

BSEP Planning and Oversight Committee

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Recommendation for Expenditures in 2014-15 of Funds Allocated to Technology from the *Berkeley Public Schools Educational Excellence Act of 2006* (BSEP Resource 0862)

In compliance with *The Berkeley Public Schools Educational Excellence Act of 2006* (BSEP/Measure A), nine percent (9%) of the available revenues of the Measure are allocated to three purposes: (1) providing professional development for the District's teachers and staff; (2) assessing the effectiveness of the District's educational programs for improving student achievement; and (3) providing and maintaining computers and technology in schools. Currently, Professional Development and Technology each receive 36% of the allocation, and Program Evaluation receives 28% of the 9%.

The following recommendation is for the allocation of funds for the Purpose of Technology in accordance with BSEP Measure A of 2006, Section 3.C:

... providing and maintaining computers and technology in schools. All costs attendant to providing these services are permissible.

Up-to-date technology is an asset for schools in several ways:

The use of technology engages students in learning, improves attendance, increases graduation rates and facilitates parent involvement.

The use of technology improves learning skills, such as thinking and problem-solving skills, information and communication skills, and interpersonal and self-directional skills.

The use of technology helps schools meet the needs of all students with opportunities for differentiated instruction.

The use of technology promotes equity and access in education.

The use of technology improves school efficiency, productivity, and decision-making on all levels, from the teacher in the classroom, to grade-level collaboration, to principals and school leadership.

The use of technology helps teachers meet professional requirements.

The programmatic goal of these funds is to support technology used at the school sites. Staff provide expertise in integrating technology into classroom practice; provide hardware and software support to school teachers and administrators, including instructional technology and information systems such as PowerSchool and Illuminate; and provide funds and ordering assistance for school technology purchases made by School Governance Councils and committees.

FY 2014-15 year has seen broader use of technology in the classroom, although staffing hasn't changed to support it.

Common Core State Standards (CCSS) were adopted in FY 2013-14 and continue to be implemented. These standards incorporate guidelines for students to be competent with technology.

There were 1,818 Chromebooks in the district at the time of last year's plan. At this writing, there are now 2,846, an increase of 56% in a year. The biweekly meetings of the "DigiTech" committee¹ (Library and Technology) have been productive on two levels:

1. To create a framework for instructional technology within the new CCSS curriculum; and
2. To troubleshoot problems that teachers were having incorporating technology.

The first weeks of the computer-based Smarter Balanced Assessments at 11 schools have gone quite successfully from the technology point-of-view.

Some schools have aggressively addressed the need for keyboarding and other computer literacy skills, other schools have not. A keyboarding curriculum continues at many of the elementary schools.

Code Monkey was purchased for all 4th-8th graders to teach computer programming. There were six month-long Code Monkey pilots at Cragmont, Washington, Rosa Parks, Malcolm X and John Muir, and there was one robotics and programming month-long pilot in a 5th grade at Rosa Parks,

Themes in 2015-16:

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Since all but one of these positions are 10-month positions, an extra \$3,000 is budgeted for extra duty work over the summer.

Since FY 2010-11, a TSA for Instructional Technology has been co-funded by Technology, BSEP Professional Development and federal categoricals at 33% each. For FY 2015-16, the proposal is to fund this position 50% from the Technology budget, and 50% from the BSEP Professional Development budget.

An additional 0.5 FTE position is in the FY 2015-16 BSEP Professional Development budget, which will combine with 0.5 FTE from the Common Core (Mandated Cost reimbursement) monies.

