

## EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

November 25, 2008

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: E. Schmidt, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Improving Student Achievement through Technology Integration Planning Services

ORIGINATOR: J. Bidulock, Assistant Superintendent

RESOURCE  
STAFF: Glenn Johnson, Terry Korte, Randy Lyseng, Darwin Martin, Aaron Muller, Louise Osland, Nurit Reshef, Corrie Ziegler

### INFORMATION

In the spring of 2008, District Technology established a new team, consisting of four teacher consultants, to assist schools in creating an integrated plan for technology support. This Technology Integration Planning Services (TIPS) team works directly with school staff to effectively integrate technology into their educational planning processes. The purpose of this team is to provide “one stop” service to schools. To that end, the team works with Information Technology Services (ITS), Consulting Services, Facilities Services and Purchasing and Contract Services to provide a comprehensive, coordinated service to schools. The TIPS team members also sit on Alberta Initiative for School Improvement Project Leadership Teams. They manage Alberta Education grant projects, and facilitate research and development around emerging technologies and online resources.

In support of the Board Priorities, TIPS team members assist schools to ensure that every student is successful. One way this can be done is to address the differentiated needs of students as learners through the effective use of technologies. Technology used in this way enhances the learning. TIPS team members stress that teachers teach curriculum *using technology* rather than delivering *technology instruction*.

#### **The TIPS Planning Process**

The TIPS planning process includes four planning components which align with the essential conditions for the effective integration of technology. These conditions are based on the recommendations of the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE). The end goal of this process is to enhance student learning.

- **Planning** - The process begins with a school request to TIPS for planning support. A TIPS team member facilitates a focused conversation about the school’s vision and educational goals. This typically involves gathering data from all staff and creating a school-specific vision for integrating technology.

- **Professional Learning** – A TIPS team member facilitates school staff to develop their own professional learning plan which addresses different learning styles and modes of delivery. The TIPS team encourages all schools to contact Consulting Services for support in developing and implementing this plan.
- **Infrastructure** - It is critical that a school's infrastructure is assessed prior to any new technologies being introduced. In collaboration with the school ITS technician and Facilities Services, an initial assessment is completed. This includes analysis of the building's data, electrical and structural needs, as well as an inventory of current hardware and software assets.
- **Tools** - "Tools" refers to those technologies which staff and students use to support teaching and learning (e.g. computers, SMART Boards, projectors, assistive technologies, videoconferencing equipment, online resources, software, etc.). A phased technology acquisition plan is developed in conjunction with Purchasing and Contract Services, giving consideration to current and future needs.

This process encourages schools to select tools based on educational goals, readiness of staff, and infrastructure, rather than following the latest trends or replicating existing practice. While there are a number of defined steps in the project planning process, the TIPS team takes a flexible approach to this process in order to meet the wide range of needs in schools. The work of the TIPS team is building district capacity to ensure that technology integration becomes a part of the school planning process.

### **Current Status**

As of November 10th, approximately fifty schools have requested some form of planning support from the TIPS team. The TIPS team is currently working with an initial group of fifteen schools, which were selected to provide a cross-section that reflects different grade levels, school sizes and areas of the city. The TIPS team looks forward to working with all interested schools over the next several years.

### **Summary**

The work of the TIPS team has been valued by those who have accessed this support to date. The collaborative support schools receive through the work of TIPS supports efficient and effective use of technologies, in the service of student learning. This work will assist the District in creating bright futures for all.