District Goals

Taunton Public Schools


The Taunton Technology Plan is informed by the system-wide goals and strategies as outline in the Taunton Public Schools’ Strategic Plan.

The system goals are:

1. **Post Secondary Pursuits**: We will work to continuously improve student achievement and prepare all learners for successful post-secondary pursuits.
2. **Personalization**: We will create a safe, inclusive and personalized learning environment for all students.
3. **Communication**: We will develop clear and effective forms of communication to enhance teaching and learning.
4. **Resource Management**: We will maximize the district’s resources of time, talent, and finances.
Benchmark 1
Commitment to a Clear Vision and Implementation Strategies

Taunton Public Schools

Benchmark 1
Commitment to a Clear Vision and Implementation Strategies

A. Clear Goals
1. Goals – The district’s technology plan contains a clearly stated and reasonable set of goals and implementation strategies that align with the district-wide school improvement plans.

Current Status: The technology plan in the past strived to support both the district’s goals and the DESE Technology Planning Benchmarks. To support both the District and the State Benchmarks, a cross-referencing or check needs to be conducted, and gaps need to be highlighted.

- 2014-2015: Update network to support the upcoming PARCC exam and to increase of bandwidth to provide uninterrupted WiFi access (TPS staff and guests).
- 2015-2016: Work with Principals to incorporate technology upgrades in their School Improvement Plans.
- 2016-2017: Continue to align the district’s goals with the DESE Technology Planning Benchmarks and will meet to review and develop our vision.

B. Technology Team
1. Technology Teams – The district has a technology team with representatives from a variety of stakeholder groups, including school committee members, administrators, and teachers. The technology team has the support of the district leadership team.

Current Status: The District has multiple technology groups.
1. District Technology Staff: consists of Tech Dept staff and Middle School IT specialists. These people are necessary for front line implementation of the technology plan. They meet every other month.
2. Working Technology Plan Team – consists of the 3 Middle School IT Specialists. We meet once a month to work on the Tech Plan, curriculum planning, policy development and, professional development planning.
3. Administration – The Technology Director reports on Technology Plan to Central Administration.
4. Technology Assessment Team – provides a yearly evaluation of the Technology Plan.
   - 2014-2015: The Technology Director will set up a schedule to meet with the various teams, discuss their charge and provide the communication between the teams.
   - 2016-2017: The Technology Director continues to meet with building administrators and central administration to discuss IT needs within the schools and classrooms.

C. Needs Assessment
1. Assessment of Products and Services for Teaching and Learning – The district assesses the technology products and services that will be needed to improve teaching and learning.
2. **Assessment of Products and Services to be Acquired** – The technology plan includes an assessment of services and products that are currently being used and that the district plans to acquire.

**Current Status:** Taunton conducted an internal technology assessment/review. The team developed recommendations for the district’s technology usage and systems.

- **2014-2015:** The Technology Assessment Team will develop an assessment for teachers using technologies with the help of building principals. They will also recommend additional assessments to be conducted during the year.
- **2015-2016:** Based on evaluation and recommendations of 2014-2015.
- **2016-2017:** Based on evaluation and recommendations of 2015-2016.

### D. CIPA Compliance

1. **AUP** – The district has a CIPA-Compliant Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) regarding Internet and Network use. The policy is updated as needed to help ensure safe and ethical use of resources by teachers and students.

**Current Status:** The district currently has an Acceptable Use Policy for all students and staff and a Social Networking Policy for staff in place. Taunton has a firewall-spam and content filter in place. Cyber bullying is a part of each school’s curriculum.

- **2014-2015:** The AUP (accepted in September 2013) is posted on our District’s website. The AUP is presented, discussed and signed by each staff member at the beginning of each school year. New personnel receive a copy of the AUP and sign the Internet Use Agreement. Students review the AUP yearly and the Internet Use Agreement is signed by students and parents/guardians. Begin exploring updating/purchasing a new Firewall.
- **2015-2016:** Same AUP procedure as the 2014-2015 school year. Secure funding for a new Firewall. Install new Firewall.
- **2016-2017:** Same AUP procedure as the 2014-2015 school year.

### E. Budget

1. **Technology Line Items in Budget** – The district has a budget for its local technology plan with line items for technology in its operational budget.

2. **Budget Includes** – The budget includes staffing, infrastructure, hardware, software, professional development, support, and contracted services (including telephone services).

**Current Status** 1&2: The district currently submits a budget proposal to support the technology plan to the Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations which includes infrastructure, hardware and software. Central office controls the budget for staffing, professional development, and contracted services including telephone services, cell and Internet services. Pending on budget finances, the Director is then given a final budget for the year from which to work with. The current proposed budget can be accessed below and will be replaced with the final approved budget when ready.

3. **Funding for Technology** – The district leverages the use of federal, state and private resources.

**Current Status:** The district leverages the use of federal, state and private resources, including grants, bond monies, and business partnerships.

4. **E-Rate** – For districts that plan to apply for E-rate reimbursement, the technology plan specifies how the district will pay for the non-discounted portion of their costs for services procured through E-rate.
Current Status: The District pays for all non-discounted portions of our costs for services procured through E-rate through the operational budget or the revolving accounts and will continue to do so.

F. Evaluation

1. Formative Evaluation – The district evaluates the effectiveness of technology resources toward attainment of education goals on a regular basis.

Current Status: The district evaluates many of the instructional software systems in place through teacher surveys, conferences and the comparison students’ formative assessment to students’ summative date (MCAS, DIBELS, etc.) using tools such as Test Wiz.

2. Evaluation Process – The district’s technology plan includes an evaluation process that enables it to monitor its progress in achieving its goals and to make mid-course corrections in response to new developments and opportunities as they arise.

Current Status: A Technology Assessment Team was put into place to conduct an annual internal evaluation of the Technology Plan and the Technology Department.
Benchmark 2
Technology Integration and Literacy

Taunton Public Schools


BENCHMARK 2

Technology Integration and Literacy

A. Clear Goals

1. **Outside Teaching Time** – At least 85% of teachers use technology every day, including some of the following areas: lesson planning, administrative tasks, communications, and collaboration. Teachers share information about technology uses with their colleagues.

   1. **Current Status**: Our teachers use technology for professional activities every day. Uses include:
      - Lesson Planning, Grade Book, Email, online assessments, IEP’s, Standards based report cards (elementary), progress/report cards and Test Wiz. Also, Chromebook Carts (laptop carts with 30 Chromebooks in each cart) will be used in classrooms (PARCC prep, research, etc).
      - 2014-2015: Continue to increase the use of SchoolBrains, our Student Information System – including Grade Book, IEP’s, report cards, teacher portals, and attendance.
         - SchoolBrains: Teachers are being provided training throughout the district during the school year: general use, grade books, report cards, attendance.
         - Instructional Technology: As we enroll Chromebooks in the Google Management Tool, Chromebook carts will be rolled out to schools to be used in the classrooms in preparation for the Spring PARCC exam.
      - 2015-2016:
         - SchoolBrains: Pilot “period attendance” at our high schools; pilot the parent portal.
         - Instructional Technology: Continue the use of Chromebook carts. Begin piloting student clickers in the classroom. Continue the use of other instructional technology (iPads, document cameras, projectors).
      - 2016-2017:
         - SchoolBrains: Continue piloting the parent portal in each school level (elementary, middle and high school).
         - Instructional Technology: Many classrooms have begun using document cameras and some teachers are using iPads in their classrooms.

2. **For Teaching and Learning** - At least 85% of teachers use technology appropriately with students every day to improve student learning of the curriculum. Activities include some of the following: research, multimedia, simulations, data interpretation, communications, and collaboration.
Current Status: We have updated all computers to Windows 7. Most technology use occurs in the elementary and middle school computer labs. In the high school, each department now has a computer lab. Departments that are focused on technology content (i.e. Industrial Arts, Business, and the Arts) have specialty computers. Computer labs are updated per department in the high school through the revision. True integration is taking place in the high school’s Social Studies department where teaching and learning is completely integrated with SmartBoard technology. Elementary and Middle schools are using projectors and document cameras (as funding allows).

- 2014-2015: Disseminate new Math curriculum in the elementary and middle schools. Continue providing technology such as projectors and other instructional technology to classrooms with training.
- 2015-2016: Continue to provide instructional technology and training as funding allows.
- 2016-2017: Continue to provide instructional technology and training as funding allows.

B. Technology Literacy

Students:

Current Status: Students are being exposed to more use of technology due to the introduction of Chromebook carts. Instead of scheduling computer lab time for classes, teachers reserve the cart for students to use in their daily learning.

- 2014-2015: Develop new middle school technology curriculum including developing lessons that incorporate various test taking tools incorporated in the PARCC test.
- 2015-2016: Evaluate each school’s need for increasing student technology use. Propose recommendations.

Teachers:

Current Status: Teachers have met the advanced and proficient levels in technology.

- 2014-2015: Teachers will be trained in the systems they use for teaching and learning. An assessment will be conducted for teacher to self-report.

C. Staffing

1. The district has a district-level Director of Technology.
2. The district has three middle school
3. The district has staff dedicated to data management and assessment.
4. The district has staff dedicated to the network management and daily technology troubleshooting.

Current Status: TPS employs 1 district level Director of Technology, 3 middle schools IT teachers in the middle schools, 2 network administrators to support network maintenance, 1 level one computer technician and 3 FTEs are dedicated to data entry and assessment. TPS lost the outsourcing of the 1 IT specialist to support teachers (Mrs. Langille) and 9 elementary computer lab assistants due to a budget deficit.
• 2014-2015: Renew the contract for the Director of Technology. Curriculum supervisors, library media specialist, and high school teachers in technology departments also help to support their teachers. Assess staffing for data as demand for data grows.

• 2015-2016: Renew the contract for the Director of Technology. Propose new job descriptions for technology staff and if budget allows, request an additional level one computer technician.

• 2016-2017: Renew the contract for the Director of Technology. Curriculum supervisors, library media specialist, and high school teachers in technology departments also help to support their teachers. Assess staffing for data as demand for data grows.
Benchmark 3
Technology Professional Development

Taunton Public Schools


BENCHMARK 3

Technology Professional Development

A. Staff Professional Development

At the end of three years, at least 85% of district staff will have participated in high-quality professional development that includes technology skills and the integration of technology into instruction.

Current Status: One of the priorities for the Three-Year Professional Development Plan is Instructional Technology. Technology PD will be presented at the department level (i.e. Industrial Arts, Business), by curriculum level (i.e., Reading Street, new math curriculum, document camera), by software usage (Schoolbrains, Google Docs) and other district initiatives.

• 2014-2015: Provide SchoolBrains Grade Book Training and Report Card Training. Individual schools continue to hold Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) which many teachers are creating technology led lessons.
• 2015-2016: Introduce Google Docs district wide and provide support as needed.

B. Sustained and Ongoing

Technology professional development is sustained and ongoing and includes coaching, modeling best practices, district-based mentoring, conferences, study groups, and online professional development. The professional development includes concepts of universal design and scientifically based researched models.

Current Status: Instructional Technology and use of resources (i.e. SchoolBrains, Chromebooks, Google Docs) are a high priority. As departments, curriculum areas develop their technology professional development needs and the models for delivering are being addressed, which includes sustained and ongoing methods.

• 2014-2015: Continue to offer SchoolBrains support/training where needed. Introduce Google Docs to teachers and students.
• 2015-2016: Begin to migrate to Google for email and offer support/training to staff. Evaluate staff on technology support needed. Offer support/training based on evaluation and recommendations.
• 2015-2016: Based on evaluation and recommendations of 2015-2016.
C. Needs Assessment

Professional development planning includes an assessment of District and teachers’ needs. The assessment is based on the competencies listed in the Massachusetts Technology Self-Assessment Tool.

- 2014-2015: As new instructional technology is introduced, develop a needs assessment survey and select the best way to assess staff.
- 2015-2016: Disseminate the needs assessment survey. Review survey results and develop a plan.
- 2016-2017: Based on evaluation and recommendations of 2015-2016 survey.

D. Administrators’ and Teachers’ Needs

Administrators and teachers need to consider their own needs for technology professional development.

Current Status: Current needs are communicated by principals.

- 2014-2015: During meeting with principals, faculty technology needs are addressed. Director of Technology and Technology staff are readily available to help staff at faculty meetings or one-on-one as requested.
Benchmark 4
Accessibility of Technology

Taunton Public Schools

BENCHMARK 4
Accessibility of Technology

A. Hardware Access

1. **Student to Computer Ratio** – Students have access to computers in classrooms (desktops, laptop carts, tablets, etc), labs and library.

   **Current Status:** The District is constantly refreshing our computers and adding desktops and laptop carts to each school.

   • 2015-2016: Continue to secure funding to add additional Chromebooks and computers/network upgrades.

2. **Portable Devices** – The district provides students with access to portable and/or handheld electronic devices appropriate to their grade level.

   **Current Status:** The district has graphing calculators in the middle and high schools. Chromebook carts are available at each school. iPads are available in Special Education Sub-Separate classrooms and ELL classrooms.

   • 2014-2015: At least one Chromebook cart is available at each school; some schools have at up to four carts.
   • 2015-2016: Continue to provide Chromebook carts to schools (additional carts needed at the high school). Pilot Kindles for a middle school library program.
   • 2016-2017:

3. **General Ed Curriculum for All Students:** The district maximizes access to the general education curriculum for all students, including students with disabilities, using technology in classrooms with universal design principles and assistive technology devices.

   **Current Status:** The district is very progressive in maximizing access general education to all students, supporting differentiated learning and providing assistive technology.

   • 2014-2015: The Director of Technology will continue to work with the Principals and the Special Education Department in providing assistive technology to students. Continue to evaluate the recommendations from Principals and the Special Education Department.
   • 2015-2016: Based on evaluation and recommendations of 2014-2015.
4. **Instructional Technology** - The district has procurement policies for information and instructional technologies that ensure usability and equivalent access.

**Current Status:** The district is very progressive in maximizing access general education to all students, support differentiated learning and providing assistive technology.

- 2014-2015: Continue to provide support to schools with assistive technology: iPads, Document Cameras.
- 2015-2016: The Director of Technology will continue to work with the Special Education Department and Principals in providing assistive technology to students.

5. **Digital Projectors & Electronic Whiteboards** – The district provides classroom access to devices such as digital projectors and electronic whiteboards.

**Current Status:** The district has digital projects in almost every computer lab; projectors in classrooms or for loan (available in each school); electronic whiteboards in the High School Social Studies and English Departments and in each classroom at Galligan Elementary School.

- 2014-2015: The district will continue to provide projectors and electronic whiteboards as funds allow.
- 2015-2016: Based on evaluation and recommendations of 2014-2015 as funds allow.
- 2016-2017: Based on evaluation and recommendations of 2015-2016 as funds allow.

6. **Computer Replacement Cycle** – The district has established a computer replacement cycle of five years or less.

**Current Status:** The district tries to replace the high end user computers and software every five years (such as CAD, graphic design, and Microsoft certification labs). Budget does not always allow a complete replacement of all computers every five years.

- 2014-2015: Secure funding to update computers in Parker Middle School and Elizabeth Pole Elementary School.
- 2015-2016: Secure funding to update Taunton High School’s Business Labs.
- 2016-2017: Secure funding for Curriculum Revision Technology.

**B. Internet Access**

1. **Classroom Internet Connectivity** – The district provides connectivity to the Internet in all classrooms in all schools including wireless connectivity, if possible.

**Current Status:** Every classroom is connected to the Internet through a very robust WAN. The district is progressively working toward providing wireless to new buildings and those buildings where E-rate is supporting the replacement of their networks.

- 2015-2016: Update wireless connectivity at Taunton High Schools (as funding allows).
- 2012-2013: Update network and wireless connectivity as funding allows.
2. **Bandwidth** – The district provides bandwidth of at least 10/100/1 GB to each classroom. At peak, the bandwidth at each computer is at least 100 kbps. The network card for each computer is at least 10/100/1 GB.

**Current Status:** With support from our IPS, Taunton Municipal Lighting Plant, we are monitoring bandwidth usage and replacing networks with 1 GB switches.

- 2014-2015: Increase bandwidth to 300MB to support increase use of Internet. Add a failover line.
- 2015-2016: Add additional Internet connection for Guest WiFi using the free Comcast connection.
- 2016-2017: We continue to work with TMLP on upgrading our bandwidth.

C. **Networking (LAN/WAN)**

1. **Network** – The district provides a minimum 100 MB CAT 5 switched network and/or 802.11b/g/n wireless network.

**Current Status:**


2. **Access to Servers** – The district provides access to servers for secure file sharing, backups, scheduling, email, and web publishing, either internally or through contracted services.

**Current Status:** Currently the district provides users with a secure internal network, individual Home drives for files which are backed up nightly, Exchange email, and SchoolWorld (contracted) for some teacher web pages.

- 2014-2015: Continue to provide VM Ware remote logins for administrators to access their documents for off-site. Explore website companies to host our District website.
- 2015-2016: Continue to maintain servers to collapse multiple Domains to one Domain for all staff. Begin to pilot Google email for staff and students.

D. **Access to Internet Outside the School Day**

1. **Community Groups** – The district works with community groups to ensure that students and staff have access to the Internet outside of the school day.

**Current Status:** The English Language Learners department works with local housing areas to provide technology for their students. The high school library is open after hours and many of the schools have their school programs where students have access to the computer labs. Computer access for submitting online Free and Reduced applications (Food services and parent liaison) are available in every school with a translator, if needed. All employment applications are filed online and a computer is available in the Personnel Department for applicants who do not have computer access.

- 2014-2015: TPS has partnered with Comcast to help students receiving Free/Reduced lunch to obtain Internet service and laptop at a reduced rate.
- 2015-2016: The technology department will support the different community programs initiated by different departments. The Technology Department will work with Principals to provide for community connections.
E. **Staffing**

1. **Network Administrator** – The district provides two network administrators.

   **Current Status:** The district employs three FTE technical staff. One is a more experienced network administrator and the other is in training. They both serve as network administration and technical staff. TPS employs one entry level computer technician. The district also outsources more engineer time when needed.

   - 2014-2015: Review and revise the job descriptions and salaries for the network administrator and technicians.
   - 2015-2016: Advocate for an additional entry level computer technician (as budget allows).
   - 2016-2017: Advocate for an additional entry level computer technician (as budget allows).

2. **In-time classroom support** – The district provides timely in-classroom technical support with clear information about how to access the support, so that technical problems will not cause major disruptions to curriculum delivery.

   **Current Status:** The Technology Department meets weekly with the Director of Technology to discuss the tickets that have been logged by the ticketing system SYSAID. If a ticket needs to be escalated, the building principal contacts the Director of Technology. Once a ticket is deemed fixed, SYSAID emails the teacher to inform them that their computer issue has been resolved. Teacher computer stations issues are escalated and resolved within 24 hours of reporting the issue.

   - 2014-2015: Begin using the new ticketing system SYSAID to report technology problems. Continue to monitor and review the effectiveness of the ticketing system and response time to fix computer issues.

3. **FTE Support**

   **Current Status:** The district provides at least three FTEs to support over 3200 computers.

   - 2014-2015: The Technology Assessment team will come up with recommendations for more support, pending budget.
   - 2015-2016: Recommendations are submitted for additional support, pending budget.
   - 2016-2017: Recommendations are submitted for additional support, pending budget.
Benchmark 5  
Accessibility of Technology

Taunton Public Schools


BENCHMARK 5

E-Learning and Communications

A. **Innovation** – The district encourages the development and use of innovative strategies for delivering specialized courses through the use of technology.

**Current Status:** At this time, courses are not developed as complete e-learning courses. Teachers use Edmoto, Schoology, etc. We are beginning to use Google Docs throughout the district which will let students access documents wherever they have Internet access. The district also has a virtual learning program (TVIP) located in our Alternative High School.

- 2014-2015: Professional development for Google Docs will allow teachers and students communicate on assignments. The District website, SchoolWorld, has provided 50 web pages for teachers to use to post their course materials online. Some teachers have their teacher website hosted by various vendors (TeacherWeb, etc.).
- 2015-2016: Continue to work with Google Docs. Introduce the Community Portal to Principals and various decision makers.

B. **IP-Based Connections** – The District deploys IP-based connection for access to web-based and/or interactive video learning on the local, state, regional, national, and international level.

**Current Status:** The District has the IP video in place at the local level. Each school has the capacity to broadcast from its school. Skype is used in various schools for lessons, etc.

- 2014-2015: As the district continues to explore ways to introduce web based learning, teachers will be able to use Skype in their classrooms for students to gain access to curriculum/lessons.
- 2016-2017: We continue to explore interactive/web based learning.
C. **E-Learning in the Classroom** – Classroom applications of e-learning include courses, cultural projects, virtual field trips, etc. The Taunton Alternative High School has a Virtual Instruction Program (TVIP) to help students gain access to curriculum via the Internet.

**Current Status:**

- 2014-2015: Identified students will continue to take various courses via TVIP to help with credit recovery.
- 2015-2016: We continue to explore interactive/web based learning
- 2016-2017: We continue to explore interactive/web based learning

D. **Up-to-Date Web Site** – The District maintains an up-to-date web site that includes information for parents and community members.

**Current Status:** The district invested in SchoolWorld to replace its antiquated “home-grown” web site. SchoolWorld has a consistent look and is easy to use. The Central Office and schools continually update and use as one of its primary tools for communication. Parents and community members can sign up for News Flashes by school or district. A mobile app is also available for download in the iTunes and Google Play stores.

- 2014-2015: Continue to update and provide support to SchoolWorld users. Begin to explore other hosted website vendors.

E. **Archiving Electronic Communications** – The district complies with federal and state law and local policies for archiving electronic communications produced by its staff and students. The District informs staff and students that any information distributed over the District or school network may be a public record.

**Current Status:** The Technology Department is archiving all Exchange e-mails. All electronic/digital files are backed up daily. The Acceptable Use Policy has been updated and a new Social Networking Policy for Staff has been adopted. Teachers, staff and students receive a copy of our AUP/Social Networking Policy for Staff yearly to review and sign.

- 2014-2015: A new Email Archiver has been installed and all emails are now archived.
- 2015-2016: Continue to archive emails and back up all files on our servers.
- 2016-2017: Continue to archive emails and back up all files on our servers.
Taunton Public Schools


Internal Taunton Technology Evaluation (Fall 2014)

- Darla Hartung, Curriculum Supervisor & High School Teacher – Industrial Arts
- Michael Raposa, Curriculum Supervisor & High School Teacher - Business
- John Cabral, Assistant Superintendent of Finance & Operations
- Dr. Paul Moccia, Principal, Chamberlain Elementary School
- Sharon Dorian, School Library Media Teacher, Taunton High School
- Steve Jacques, TV Media Specialist & Teacher, Taunton High School
- Isabelle DeBarros, Assistant Principal/Teacher, East Taunton Elementary
- Sarah Buckley, Curriculum Supervisor & High School Teacher – English
- Lisa Proctor, Instructional Technology Specialist, Parker Middle School
- Mary Wohler, Director of English Language Learners
- Dr. Ragen D. Tiliakos, Director of Virtual Learning
- Joe Morro, District Network Administrator

Working Technology Plan Committee

- Brenda Moynihan, Director of Technology
- Joe Morro, District Network Administrator
- Ryan Blanchard, District Network Administrator
- John Faria, Computer Technician
- Michael Raposa, Curriculum Supervisor/Teacher, Taunton High School
- Deborah DeLuca, Secretary

Technology Advisory Group (subject to change)

- Dr. Julie Hackett, Superintendent
- Dr. Christopher Scully, Assistant Superintendent
- John Cabral, Assistant Superintendent, Finance & Operations
- Dr. Sheilah Reardon, Director of Special Education
- Michael Raposa, Curriculum Supervisor and Teacher, THS Business Department
- Michael Byron, Principal, Parker Middle School
- Tara Gaudette, Teacher 4th grade, Hopewell Elementary School
- Susan Benoit, IT Specialist, Martin Middle School
- Julie O’Brien, IT Specialist, Friedman Middle School
- Lisa Proctor, IT Specialist, Parker Middle School
- Ken Bell, Taunton Municipal Lighting Plant (TMLP)
- Joe Morro, District Network Administrator
- Ryan Blanchard, District Network Administrator
- John Faria, Computer Technician
- Deborah DeLuca, Secretary