

CPM's Technology Tips

February 2010:

What comes first in a Technology Plan, defining technology tools or defining the curriculum objective?

The answer is to align curriculum and specific lesson plans with the technology tools. Enlightened Districts consider the curriculum objective first and develop a plan for technology implementation to support it.

Technology is (finally) catching up with the classroom! Wireless technologies (including blue tooth) have become more reliable and affordable. Technology tools no longer need to be tethered to the infrastructure, allowing teachers flexibility and mobility in the classroom. The result of a successful integration of curriculum and technology is students that are engaged in the learning process through a variety of media solutions.

Technology is a hot topic today in school districts. The most difficult aspect of integrating educational technology into school districts, whether it's for 90,000 students or 900, is obtaining collaboration between the Curriculum, Business Services, IT, and Maintenance/Operations departments, especially at the planning stage. And, key to a successful implementation include consideration in the planning process for training, support, maintenance, and sustainability of the technology.

Because CPM has been involved with technology integration for the past decade, CPM's Technology Planning and Implementation Practice is uniquely qualified and experienced in facilitating work group sessions that allow departments to work together to define goals and objectives that benefit the teachers and the students, while incorporating budget requirements and District constraints, all within the language of the Bond.

Reviewing Facilities Standards and District Technology Plans

What we're finding is that Districts need assistance in reviewing and evaluating Facilities Standards documents, District Technology Plans, and assessing existing instructional technology and network infrastructures. The result of our facilitation and analysis is a detailed written document outlining our evaluation and recommendations for scope of work including suggested challenges and areas to consider while developing a budget.

Integrating Technology Goals into Master Planned Infrastructure Design

Once departmental collaboration is established and goals and budget defined, CPM assists Districts with integrating those goals with a master planned infrastructure design that focuses on enhancing the learning environment – one that blends a District's rich curriculum plan with a fully developed technology plan. A robust infrastructure is the outcome of an educational road map that includes a technology "toolbox" and supports a well planned and balanced solution. Regardless of the level of integration, from converged network-based data/voice/intercom/clock/video to independent redundant networks, master planning for today and the foreseeable future is our highest priority.

Outlining our Educational Technology Services and Past Experience

CPM focuses on three areas of implementation: design, delivery, and management of the program or project. Value engineered design of technology systems into the program is key to our success with clients. Our expertise in state-of-the-art technology allows us to advise clients on how best to design

integrated systems. We are also experienced with a variety of delivery methods (CMAS, Lease-Leaseback, Public Bid). Finally, we have RCDD-certified program managers who oversee the management of every project.

CAJON VALLEY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT – An Example of Enhancing Learning Environments with the Right Technology at the Right Time

CPM assisted Cajon Valley Unified School District in validating its Technology Implementation Plan. We assisted the District by reviewing and evaluating its Facilities Standards documents, District Technology Plan, as well as technology plan recommendations from outside sources. CPM met with District personnel from Curriculum, IT and M&O departments, as well as visited sites to assess existing instructional technology and network infrastructure. The result was a detailed written document outlining our evaluation and recommendations for scope of work that included a master planned infrastructure design that focuses on enhancing the learning environment. Further, we outlined suggested challenges and areas to consider while developing a budget. The next step is for the District and CPM to partner to implement the plan based upon recommendations outlined in the written report.