

ABSTRACT

In conjunction with Superintendent Michael J. Lannon, SLCPS has begun the process of creating an integrated and comprehensive information technology environment that supports all aspects of the strategic goals and system-wide initiatives articulated in the district's mission, vision, and goals. The Information Technology Blueprint/Plan is particularly relevant since lifelong learning will be a critical survival skill for 21st century learners who must be able to access, analyze, and communicate information in a fast-paced and constantly changing world. Access to information in SLCPS for improved teaching, learning, and management will require a comprehensive technology infrastructure that provides voice, video, and data resources to every classroom and office, as well as other learning environments in the community. In addition to information access, students will need teachers who are able to use technology applications to help them reach high levels of performance.

The Center for Educational Leadership and Technology (CELT), a nationally recognized IT architect and learning/business systems integrator with headquarters in Massachusetts and several regional offices throughout the United States, will conduct the planning effort. The project management team will be guided by advice and assistance from Michael J. Lannon, the superintendent of St. Lucie County Public Schools, and the district's Executive Steering Committee.

The overall goal for the study is to ensure alignment of SLCPS' information technology system with the district's vision and goals for teaching and learning in the 21st century. In order to achieve this objective, the study has been divided into three phases. During the first phase, the CELT team will work with district staff to perform comprehensive information gathering that focuses on the diverse needs of learners and decision makers throughout the SLCPS. Using site visitations, focus groups, key stakeholder interviews, document reviews, surveys, inventories, and other strategies, an accurate profile of the current status and impact of technology in schools will be developed. The second stage will address key findings derived from the information gathered and offer research and experience-based recommendations that deal with important learning and administrative issues. The final stage of the planning process will focus on the development of a five-year, web-based technology blueprint/plan that offers guidelines in such areas as curriculum integration, professional development, communications and network infrastructure, decision support, staffing, security, maintenance, implementation, and funding.

This planning effort will assist district staff in identifying new ways to help schools provide every student with the most appropriate learning technology resources and contemporary learning opportunities. It will also make information available to assist the school board leadership in making timely, informed, student-centered decisions. The outcomes of the project will underscore the major benefits of information technology for students, parents, and teachers as well as document the potential impact of 21st century technology skills on economic development.