Gonzalez Elementary Long-Range Technology Plan

by

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Vision

Teachers at Gonzalez Elementary will be integrating the use of technology in their classroom to promote and enhance the students learning and achievements in school and in their real life. Teachers will produce technological lifelong learners that will become successful in the real world.

According to Richard L. Venezky (2004), he states that "there is a new vision of technology in schooling emerging, thanks to the World Wide Web. This vision can be seen especially in schools that have used technology as a lever to achieve school-wide reform in teaching and learning." Venezky (2004) goes on to state that by expanding the time and space of schooling, opening the classroom to the outside world, forming communities of learners, parents and teachers, and by giving all schools access to an expanding world of resources, both teaching and learning can be advanced to a new level of effectiveness and social importance. Gonzalez Elementary teachers are committed to teaching new ideas to their students. They will overcome any technological challenge that comes their way. They are ready to provide students with technological skills that will help them advance in the technological world that they live in. This vision will be supported by the staff and administration at Gonzalez Elementary.

Needs Assessment

Teaching and Learning (STaR Chart and Needs Assessment Instruments: surveys, observations, interviews)

For Gonzalez Elementary the 2011-2012 Texas STaR chart results show that the campus is at an Advance Technology but there is one section that the results are very low. This section is the Leadership, Administration, and Instructional Support. In this section of the Texas STaR chart the results show a rating of developing technology (Appendix I). Brownsville ISD has designed and implemented a three year technology plan. In the Brownsville ISD technology plan it states that there is a training system in place to provide skills and support to professionals and staff who use technology. There are six lead teachers who provide support in grant implementation, networking and application skills. There are training sessions that take place regularly on weekends and weekdays at the Instructional technology labs as well as campus computer labs. CPE credit is given for most classes and is in coordination with the Advanced Academics

department that allows for technology credit. At each campus the district also provides Technology Support Teachers for support in software, trainings, and hardware concerns. The district also provides a live training of a series of classes online that covers many technical and software skills. Finally, the district provides a contact person to facilitate communication of a technological nature to the individual campuses. When administrators conduct walkthroughs and they see teachers using technology they make sure and document it on the walkthrough form that is then sent to the teachers.

Educator Preparation and Development

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Leadership, Administration, and Instructional Support

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procedures are being implemented on their campus. Objectives are reviewed by the District Technology Committee as well as the District Educational Improvement Council. The plan also states that as the needs of the district changes the objectives and strategies will continue to be updated on the Technology Plan. If any new objectives are added it will be based on data from the STaR Charts and concerns from campus based Technology Support teachers as well as the District Technology Committee.

Gonzalez Elementary Campus Improvement Plan committee members meet annually to edit, revise, or develop and new objectives that need changing. The member's first meet with their grade level and discuss what has been met or what needs to be changed or what needs to be added to the plan. Once that has been done then the main members meet and discuss any new changes or additions to the campus improvement plan.

Infrastructure for Technology

For Gonzalez Elementary the 2011-2012 Texas STaR chart results show that the campus is at an Advance Technology but there is one section that the results are very low. This section is the Leadership, Administration, and Instructional Support. In this section of the Texas STaR chart the results show a rating of developing technology (Appendix I). Brownsville ISD has designed and implemented a three year technology plan. In the Brownsville ISD technology plan it states that is has developed and infrastructure that allows e-mails, file sharing, Internet access, and IP phone across the district. Web based email is now in effect for students as well as administration, faculty and staff. All teachers, staff, and administration have access to Microsoft Outlook Web Access with a searchable database of district email addresses and calendar functions and group planning components. At every campus in the district there should be a 3 to 1 student to computer and a 1 to 1 teacher to computer ratio. At Gonzalez Elementary each classroom should have at least 3 working computers available to the students. There are 3 computer labs available to the students for them to use. Unfortunately they are not being taken advantage of because Gonzalez Elementary does not have a computer teacher. The labs are sometimes used when the teachers take their students to work on projects. There are also 3 portable computer on wheels (C.O.Ws) for the students to use. Again they can only be used if the laptops are working and updated. Unfortunately most of them are not working or updated.

Goals

Teaching and Learning

The Brownsville ISD long range technology plan and the Gonzalez Elementary long range technology plan will collectively provide the improvement of student achievement in the technology area. According to Culp, Hawkins & Honey (1999) they state that while evidence indicates that computers can help students improve their performance on tests of basic skills, many researchers investigating the use of technology in education have found that technology is most powerful when used as a tool for problem solving, conceptual development and critical thinking. Reeves (1998) states that it involves students using technology to gather, organize, and analyze information and using this information to solve problems. Technology is used as a tool, and teachers and students control the curriculum and instruction. These goals can be achieved by a) teachers know the technology TEKS and b) technology is integrated into lessons correctly.

Educator Preparation and Development

In part with keeping with the Brownsville ISD long range technology plan, Gonzalez Elementary will provide professional development for all staff on campus to make sure that technology is being used in an effective way in the classrooms. This goal can be achieved by a) making sure teachers are incorporating technology planning into their grade level meetings so each teacher has input into how technology is going to be used and b) making sure teachers get the training they need in order to make sure they are incorporating technology correctly in the classroom.

Leadership, Administration, and Instructional Support

Just like Brownsville ISD long range technology plan, Gonzalez Elementary administration, MTT's and lead teachers will guide and support the use of technology in the classroom correctly. This goal can be achieved by a) providing and implementing a campus technology plan and b) administration, MTT's and lead teachers actively providing guidance and support for the use of technology in the classroom.

Infrastructure for Technology

Both Brownsville ISD and Gonzalez Elementary long range technology plan will simultaneously improve already implemented technology infrastructure at the campus. This goal can be achieved

by a) keeping a 3 to 1 student to computer ratio, b) keeping a 1 to 1 teacher to computer ratio, and c) updating desktops and laptops including C.O.Ws.

Action Plan

Focus Area: Leadership, Administration, and Instructional Support   Goal #3

Action	Timeline	Party Responsible	Cost	Funding Source	Evaluation	Other Notes
Provide instructional support, planning, trainings, and communication support.	2012-2014	Administration, MTTs, and lead teachers	Sub pay (if needed)	Local, Campus	Sign in sheets, Campus Improvement Plan	

Implementation

The Brownsville ISD long range technology plan has been in effect for one year. The district just edited it on January 2012. This new plan will be in effect until the year 2014. The district is making sure that the students of Brownsville become proficient in the area of technology. Now it is up to the campuses to implement the plan. At Gonzalez Elementary teacher can implement the district plan to a point, especially the upper grades. With this campus not having a computer teacher it is very hard to find time to teach the students about the proper uses of technology. Administration and teachers need to collaborate to find time for technology implementation in the classroom. According to the US Department of Education (2010) it states that schools continually monitor and measure their performance, clearly state intended outcomes, collaborate to redesign the effectiveness, efficiency, and flexibility of structures and processes. If Gonzalez Elementary wants to support the district goals it has implemented then the campus needs to add the district goals to the campus improvement plan so the members can discuss any actions that the campus will take in order to make sure there is success with technology on campus.

Evaluation

The Brownsville ISD technology plan is set for three years so Gonzalez Elementary should make sure that they are aligned with the district so the students can become successful. In order to see how the campus is doing the evaluations will be on-going with suggestions provided to the teachers. Each goal that was discussed earlier has a suggested evaluation. The teachers at the campus will play an important part in the success of implementing the campus plan. Teachers' evaluations will be on PDAS, surveys, walkthroughs, or even projects done by the students. The PDAS, walkthroughs, and even the projects will be given feedback so the teachers will know what needs to be corrected or what has been accomplished. Heinecke, Milman, Washington, & Blasi (2001) states that after questioning how technology can impact student learning, they call for new and expanded definitions of student learning outcomes. Recommendations include redefining technology as a process rather than as a product, conducting implementation evaluations prior to outcome evaluations; reducing the reliance on standardized test scores as the primary outcome measure; and adopting multifaceted evaluation approaches.   Gonzalez Elementary teachers try to use technology as much as possible in the classroom. Once they are aware of the success in the classroom administration and teachers will use it more to help the students learning in the classroom.

Appendix I

Texas STaR Chart Data 2011-2012

Teaching and Learning	Educator Preparation and Development	Leadership, Administration, and Instructional Support	Infrastructure for Technology
Advance Technology	Advance Technology	Developing Technology	Advance Technology

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