



PLANNING FOR TECHNOLOGY

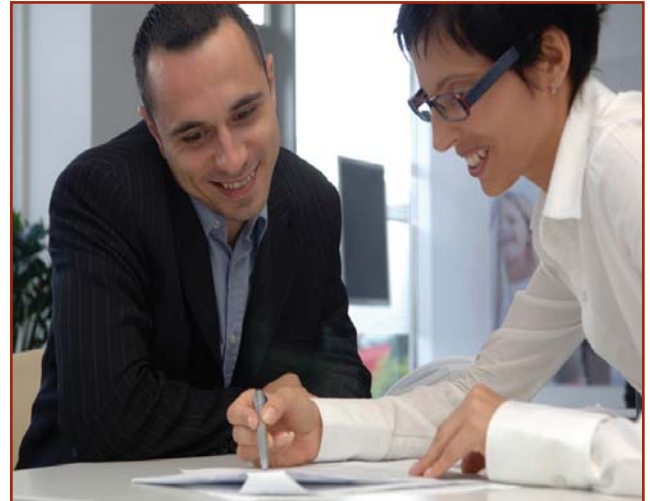
Successfully integrating your district's technology plan into the school construction process will have a major impact on teaching and learning, as well as facility operations and maintenance.

Technology is a major component of any school construction project. You will be making decisions about the electronic, telecommunication and cable infrastructure necessary to support the school's operations. These include the installation of public address, security, and telephone systems as well as classroom technology. Having a comprehensive plan from the start will be less expensive, and less frustrating, than trying to change or add requirements later.

Getting your technology coordinator and facilities manager involved in the project is important because they will be controlling, monitoring and troubleshooting equipment after the architects and trade contractors are gone. By planning ahead, you can get good returns on your technology investment and have the technology that students, teachers and staff will use.

KEYS TO SUCCESS

- **Plan the design up-front.** Infrastructure planning efforts go hand-in-hand with architectural and construction processes. Technology infrastructure should be considered early in the design process when there is the greatest opportunity to meet your school district's requirements cost-effectively.



Integrate a district-wide technology plan. Map out the current practices and future goals of learning and technology in your district, and compare the effectiveness of the available technology programs at promoting engaged learning. Identify areas of engaged learning that the school district is currently using or needs to incorporate into the classroom.

- **Take advantage of key state technology programs.** Resources such as the eTech Ohio/Ohio School Facilities Commission Collaborative is crucial for districts in defining their district's technology needs. The School Facilities Technology Toolkit offers online school facility tours, interviews with school technology coordinators, resources and additional information. The Toolkit is available on eTech Ohio's website: www.etech.ohio.gov/go/schooltecht toolkit.
- **Reduce multiple, disparate systems.** Recognize that multiple, disparate systems greatly increase cost as well as operational expenses, while decreasing system reliability.
- **Budget.** Protect the technology budget in mind through-out the construction project.



TECHNOLOGY PLANNING

TYPICAL TECHNOLOGY COMPONENTS

- **Cabling systems.** Copper and fiber cabling connecting voice and data across a Local Area Network, wireless access points, card access and surveillance, VoIP systems, CCTV/ CATV, and CAD installations.
- **Classroom Sound Enhancement.** Teachers may wear a small infrared wireless microphone that transmits their voice to a speaker system evenly distributed throughout the classroom (typically in the ceiling). Using this device, teachers speak in a normal one-on-one voice, creating a comfortable listening and learning environment for each student.
- **Broadband and Wireless Systems.** Broadband and wireless systems provide high-speed access services that schools use to gain Internet access.
- **Media Retrieval/Distribution System.** Media distribution systems provide access to distance learning, on-demand video, and virtual classrooms, manage and deliver school and campus news, remote presentations and even underwater expeditions. It can deliver video to any PC, laptop, or television connected to school district Internet Protocol (IP) networks.
- **Building Security System and Building Access Control Systems.** The additional layers of surveillance cameras and door access systems provide protection against outsiders who may try to gain access to the facility. They also serve as a deterrent to student behavior problems on school grounds.
- **Phone system.** The phone system can be either an IP-enabled PABX system or an IP-only PABX system. Either system will include digital display speaker phones in every classroom and administration space.
- **Intercom and Paging Systems.** Two-way paging and voice intercom systems provide quick and easy voice access from classrooms to administration areas and to all areas of the building.



ABOUT THE COMMISSION

Established in 1997, the Ohio School Facilities Commission administers the state's comprehensive Kindergarten through 12th grade public school construction program. The agency helps school districts fund, plan, design, and build or renovate schools. OSFC is a Member of the U.S. Green Building Council.