



Over the past several years, Castleberry Independent School District, one of the smallest geographic districts in Texas, has worked in tandem with TEA and the Texas Legislature to achieve the vision of the State 2006-2020 Long-Range Plan for Technology. Community support of a bond issue in 1996 provided funding for the process of removing asbestos, adding classrooms, renovating other classrooms, and providing the hardware and wiring for technology, thus laying the technological infrastructure. The first District Technology Plan, developed in February 1997, emphasized equitable access to technology by connecting each classroom, library, and computer lab to the Internet. The main thrust of the plan was to equip the District with the infrastructure that would connect computers to the District's local area networks (LAN) and wide area network (WAN).

Along with the successful implementation of three Telecommunications Infrastructure Fund Grants, annual E-rate discounts beginning in 2000, every classroom has been equipped to provide learners with engaging and empowering learning experiences through the use of technology and the affordances it offers.

Elementary

In the initial year of the Reading First Grant, all kindergarten through third grade classrooms were equipped with three additional networked computers for student use. Cycle two of the Reading First Grant supplied Palm Pilots for each kindergarten through third grade teacher to use for Texas Primary Reading Inventory (TPRI) testing. In 2011, all Palm Pilots were upgraded to netbooks using both Title and Technology Replacement Plan funds. In addition, the Limited-English Proficient Student Success Initiative (LEP SSI) Grant provided the funding for three additional networked computers in every fourth and fifth grade classroom. Campus general supply funds and money from the 411 Technology Allotment were allocated to purchase projectors for all core teachers. Elementary campuses continue to purchase several document cameras annually. Using Title funds, all fourth and fifth grade classrooms were equipped with a SMART interactive whiteboard in the summer of 2009, all second and third grade classrooms were equipped with SMART Boards in the summer of 2010, and all pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, and first grade classrooms were equipped with SMART Boards in 2011. A mobile laptop cart of Acer Netbooks was purchased for each elementary campus using American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds and in the summer of 2016 twelve Dell laptop carts were deployed among the elementary campuses. Also, through the use of ARRA funds, in the summer of 2010, the installation of a secure wireless network was installed on each elementary campus to support the use of netbooks and other wireless technology.

Local Bond money funded an extensive remodel of Joy James Elementary and a new wing that was added during the 2011-2012 school year. Bond money also provided for a new A.V. Cato Elementary building which opened in the beginning of the 2012-2013 school year, and a new Castleberry Elementary building which opened in the beginning of the



2013-2014 school year. In addition, Joy James, A.V. Cato, and Castleberry Elementary now have voice over IP telephones. All classrooms include a mounted projector or a touch screen digital display and are integrated into the CISD teaching wall. The front wall includes a wall mounted telephone and sliding white boards which open to a SMART Board or Digital Display. Each classroom and lab has a mobile podium with a CPU, a pivoting monitor, document camera, mouse and keyboard. Speakers were installed in the ceiling of each classroom to support audio and video files delivered from the teacher computer. Student computer access has been increased from three to four stations in each classroom. In addition, Joy James, A.V. Cato, and Castleberry Elementary have been equipped with an electronic door access system that allows staff members with programmed ID cards to access the building using specific doors and times. Visitors to the campuses sign in to Positive Proof which identifies sex offenders and records visits of those entering and exiting the building. Another security measure implemented was the installation of networked security cameras outside and throughout campuses. The new A.V. Cato and Castleberry Elementary buildings include state of the art distance learning equipment with two sixty-five inch video displays. In addition, a SMART Board, projector, and a teacher podium are in the flex rooms. The new media centers have a 72 inch television that can be used for presentations, webcasts, and digital signage. The media centers are also equipped with a SMART Board that uses a zero throw projector surrounded by collaboration tables, and iPads for student use. Digital signage has also been added to Joy James, A.V. Cato, and Castleberry Elementary. Throughout the A.V. Cato and Castleberry Elementary campuses there are five dedicated digital signage displays at each campus which provides campus and district information to staff, students, and visitors. The information technologist designs templates and provides support for the system. Joy James is equipped with two dedicated digital signage displays. Campus conference rooms also have a SMART Board and a mounted projector. Each elementary campus has at least one cart of iPads available for check-out. All fifth grade students participate in the "Connected Learning Program" and are issued an iPad Mini.

Secondary

Irma Marsh Middle School received the School Improvement Resource Center (SIRC) grant which provided a projector to each teacher in grades sixth through eighth. The grant also funded the purchase of twelve Classroom Performance Systems, a device which assesses and provides immediate feedback while checking for understanding. In the summer of 2008, replacement plan money was used to install a secure wireless network targeting core instructional classrooms. Additional SIRC funds were used to equip every classroom with a SMART Board in the summer of 2009. Several classrooms were also supplied with Airliner Slates and SMART document cameras.

The entrance and office area of Irma Marsh was updated to include a Positive Proof visitor access system; networked security cameras were installed outside and throughout the



campus; and an electronic door access and badging system was implemented. SMART Response systems were purchased for the math teachers with a math grant. In August 2012, Irma Marsh Middle School was awarded the Texas Technology Lending Grant which funded the purchase of netbooks with 3G wireless Internet cards for most of the 8th graders. District funds provided netbooks for the remainder of the 8th grade students and all 7th grade students as an extension of the CISD “Connected Learning Project.” Carts of student netbooks were re-distributed to sixth grade classrooms and a classroom set of iPods are available for check-out through the library.

In April 2004, Castleberry High School was awarded the Texas Accelerated Science Achievement Program Grant which provided 15 laptops stored in a wireless cart equipped with a projector, printer, and a document camera. After receiving the TEA High School Allotment, Castleberry High School was able to purchase document cameras along with projectors for Language Arts teachers; 8 Classroom Performance Systems (CPS); and 90 wireless laptops, stored in three carts, each equipped with a wireless network printer. To support the wireless features of the laptops, Technology Replacement Plan money was used to install a secure wireless network throughout the high school campus.

The High School Allotment funds, received the second year, were used to purchase 60 wireless laptops stored in 2 laptop carts, each equipped with a network printer. In 2006 through 2009, campus general supply funds and money from the Technology Allotment were equally allocated to purchase projectors for all teachers. In addition, Bluetooth-enabled Interwrite slates were purchased for math classes. Carl Perkins funds were used to purchase a laptop cart and Interwrite slates for Career Technology Education (CTE) classes.

In addition, the campuses continue to purchase SMART slates and document cameras. During 2011-12, the entrance of Castleberry High School was also remodeled to include a Positive Proof visitor access system; networked security cameras were installed outside and throughout the campus; and an electronic door access and badging system was implemented. Campus funds have purchased 18 SMART Air Liner wireless slates for core teachers.

REACH High School also received High School Allotment money, enabling them to purchase 3 document cameras, 3 projectors, and 1 Classroom Performance System (CPS).

In February of 2011, the district began implementation of the “Connected Learning Project” which provided each Senior AP student with a wireless netbook. In addition, all REACH High School students were issued a wireless netbook to be utilized for credit recovery in August of 2011. The project expanded to include all ninth grade students in November of 2011.



Beginning in the fall of 2012, all tenth through twelfth grade students were issued wireless netbooks. Currently, all high school students participate in the “Connected Learning Project” and are issued a notebook with filtering software to be utilized at school or home.

2013-2016 Technology Plan

Castleberry ISD has prepared a three-year plan to articulate a common vision for technology in the District. In addition, the plan identifies strategies that will aid in using advanced technology to improve the academic achievement by increasing the capacity of all teachers to integrate technology effectively into curriculum and instruction, by insuring technology literacy for all students through rigorous curriculum standards and by providing opportunities for students to develop critical thinking skills that are essential for academic and workplace success. To support this vision, CISD will continue to seek opportunities to expand the “Connected Learning Project” and to move closer to the one-to-one student to computer ratio. A continued technology focus is to increase the infusion of technology into the core curriculum. This technology focus emphasizes teachers being trained on Bloom’s Digital Taxonomy, the CISD SAMR matrix, and empowering students to take ownership of their own learning through reflection, self-assessment, and peer-to-peer feedback.

The District’s plan continues to encourage the shift from teacher-directed learning to student-centered learning by encouraging students to work collaboratively in communities of inquiry to propose, assess, and implement solutions to *real world* problems. CISD commits to using technology to virtually bring the world to the students by providing a depth and richness of instructional approaches to reach students of all learning modalities anywhere and anytime. In addition, the CISD Technology Department is dedicated to working with its surrounding community to nurture strategic partnerships through the Castleberry Technology Alliance.





