
- Local Training: Development of Curriculum maps and Pacing Guides; All teachers attended the two day training; 5/27 and 5/28, 2015.

Critical Issues

The critical issues for the elementary school are high student/computer ratio, professional development, and computer labs for intervention and testing. We currently have <1% computers per student and we want to increase that to 6 per student. Student work stations in the classroom provide a valuable tool for differentiation and intervention. We hope to increase our computer to student numbers through the use of Federal grants, State grants, and local funding. Those funds will also be used to maintain and replace equipment as needed as appropriate. We have upgraded teacher computers with Office 2010 and will need to ensure they receive training that will improve their ability to incorporate technology into the curriculum. Professional learning dollars allocated to the school will be used to support teacher training in the use of programs, software, and multimedia associated with the upgrade. We currently use SmartBoards in our classrooms and need additional training so that teachers become proficient with the technology. There are two intervention classrooms that desperately need computers so that students can access our intervention software, Math and Reading Academy. We need a computer lab for use in testing, group work, and efficient collection of student surveys.

If we are able to acquire the additional intervention computers we will be able to monitor the success of implementation through the progress monitoring tools provided with Math and Reading Academy. In addition, CRCT scores will be expected to increase as more computer access is made available to our students. The professional development of our teachers can be monitored through student growth records within the Georgia Student Longitudinal Data System (SLDS). We also need nine smart boards for the Elementary School (four for kindergarten, two for first grade, one for reading intervention, one for health, and one for conference room in front office for teacher training and professional development. Teachers have also requested Student Response Systems within the classrooms to gauge instant student performance and to assist with benchmark and SLO testing. We will also need equipment to

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maintain existing smart boards and computer equipment. We also need ink cartridges to fully implement software that has been purchased for the classrooms. Document Camera's will also be needed to display images for teacher created materials as well as commercial materials that do not have online resources available. This will support all content areas.

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Going forward the Leadership has identified two critical issues.

- Updating the website to meet stakeholder needs
- Replacing an aging hardware system (old computers and switches)
- Preparing for Standard 4 (resources and support systems) in advance of the 2017 accreditation review

Goal

1. We will encourage learning that is relevant and authentic through the use of technology.

Rational: If technology is available, students can be more autonomous, collaborative, and reflective than in classrooms where technology is not present. Additional access to technology will provide students with the opportunity to engage in real-life applications of academics and encourage students to be more independent and responsible for their own learning. In a knowledge-based society, it is important that students have the self-confidence, knowledge base, technology fluency, and cooperative skills that will enable them to continue to learn throughout their lives. Technology facilitates the study of academics within the context of meaningful and authentic applications.

Strategies:

Proposed Timeline

Maintain the WAN/LAN connectivity in the school	Implemented by the district and evaluated yearly by the school to establish needs.
Increase the classroom student/computer ratio to 6 per student	Submit ongoing requests to the district for new student computers and explore grant funding options over the next 5 years
New firewall and filtering system for the school	Implementation in-line with district goal of 1 year to completion

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Milestones:

- The firewall and filtering system was updated to meet CIPA compliance through the use of the State of Georgia 7MM grant.
- WAN/LAN connectivity has been maintained and extended by adding 72 additional drops and 6 additional wireless access points in November of 2015.



- 21 old ink jet printers were replaced in FY15 by Laser Jet type to cut printing costs
- 5 projectors were replaced using Title I funds

2. We will align the use of technology with local and state content standards and curricula to enhance learning and enrich teaching.

Rational: Standards are broad based statements that describe student knowledge, skills, and abilities, establishing a target for learning across grade levels and content areas. Aligning technology use in the curriculum to standards insures that each learner obtains the greatest educational benefit, preparation for real-world experiences.

Teachers will model and use productivity tools and internet resources in the classroom and are encouraged to assign projects requiring technology skills.	Evaluated yearly with survey and ongoing with observation. Train teachers in the use of productivity tools and internet resources in ongoing professional development.
Teacher will attend workshops to better prepare them to make use of technology in the classroom	Implementation underway- the principal is encouraged to use professional development monies to pay for substitutes teachers for teacher technology training
Teachers will make goals for professional development about learning and integrating technology into their classroom	Will begin in Fall 2013 and be evaluated through TKES in an ongoing basis through 2018.

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Milestones:

- TKES continues being used as a teacher evaluation tool with 100 % participation
- Teacher training is ongoing and professional development monies are being used to pay substitutes and stipends to teachers attending professional development
- Teachers are surveyed yearly but the Data department and the information is shared with the school principal who works with the teachers, Instructional coaches, professional learning director, and superintendent, technology, and curriculum director to identify professional development needs.
- Smartboard training was conducted in 2015 based on walkthrough data provided by the curriculum director.

Budget

Professional Learning – Yearly support from Title IIA at 10% of school allocation est. \$ 4,000

