

A. Needs Assessment

Conducting a needs assessment involves identifying the ET-IL program needs within the larger context of organizational needs and goals. It is recommended that for a start, you should evaluate the progress of the previous ET-IL plan. There are many forms of needs assessments and districts should choose a method that meets local needs, be it a survey process involving students and staff or a more formalized process.

Guiding Questions:

1. What progress has been made towards meeting needs identified in the previous ET-IL plan?
2. Describe the needs assessment you conducted to develop this ET-IL plan.
3. Does your needs assessment(s) include the acquisition of technology and information literacy skills?
4. Does your needs assessment(s) include the acquisition of other 21st century skills?
5. Are there specific challenges in terms of service delivery that you face because of changes in student achievement or in the demographics of your district population?
6. List the key results of your needs assessment that will drive your goals, objectives and strategies.
7. Describe the current infrastructure and list any upgrades. Include the current and proposed level of service. (see E-Rate requirement below)

FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS

E-Rate Requirement: The plan includes a needs assessment of the telecommunication services, hardware, software, and other services that will be needed to improve education services.

NCLB Requirement: 1. to improve student academic achievement through the use of technology, 2. every student is technologically literate by the time the student finishes eighth grade, 3. effective integration of technology resources and systems with teacher training and curriculum development, 4. and increased technology capacity of teachers and students.

1.) The goals of the previous ET/IL plan that have been completed are as follows.

We have provided Internet connectivity and facilitated management systems and information transfer by migrating to Infinite Campus. We did in-house training with our learning services director, outside training on Infinite Campus, and we did specialized training for the secretaries, nurse, administrators and teachers. New staff is trained each fall on the district system. We are constantly evaluating each training session as they happen.

We implemented I-Safe training at our middle school for all students and IKeepSafe.org training for our elementary school. The district installed N2H2 Bess Internet filtering on the district Internet server. All staff was offered different sections of training on the Internet and its application in the classroom. All classrooms have Internet access as do all computer labs. We have purchased a Microsoft Office district license and will keep it current. We have installed Infinite Campus for all teachers for grading and attendance purposes. We have a data warehouse on a district wide wiki where all teachers can access student assessment data.

2, 3, 4.) A survey of staff regarding their use of technology and student use of technology was the vehicle for the needs assessment that was done to determine the progress of the district in the area of technology. It included questions on how student use of technology drove student learning in their classrooms and teacher perceptions of their student's information literacy and technology skills. It also included questions on the type of technology being used by students and staff. The survey included questions as to the needs of staff in the area of technology training. The survey did not include questions regarding the acquisition of other 21st century skills as the concept of 21st century learning is just being introduced to staff and there is currently little understanding of them. The district will continue to provide staff with professional development in the area of 21st century learning.

5.) Our demographics are changing to include more economically challenged families. This has resulted in a need to reassess what is needed to improve student achievement and how to reach these students. This assessment is ongoing and drives the professional development within the district.

6.) The needs assessment pointed out that district wide the staff believes that technology benefits their students in the areas of motivation, skills development, critical thinking, and communication. However, a look at staff technology use with students points out that the television set is still the most used technology in the district, followed closely by word processing and use of the Internet. One of the areas still in need of work is integrating technology into instruction, varying the strategies that incorporate technology in instruction, and using technology properly and ethically in the research process.

7.) Our telecommunications capacity is T1 and T3. Each building has computers in the office area, a computer in each classroom, and computers in the library. Our primary

classrooms have computer clusters. The elementary building has a teaching lab. The middle school has a teaching lab, a mobile computer lab, and a student lab. The high school has a teaching lab, two student labs, and a tutorial computer lab. The administration office also has computers in each office, as does the transportation department. We have a mail foundry in place, a PIX firewall, a Smart filtering appliance in place and ISA firewall to assure data security.

Our upgrades would include fiber between each of our buildings, additional bandwidth, and replacement of outdated telephone software and hardware, particularly at our secondary buildings. While these upgrades are desirable, it would require outside funding to achieve them. The district currently fully funds replacement of computers in each building, maintenance of all software licenses, and technology staff.