
Pennsylvania Department of Education



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
333 MARKET STREET
HARRISBURG, PA 17126-0333

Educational Technology Report **Thursday, May 22, 2008**

Entity: Schuylkill Haven Area SD
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Core Purpose

Mission

The mission of the Schuylkill Haven Area School District in partnership with the community is to empower each student to embrace the challenges of the future as self-directed, ethical, life-long learners who assume responsibility for self and society, and to prepare confident individuals in decision making and communication skills to function in the ever changing global community.

Vision

The Schuylkill Haven Area School District vision incorporates an educational program to prepare each student for the future to become a productive and contributing member of society. Students must be made aware of the life-long value of education.

Students entering the workforce today must experience a comprehensive education that develops the total individual. The educational program shall develop the student's moral, mental, physical, and emotional characteristics. In addition, students will need a sound educational base of knowledge that will enable them to communicate and to think analytically.

Education is the responsibility of the total community. The school should reflect the ideas and interests of all members.

Shared Values

We believe:

All students can learn and achieve success

A partnership exists among the home, community, and school

Education is a life-long process and our school must facilitate the acquisition of skills necessary for life-long learning

Our schools must provide appropriate facilities and a safe, orderly learning environment

All students must be challenged to their full potential and develop competency in problem solving, critical thinking, written and oral communication skills, reading, math, vocational and technological skills in order to compete in a global society

New ideas, flexible and creative approaches, well thought-out initiatives and cooperative efforts lead to higher levels of achievement

Students, teachers, and the community should value diversity and respect for self and others

Education should foster personal responsibility and accountability skills to better prepare students for the workforce

Students and teachers should strive to reach their highest potential

Needs Assessment

The emergence of interactive whiteboards as a tool for educators has already been exploited by our district. Our goal is to equip all classrooms in district within the next several years.

The district has been connected to high-speed internet through a regional network consortium with the Schuylkill Intermediate Unit 29, which includes Internet 2, for the past year. This allows high speed video-conferencing access to the world in addition to resources already in place, which include basic phone service, long distance phone service and cellular phone service. All of these telecommunications methods are necessary to support the educational process in the school district.

Advanced educational software, such as the 4Sight benchmark testing package has been in

place for the last 2 years. This tool gives teachers a snapshot of every student and helps them identify areas of the Pennsylvania Academic Standards that are in need of improvement. The district will continue to utilize and evaluate this and other diagnostic and remedial tools for our students.

We identify potentially useful new technologies by attending conferences, reading periodicals, attending workshops and networking with peers.

Technology strengths identified in the district include over 500 personal computers for student and staff use, 28 interactive whiteboards, several additional LCD projectors, on-line classroom management software which allows parent access (eSchoolbook), an automatic parent notification system (School Reach), an automated cafeteria point-of-sale system (Food Service Solutions), membership in the Blended Schools consortium, which allows students to take and teachers to create on-line courses, and two full-time staff members in the technology services department.

Weaknesses

The overall technology budget is not adequate to set up a reasonable equipment replacement schedule. Professional development opportunities for technology, particularly in the summer, should be made available to staff. Some have stated that the technology that is already in place in our district is not utilized to its fullest extent, which may be due to a fear of the technology or a resistance of some of the staff to use the technology. The committee feels there should be a technology professional available in each building to support the vast amount of technology in each building.

Goals and Strategies

Goal: FOUR-YEAR GRADUATION RATE

Description: All students will meet or exceed Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) target(s).

Strategy: Counseling Services

Description:

Activities:

Activity	Description	
Career Guidance Software	Utilize the COIN career software to help students realize their potential and best interests so that they will continue in school until graduation	
Person Responsible	Timeline for Implementation	Resources
Thomas Orff	Start: N/A Finish: N/A	\$4,500.00

Strategy: Engage Students in Classroom Activities

Description: Continue to pursue and procure the latest technology for use in the district so that students will always have the best possible learning experience and the skills necessary to compete globally.

Activities:

Activity	Description	
Equip District Classrooms with Wireless Laptop Carts		
Person Responsible	Timeline for Implementation	Resources
Thomas Orff	Start: N/A Finish: N/A	\$150,000.00

Activity	Description	
Interactive Whiteboards		
Person Responsible	Timeline for Implementation	Resources
Thomas Orff	Start: N/A Finish: N/A	\$188,000.00

Activity	Description	
Utilize Content Specific Software	Continue to acquire and use content specific or "educational" software for both remediation and enrichment.	
Person Responsible	Timeline for Implementation	Resources
Thomas Orff	Start: N/A Finish: N/A	\$20,000.00

Strategy: Online Learning

Description: Students will have the opportunity to take online courses for both credit recovery and electives so that they will further their education and meet graduation requirements in a manner that best suits their learning style.

Activities:

Activity	Description	
Blended Schools		
Person Responsible	Timeline for Implementation	Resources
Thomas Orff	Start: N/A Finish: N/A	\$50,000.00

Activity	Description	
eSchoolBook		
Person Responsible	Timeline for Implementation	Resources
Thomas Orff	Start: N/A Finish: N/A	\$17,500.00

Activity	Description	
Remote Access to District Resources		
Person Responsible	Timeline for Implementation	Resources
Thomas Orff	Start: N/A Finish: N/A	\$12,500.00

Goal: MATHEMATICS

Description: All students will meet or exceed Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) target(s).

Strategy: Intervention Strategies

Description: All buildings will use intervention strategies to improve student proficiency.

Activities:

Activity	Description	
After-school tutoring	Elementary and middle school students will receive after-school tutoring in mathematics, language arts, and science. Compass Learning or other equivalent software may be used in the programs.	
Person Responsible	Timeline for Implementation	Resources
Not Currently Assigned	Start: N/A Finish: N/A	\$25,000.00

Activity	Description	
Technology-based interventions	All buildings will explore possible technology-based interventions. Teachers will be exposed to the interventions offered.	
Person Responsible	Timeline for Implementation	Resources
Lori Hudak	Start: 8/20/2008 Finish: 8/21/2013	\$0.00

Strategy: Technology Deployment

Description: Improve technology usage and ultimately student achievement by stepping up hardware replacement, software upgrades and increased technology support staffing.

Activities:

Activity	Description	
Hardware Replacement	Explore the possibility of moving to a 5-year computer replacement cycle so that the district can replace 100 of its approximately 500 computers every year so students and faculty can have the best possible learning environment.	
Person Responsible	Timeline for Implementation	Resources
Thomas Orff	Start: N/A Finish: N/A	\$600,000.00

Activity	Description	
Software Upgrades	Explore the possibility of increasing funding so that outdated software used in classrooms, labs and administrative offices can be purchased in sufficient quantities and kept up to date.	
Person Responsible	Timeline for Implementation	Resources
Thomas Orff	Start: N/A Finish: N/A	\$100,000.00

Activity	Description	
Technology Staffing	Explore the possibility of adding additional building personnel to the technology staff to support the number of computers in use in the district. An idea level would be one support person for each building in addition to the district technology coordinator.	
Person Responsible	Timeline for Implementation	Resources
Thomas Orff	Start: N/A Finish: N/A	\$450,000.00

Goal: READING

Description: All students will meet or exceed Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) target(s).

Strategy: Intervention Strategies

Description: All buildings will use intervention strategies to improve student proficiency.

Activities:

Activity	Description	
After-school tutoring	Elementary and middle school students will receive after-school tutoring in mathematics, language arts, and science. Compass Learning or other equivalent software may be used in the programs.	
Person Responsible	Timeline for Implementation	Resources
Not Currently Assigned	Start: N/A Finish: N/A	\$0.00

Activity	Description	
Technology-based interventions	All buildings will explore possible technology-based interventions. Teachers will be exposed to the interventions offered.	
Person Responsible	Timeline for Implementation	Resources
Lori Hudak	Start: 8/20/2008 Finish: 8/21/2013	\$0.00

Strategy: Technology Deployment

Description: Improve technology usage and ultimately student achievement by stepping up hardware replacement, software upgrades and increased technology support staffing.

Activities:

Activity	Description	
Hardware Replacement	Explore the possibility of moving to a 5-year computer replacement cycle so that the district can replace 100 of its approximately 500 computers every year so students and faculty can have the best possible learning environment.	
Person Responsible	Timeline for Implementation	Resources

Thomas Orff	Start: N/A Finish: N/A	\$0.00
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Activity	Description	
Software Upgrades	Explore the possibility of increasing funding so that outdated software used in classrooms, labs and administrative offices can be purchased in sufficient quantities and kept up to date.	
Person Responsible	Timeline for Implementation	Resources
Thomas Orff	Start: N/A Finish: N/A	\$0.00

Activity	Description	
Technology Staffing	Explore the possibility of adding additional building personnel to the technology staff to support the number of computers in use in the district. An idea level would be one support person for each building in addition to the district technology coordinator.	
Person Responsible	Timeline for Implementation	Resources
Thomas Orff	Start: N/A Finish: N/A	\$0.00

Goal: SCIENCE

Description: All students will demonstrate progress on the Science Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA).

Strategy: Intervention Strategies

Description: All buildings will use intervention strategies to improve student proficiency.

Activities:

Activity	Description	
After-school tutoring	Elementary and middle school students will receive after-school tutoring in mathematics, language arts, and science. Compass Learning or other equivalent software may be used in the programs.	
Person Responsible	Timeline for Implementation	Resources
Not Currently Assigned	Start: N/A Finish: N/A	\$0.00

Activity	Description
Technology-based	All buildings will explore possible technology-based

interventions	interventions.	
Person Responsible	Timeline for Implementation	Resources
	Start: N/A Finish: N/A	\$0.00

Strategy: Technology Deployment

Description: Improve technology usage and ultimately student achievement by stepping up hardware replacement, software upgrades and increased technology support staffing.

Activities:

Activity	Description	
Hardware Replacement	Explore the possibility of moving to a 5-year computer replacement cycle so that the district can replace 100 of its approximately 500 computers every year so students and faculty can have the best possible learning environment.	
Person Responsible	Timeline for Implementation	Resources
Thomas Orff	Start: N/A Finish: N/A	\$0.00

Activity	Description	
Software Upgrades	Explore the possibility of increasing funding so that outdated software used in classrooms, labs and administrative offices can be purchased in sufficient quantities and kept up to date.	
Person Responsible	Timeline for Implementation	Resources
Thomas Orff	Start: N/A Finish: N/A	\$0.00

Activity	Description	
Technology Staffing	Explore the possibility of adding additional building personnel to the technology staff to support the number of computers in use in the district. An idea level would be one support person for each building in addition to the district technology coordinator.	
Person Responsible	Timeline for Implementation	Resources
Thomas Orff	Start: N/A Finish: N/A	\$0.00

Goal: STUDENT ATTENDANCE (any school that does not graduate seniors)

Description: All students will meet or exceed Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) target(s).

Strategy: Access Resources

Description: All buildings will access resources available to increase attendance, including but not limited to, home visits, truancy officer and guidance counselor involvement,

communication/collaboration with school nurse/health technicians, utilization of human service resources, and School Reach.

Activities:

Activity	Description	
Utilize Rapid-Dialing Services	Use School Reach, or a similar product, to keep parents informed as to the status of their child's daily attendance. Also, allow parents access to eSchoolBook attendance for their particular child.	
Person Responsible	Timeline for Implementation	Resources
Thomas Orff	Start: N/A Finish: N/A	\$23,500.00

Activity	Description	
Utilize Telecommunication to Keep Parents Informed	Obtain High Speed Internet Access through the IU29 Consortium in addition to Local, Long Distance and Cellular Phone Service in order to communicate with parents, the community, each other and the world as a whole.	
Person Responsible	Timeline for Implementation	Resources
Thomas Orff	Start: N/A Finish: N/A	\$288,000.00

Goal: STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN STATE ASSESSMENTS

Description: All students will meet or exceed Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) target(s).

Strategy: Access Resources

Description: All buildings will access resources available to increase participation in PSSAs, including but not limited to, home visits, truancy officer and guidance counselor involvement, communication/collaboration with school nurse/health technicians, utilization of human service resources, and School Reach.

Activities:

Activity	Description	
Utilize Rapid Dialing Service	Use School Reach, or a similar product, to keep parents informed as to the status of their child's daily attendance. Also, allow parents access to eSchoolBook attendance for their particular child.	
Person Responsible	Timeline for Implementation	Resources
Thomas Orff	Start: N/A Finish: N/A	\$0.00

Activity	Description	
Utilize Telecommunication to Keep Parents Informed	Obtain High Speed Internet Access through the IU29 Consortium in addition to Local, Long Distance and Cellular Phone Service in order to communicate with parents, the community, each other and the	

	world as a whole.	
Person Responsible	Timeline for Implementation	Resources
Thomas Orff	Start: N/A Finish: N/A	\$0.00

Strategy: Community Involvement

Description: All buildings will communicate the importance of standardized assessments through district and building publications.

Activities:

Activity	Description	
Telecommunication with Parents	Utilize the school district's website, email and telecommunication systems to communicate with parents and keep them informed of school activities and their child's progress.	
Person Responsible	Timeline for Implementation	Resources
Thomas Orff	Start: N/A Finish: N/A	\$0.00

Strategy: Remediation and Preparation Through Technology

Description: All buildings will explore the use of, or continue using, both PSSA preparation/benchmarking software and any necessary remediation software needed to support student improvement and AYP progress.

Activities:

Activity	Description	
Benchmark Testing	Utilize available benchmark testing software, such as 4Sight, to better focus students' education on concepts that they do not understand or need improvement on.	
Person Responsible	Timeline for Implementation	Resources
Thomas Orff	Start: N/A Finish: N/A	\$19,500.00

Activity	Description	
Remediation and Enrichment Software	Continue to use Compass Learning Odyssey for enrichment and remediation during school and after school and explore the possibility of using Study Island either in conjunction with or in place of Compass Learning.	
Person Responsible	Timeline for Implementation	Resources
Thomas Orff	Start: N/A Finish: N/A	\$25,000.00

Staff Development

The committee recommended that in addition to the technology in-service slots currently provided, that there be more workshop/conference attendance throughout the year and that there be reimbursement provided for time at the sessions for any over the summer (in addition to receiving Act48 time). Also, in order to help staff develop a working list of "best practices" in

technology, that faculty be allowed to perform observations of other school districts that are "on the cutting edge" as far as technology integration into the curriculum. In charge of facilitating this training will be the technology department and administration.

Methods of training the faculty and staff should employ the technology coach format (such as a paid professional in each building) so that staff can be trained not only on a one-time basis during in-service time, but on an on-going basis as questions and situations occur. Both initial and additional trainings which will occur during in-service time, can be done by both in-house and outside providers.

Financial resources available for professional development include, but are not limited to grants and district categorical funds. The resources available to allow the staff the time necessary to keep their technology skills up to date include in-service workshops, after-school workshops and trainings, Intermediate Unit workshops, online courses (such as those offered by PDE for Act 48 credit) and college courses which can lead to advanced degrees.

Currently, the resources available to ensure that new technologies are used come from in-house staff through after-school trainings and in-service sessions. These trainings, which are not on a recurring basis (but it is recommended that they be made recurring) include our online gradebook (eSchoolBook) and faculty web page design. Service providers which can be utilized for other training include IU29 (on Power Library), Blended Schools, CSIU (for eSchoolBook), Smart Technology (for Smart Board training) or any other vendors from which we have purchased technology or services. Professional development available from outside organizations includes Wilkes University (M.S. Classroom Technology), technology conferences (such as PETE&C) and the Schuylkill Community Education Council (SCEC), which provides a number of courses for professional educators both after school and during the summer.

Right now, the technology staff and administration is able to meet with other staff outside of school to discuss technology and its integration into the curriculum. Faculty and staff would like to have that opportunity as well. They feel it is important to be able to collaborate with teachers outside the district in order to keep themselves current with the use of technology.

Budget

Summary: Potential Funding Distribution

Funding Source	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	Total
010 - ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET	\$294,620.00	\$320,470.00	\$346,320.00	\$961,410.00
390 - EXTRA GRANTS	\$9,000.00	\$13,000.00	\$17,000.00	\$39,000.00
eRATE	\$32,680.00	\$33,680.00	\$34,680.00	\$101,040.00
TOTAL	\$336,300.00	\$367,150.00	\$398,000.00	\$1,101,450.00

Goal: FOUR-YEAR GRADUATION RATE

All students will meet or exceed Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) target(s).

Counseling Services	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	Total	Funding Source
Career Guidance Software	\$900.00	\$950.00	\$1,000.00	\$2,850.00	010 - ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET

Engage Students	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	Total	Funding Source
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in Classroom Activities					
Equip District Classrooms with Wireless Laptop Carts	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00	\$90,000.00	010 - ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET (Secondary)
Interactive Whiteboards	\$16,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$24,000.00	\$60,000.00	010 - ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET
Interactive Whiteboards	\$8,000.00	\$12,000.00	\$16,000.00	\$36,000.00	390 - EXTRA GRANTS (Secondary)
Utilize Content Specific Software	\$2,000.00	\$2,500.00	\$3,000.00	\$7,500.00	010 - ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET
Utilize Content Specific Software	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$3,000.00	390 - EXTRA GRANTS (Secondary)

Online Learning	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	Total	Funding Source
Blended Schools	\$8,000.00	\$9,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$27,000.00	010 - ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET
eSchoolBook	\$2,500.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,500.00	\$9,000.00	010 - ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET
Remote Access to District Resources	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$7,500.00	010 - ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET

TOTAL	\$70,900.00	\$80,950.00	\$91,000.00	\$242,850.00	
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Goal: MATHEMATICS

All students will meet or exceed Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) target(s).

Intervention Strategies	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	Total	Funding Source
After-school tutoring	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$15,000.00	010 - ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET

Technology Deployment	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	Total	Funding Source
Hardware Replacement	\$100,000.00	\$110,000.00	\$120,000.00	\$330,000.00	010 - ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET
Software Upgrades	\$15,000.00	\$17,500.00	\$20,000.00	\$52,500.00	010 - ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET

Technology Staffing	\$80,000.00	\$85,000.00	\$90,000.00	\$255,000.00	010 - ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET
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TOTAL	\$200,000.00	\$217,500.00	\$235,000.00	\$652,500.00	
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Goal: STUDENT ATTENDANCE (any school that does not graduate seniors)

All students will meet or exceed Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) target(s).

Access Resources	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	Total	Funding Source
Utilize Rapid-Dialing Services	\$4,700.00	\$4,800.00	\$4,900.00	\$14,400.00	010 - ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET
Utilize Telecommunication to Keep Parents Informed	\$21,120.00	\$22,120.00	\$23,120.00	\$66,360.00	010 - ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET
Utilize Telecommunication to Keep Parents Informed	\$32,680.00	\$33,680.00	\$34,680.00	\$101,040.00	eRATE (Secondary)

TOTAL	\$58,500.00	\$60,600.00	\$62,700.00	\$181,800.00	
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Goal: STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN STATE ASSESSMENTS

All students will meet or exceed Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) target(s).

Remediation and Preparation Through Technology	2009-2010	2010-2011	2011-2012	Total	Funding Source
Benchmark Testing	\$3,900.00	\$4,100.00	\$4,300.00	\$12,300.00	010 - ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET
Remediation and Enrichment Software	\$3,000.00	\$4,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$12,000.00	010 - ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET

TOTAL	\$6,900.00	\$8,100.00	\$9,300.00	\$24,300.00	
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GRAND TOTAL	\$336,300.00	\$367,150.00	\$398,000.00	\$1,101,450.00	
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Monitoring

Monitoring of the plan will be accomplished by the technology coordinator, building administrators and the professional development (or curriculum) director. Activities will be monitored through classroom observations (both formal and informal), curriculum meetings, department meetings

and lesson plan reviews. The determination that technology integration is occurring appropriately can be achieved through department surveys, or the assessment of technology needs, as well as through the observation of student use in the classroom setting. Whether or not technology implementation is appropriate for identified needs can be determined through a number of ways such as self-reflection, any increased student motivation and by whether or not there have been any changes in time management in the classroom.

Evaluation

Determining whether or not the goals have been successful will need to be accomplished through staff and student observations, staff surveys and feedback and student/parent surveyed or feedback.

Goals and strategies that we were able to meet from the previous plan include:

- Acquiring wireless mobile computer labs in both the high school and middle school
- Replacing both high school computer labs (in 2004 and 2006)
- Purchasing multimedia LCD projectors
- Acquiring interactive whiteboards for use in district buildings (not all rooms have them yet, but more are being added yearly)
- A full-time Technology Coordinator has been hired and a full-time PC and Network Support Specialist was also hired in 2007
- Network infrastructure was improved with the replacement/upgrading of all network data closet switches
- Communication with the outside world has been accomplished through the use of local telephone, long distance, cellular phone access and high-speed internet (through the e-rate process)

Goals and strategies that we were not able to meet from the previous plan include:

- Instituting a 5-year computer replacement cycle
- Publishing of the district newsletter (because of student safety and security reasons)

Unexpected outcomes of having technology in place came from the use of interactive whiteboards. The demand for this technology has literally exploded. Staff members have embraced this technology and have requested more like it. Their response was far above what we had imagined.

Any unmet goals and strategies might require addition training for the staff or increased funding. Training can be accomplished through informal updates (such as memos or e-mails) or trainings on a monthly basis (either planned or unplanned opportunities) with allowances for flexibility in scheduling after school sessions. Funding can be accomplished through the acquisition of grants and increased district funding.

Needs that have emerged since the last report include

- the need for more technology such as interactive whiteboards and laptops for both faculty and student use
- more training on both existing technology and any new technologies that are being acquired
- utilization of Act 80 days for technology training
- building-specific training and workshops
- more support staff for technology (both pc support and staff development)

Finally, any technology goals and recommendations from the previous report (which have not been addressed above) should still be considered valid for both the continuation of any goal already implemented as well as the implementation of any goals still outstanding and awaiting implementation.