

BALTIMORE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

DATE: May 28, 2002

TO: BOARD OF EDUCATION

FROM: Dr. J. Hairston, Superintendent

SUBJECT: A Framework for Technology Implementation 2002-2005

ORIGINATOR: Christine M. Johns, Deputy Superintendent
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**RESOURCE
PERSON(S):** Gregory R. Barlow, Executive Director, Technology
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RECOMMENDATION

A Framework for Technology Implementation is being presented to the Board of Education for information.

Background Information:

In March 2001, under the direction of Dr. Joe A. Hairston, Superintendent of Schools, a Technology Planning Task Force was formed to review the current plan and to make suggestions for revision. The work of the Task Force is outlined in *A Framework for Technology Implementation* which is being presented to the Board of Education.

Baltimore County Public Schools
Framework for Technology Implementation
Executive Summary

Technology will continue to rapidly change the way that we live, work, and learn resulting in a society and economy that are increasingly information and technology based. The Baltimore County Public Schools must effectively harness the power and promise of technology to improve student learning and better prepare our students for the workplace of tomorrow, as well as to improve administrative and operational tasks of the school system.

In 1995, a Technology Implementation Committee presented the first written recommendations for technology use in the Baltimore County Public Schools. From this document, a “working plan” was created and it has served as the technology plan for the school system since 1996. In March 2001, under the direction of Dr. Joe A. Hairston, Superintendent of Schools, a Technology Planning Task Force was formed to review the current plan and to make suggestions for revision.

While much progress has been made since 1995, the technology to support student learning has changed, as well as the knowledge regarding how to use it effectively. It is in this light that the Technology Planning Task Force has developed “A Framework for Technology Implementation 2002-2005.” This framework contains a revised purpose for technology use and new objectives to meet the *Blueprint for Progress: Realizing the Vision*. Charts detailing activities, responsibilities, a timeline, and intended audience that are to be used over the next three years have also been created to provide structure to the implementation. In addition, a cost analysis has been developed which presents the approximate cost of implementing the plan through FY2005. It should be noted that all initiatives of the framework are subject to the approval of the Superintendent’s Executive Committee, the Board of Education and the availability of funds.

We have, in the past few years, made significant progress in establishing a strong technology infrastructure in our schools and offices and providing access to that technology. Steady progress has also been made in regard to the knowledge and skill levels of our teachers, administrators, and support staff in the basic use of technology. However, only limited progress has been made towards the effective and seamless integration of technology in the delivery of the instructional program.

Our focus now needs to be on what research has shown to be the most effective use for improved student learning – namely the application of technology to engage students and foster higher level, critical thinking and problem solving skills. In addition, improved planning, monitoring, and productivity will result from the use of information systems by teachers and those who administer and manage classrooms, schools, and school programs.

Fundamental to the implementation of the new framework is the recognition that technology is merely a tool, and not an end in itself. Rather, our primary and overarching goal is that improved student learning will be achieved through the effective and efficient use of technology in the instructional process. The Baltimore County Public Schools’ Essential Curriculum and the Maryland Content Standards and their assessments serve as both the foundation and the benchmarks for measuring our progress toward improved student achievement.

Section One of “A Framework for Technology Implementation 2002-2005,” provides an overview which outlines the vision and purpose for the new framework for technology implementation. It also details the new learning environments that are important for teaching in a technological setting. The eight areas of technological impact that were examined by the task force, as well as the systemic objectives for the use of technology, are presented as follows:

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1. **Technology Planning:** To support systemic technology initiatives and ensure the effective use of technology.
2. **Budgeting:** To develop a budget that can be submitted to the fiscal authorities and to federal and state grant providers that outlines the budgetary support necessary to implement the system-wide technology plan.
3. **Infrastructure:** To provide the infrastructure necessary to meet technology needs and to ensure access for all students and staff.
4. **Instruction:** To design curriculum that integrates technology into learning activities and to integrate technology into the instructional program using a variety of curriculum delivery systems.
5. **Administrative Technologies:** To implement, maintain, and integrate administrative technologies that ensure the effective and efficient management of the resource and assets of the organization.
6. **Web Development:** To facilitate access to educational resources and system-wide information by developing and providing a framework for information collection and dissemination; and, to use the capabilities of the World Wide Web to enhance administrative and support services.
7. **The Education Channel:** To use the technological resources of The Education Channel to develop media assets in support of curriculum, professional development, and internal and external communications and to monitor emerging technologies to assure timely and cost effective implementation of system-wide goals.
8. **Professional Development:** To ensure that employees are proficient in the use of technology as a tool to effectively perform their jobs.

In Section Two, Technology Implementation, activities and a timeline for implementation of the eight systemic objectives are carefully delineated, and Section Three contains the cost analysis of implementing the framework over a three-year timeframe. It is important to note that the responsibility for funding the framework will not fall solely upon any one entity as technology funding will continue to be a partnership among federal, state, local and corporate partners. The framework concludes with appendices that support the narrative.

Maryland State Department of Education Requirements for Local School System Technology Planning

The Maryland State Department of Education requires that each local school system have on file a current Technology Plan. This plan must be on file before a school system can apply for federal or state funding for technology use or apply for Universal Service Program discounts. In addition, the Maryland State Department of Education requires that this plan be updated every three years. "A Framework for Technology Implementation 2002-2005." has been created with the knowledge of these state requirements.

In developing "A Framework for Technology Implementation 2002-2005," the Baltimore County Public Schools join with the Maryland State Department of Education and the Maryland Business Roundtable to support the vision that, by 2005, Maryland will be a recognized innovator and technology leader where:

1. *Access to technology and its rich resources is universal.*
2. *All teachers possess the knowledge and skills to effectively use and integrate technology into their classrooms.*
3. *Technology tools and digital content that engage our students are seamlessly integrated into all classrooms regularly.*
4. *Technology tools are effectively used to improve school administrative functions and operational processes.*
5. *Effective research, evaluation and assessment result in continuous improvement in the implementation and use of technology.*

"State of Innovation: The Maryland Plan for Technology in Education: 2002-2005"