

EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

October 10, 2006

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: L. Thomson, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Technology - AISI Project Update

ORIGINATOR: T. Parker, Executive Director

RESOURCE

STAFF: Louise Osland, Corrie Ziegler

INFORMATION

This report will provide detailed information about one of the district's Cycle 3 Alberta Initiative for School Improvement (AISI) projects; Learning with Technologies. It will include a general overview of the project, information on professional development and how project progress will be communicated both internally and externally.

Overview of Project

The Learning with Technologies project will address the use of technologies to support and enhance learning for all students, across all subject areas and across all divisions. Technologies will provide support to a diversity of learning needs and life skills. When technologies are used to engage students in authentic, complex, higher order thinking tasks, student achievement increases. This project proposes to engage learners in real world situations, foster peer cooperation and promote creative thinking.

The goals for the Learning with Technologies project include:

- Increased student awareness of the positive role that technologies play in their learning.
- Increased staff awareness of the level of skill and expertise in utilizing existing and emerging technology.
- Increased demonstration by staff of the effectiveness in the use of technologies to deepen and enhance student learning in all curriculum areas.
- Increased staff and student collaboration and sharing of research, resources and applications of technologies.

Professional Development

Professional development related to the Learning with Technologies project will enhance participants' understanding of how to effectively infuse technologies into their

classrooms as well as develop a greater awareness of the available research, resources and applications of technologies. Professional development will be provided through project sessions, but more importantly, through experiences that involve the direct mentoring of teachers in the context of their own classrooms. Key features will include: opportunities to explore, reflect, collaborate with peers, inter/intra visitations, working collaboratively on authentic learning tasks and engaging in hands-on learning. Success will be measured by the ability of both staff and students to make effective decisions about which technology will best assist in deepening learning and understanding.

Communication and Knowledge Dissemination

Throughout the Learning with Technologies project, project schools will have numerous opportunities to provide feedback and share successes as well as challenges. Members of the Project Leadership Team (PLT) will communicate with assigned schools on a regular basis. Networking will occur through project professional development sessions, as well as through inter/intra visitations, both within and outside the district. Other stakeholders, such as Trustees, senior administration, parents, community members, University of Alberta, Alberta Education and other districts are included in the project's knowledge dissemination plan. The project will explore how technologies can more effectively be used to disseminate this knowledge.

Summary

The effective use of technologies has been, at best, an inconsistent approach to enhancing the learning of all students. This project promises to be an exciting, leading edge journey in exploring how technologies can be used as a tool to enhance learning, increase the numbers of students at risk achieving success, and ultimately enhancing high school completion rates. What can be learned through this project has the potential to change the way we support and enhance the learning of all students.

LT:gj

APPENDIX I –List of the Schools involved in the Learning with Technologies AISI Project

Schools Involved in the Learning with Technologies AISI Project:

Alberta School for the Deaf

Avonmore School

Eastwood School

Gold Bar School

Grandview Heights School

High Park School

McKee School

Old Scona Academic High School

Rutherford School

Steele Heights School

Steinhauer School

Stratford School

Tevie Miller School Heritage School Program