

Technology Plan Cover Sheet
2013-2015 (July 1, 2013 – June 30, 2015)

ORGANIZATION INFORMATION	
District/Agency/School (legal name):	GREAT EXPECTATIONS SCHOOL
District Number:	4100
Technology Plan Status	The District/Agency/School has an approved 2012 technology bridge plan: <p style="text-align: center;">Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
2013-2015 Technology Plan Date of Creation:	November 27, 2012
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1. Technology Needs Assessment:

Our technology needs assessment consists of input from a variety of sources. The Technology Committee, headed by a member of the Board of Directors, solicits input from educators, parents, staff, and students. A survey addressing technology needs and professional development will be administered in FY2013 to these target groups. Many of our technology requirements are driven by the curricular needs identified by our educators at weekly teacher's meetings. Needs are also assessed as they arise on a day-to-day basis. GES's Strategic Plan is another guide in our technology decision making process. Currently we have representation from parents, staff, community members and educators on the technology committee which reports monthly to the Board of Directors. (See appendix A for a list of invested parties)

To date we have identified the following needs for FY2013-2015:

- Replacement of 10 iBook (2003) laptop computers – they barely meet the minimum requirements for state mandated on-line testing and are not adequate for many software programs we would like to implement.
- Investment of staff time, particularly in the first year of the plan, to explore new technology options and tools (iPads, SMART boards, ChromeBooks) to help the whole school community gain the skills needed to thrive in the 21st century.
- Dedication to teacher and staff professional development for effective participation in the needs assessment process, implementation of initiatives, and on-going success with technology in the classroom.
- Investment in more professional development for teachers to maximize the reports available through NWEA and Accelerated Reader.
- Continued website development to make it a more effective tool for general and classroom specific communication.
- Installation of a digital projector in each classroom (excluding kindergarten).
- Enhancement of parental/guardian communication through more effective use of digital communication.
- Installation of greater bandwidth (as it becomes available in our community) to handle greater loads of information. This may be supported through our application for E-rate in FY 13-14.
- Installation of an additional phone line to allow consistent incoming phone access to the school. This may be supported through our application for E-rate in FY 13-14.

2. Goals and Strategies

The mission of GES is to develop in each child:

a love of learning,
 critical and creative thinking skills,
 mastery of the academic building blocks,
 the ability to nurture family, friends, and self,
 a strong commitment to being a contributing member of a community,
 open-heartedness toward others, and
 a passion for life-long learning.

Decision making at all levels and in all areas, including technology, serves this mission. In order to nurture these lifelong skills in our budding 21st century citizens, we need to incorporate teaching both how to access and use technology for information, as well as how to use it as a tool to unleash creativity and innovative thinking. GES’s mission is beautifully summarized in the tagline, “Growing hearts and minds, one child at a time.” The following goals outline the process by which we will assist students on their path to being sensitive, thoughtful, and creative young people in a digital age.

Goal	Strategy
Increased ability for teachers and administrators to assess technological needs and opportunities	Send a staff member to the TIES conference in Dec 2012. Secure iPads for all teachers and administrators by the end of FY13 (funding dependent) Encourage teachers to investigate opportunities through the exploration of technology. Research and write grants.
Increased ability to differentiate instruction	More computers and/or tablets available for student use. Software and apps to enhance student’s ability to work at their appropriate academic level. More PD for teachers to take advantage of reports available based on student achievement on computer based tests.
More independent learning by students	More computers and/or tablets available for student use allowing for more independent research and individualized work.
Provide alternative tools for student assessment	Explore iPad use in year 1, and implement iPads in subsequent years in the classrooms allowing for multiple methods for students to display their learning – videos, presentations, photos, audio recordings. Focus on creating media with technology, not just consuming it.
Make technology an integrated part of daily learning in the classroom	Include in our curriculum mapping how and when technology will be integrated and appropriately taught to ensure children have the 21 st century skills they need to be successful citizens. Digital projectors in each classroom.
Enhanced communication with parents and the community	Increase the amount of work students submit and store electronically which can be more effectively shared with a broader audience. Increased use of our web-site for teachers to communicate with their families.
More efficient use of administrator’s time	Explore and implement effective web-based tools such as Google Apps and Mail Chimp to assist with administrative tasks.

3. Professional Development Plan

Our professional development plan is to provide training in a way that meets the needs of individual educators and staff. Some have very limited knowledge in the area of technology, whereas others have a more expansive knowledge of use and implementation of technology in the classroom. Training sessions would be a combination of in person whole group meetings and 1 on 1 sessions. On-line resources would also be used for supplementation. Training will be performed internally by staff as well as hiring outside consultants as needed. Any time a new technology is rolled out, an orientation session would be held. We strongly believe in the teachers having access to any new software or device with plenty of time to familiarize themselves with it before being expected to teach with that tool. Ideally, we will have an iPad in each educator's hands by the end of FY2013. If this timeline proves too aggressive for funding, then we will acquire them as soon as is reasonably possible. Our current school year calendar has fewer student contact days with a compensating increase in minutes per day than in years past. This schedule allows for more professional development days. We are committed to setting aside time during these regular staff development days to technology training and/or sharing of best practices at least on a quarterly basis. Time will also be allotted during weekly teacher meetings for technology training as desired. The school director will plan and oversee all professional development.

4. Evaluation

In order to evaluate GES's technology plan, it is intended that the school's Technology Committee will meet at least semi-annually ahead of the board's strategic planning meeting and budgeting meeting. During this meeting, the following areas of evaluation will be considered:

- Based on day to day usage, as well as instances of system outages or disruptions, is the existing infrastructure adequate to meet the academic and administrative needs of the school?
- Based on feedback from the educators, do our systems support the incorporation of technology into classroom instruction and student assessment?
- Have we implemented the training necessary to ensure our educators and staff are confident using and teaching technology on a day to day basis?
- Based on input from educators, parents, administrators, and community members, are we utilizing the website and electronic communications facilities effectively and how might we improve our capabilities?

The results of these assessments will be communicated to the full board for informational purposes and, if necessary, for consideration in their planning and budgeting.

5. Optional Links

The link to our survey for technology needs assessment will be updated here when available:

www.surveymonkey.com/

6. Link to Current Technology Plan:

Our technology plan can be found on our website: <http://www.greatexpectationsschool.com/aboutus2.htm>

7. Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA)

GES has an Internet Safety/Acceptable Use Policy in place. It can be found on our website:

<http://www.greatexpectationsschool.com/aboutus2.htm>

GES also deploys an Internet filter to protect minors from material that is pornographic or otherwise harmful to them.

Appendix A

Parties invested in Great Expectations School Technology Plan

Representative From	Name	Signature	Date
Administration	Peter James		
Board of Directors	Sara Hingos		
Educators	Mary Haussner		
Special Education	Melissa Oberg		
Media Specialist	Clara Weitz		
Assessment Coordinator	Amy Henrikson		
Parent	Jon Hedstrom		
Community Member	Kyle Oberg		