



Region 2 Education Service Center

Technology Contacts Meeting Minutes

1:15-4 p.m.; room 1-177

August 7, 2008

ePlan and related issues.....Faye Stone

We still have several districts who have not entered or updated their technology plans into the ePlan system. Please call us if we can help. Your Title II-D and eRate funds require the plan to be approved.

We will again offer at least 2 days of open lab time next fall to enable you to get away from your office (phones/walk-ins) and work on your plan. Bring your whole committee if you like. We will be here to help you.

We also need more reviewers for the next round. It is easier to enter a good plan when you have the reviewer training and experience, and it helps your colleagues when we have a good number of reviewers. Please answer the call and volunteer.

e-Rate workshops and q&aRic Gonzalez

Cutoff recommendation this year is at 83%--waiting for approval.

Ric will present his annual eRate workshop for beginners and veterans on September 16. Feel free to bring business managers/superintendents to this session. Please be sure to register so that we know whether we will need to add a session. We want you to have hands-on experience.

Reminders:

- *Your written plan must be completed before your 470 is done. It does not have to be approved, but you definitely need a written copy on file.*
- *Get your 486 in place now.*
- *Get bills for services in before October.*
- *Selective reviews—priority 2 districts this year. If it comes up, call Ric for help.*

Instructional Issues Faye, Ric, Chris, Scott

- **Workshops** – *beginner levels online, but can be done f2f anywhere, any time.*
 - *Encourage teachers to meet the SBEC standards on their time.*
 - *Discussion – when and how do you provide inservice at your district?*
 - *Most trying after school, inservice days when they can schedule...still a real dilemma.*
 - *Texas STaR charts are not a real measure of teacher literacy.*
- **Technology Literacy Testing** – *ESC has IC3 testing; MOS certification testing available for teachers and students. Students in CATE courses should be provided opportunities to get certifications before leaving school. You may feasibly also use the tests you are choosing for your grade 8 students to measure teacher literacy, since the standards for teachers are the 8th grade standards.*
- **Adobe Certification** – *ESC now has Adobe Certification available for students and teachers. We can bring it to your campus if you wish, since the tests are accessed online. This is another “must” for your CATE students.*
- **Adobe.com** – *Scott demonstrated some of the new, free Adobe resources at adobe.com, such as Buzzword. Here are his notes:*

Free software!

www.adobe.com

- Adobe Buzzword – Online Word Processing & Collaboration Tool
- Adobe ConnectNow – Meet live over the web and share your screen with anyone
- Create PDF – Convert up to 5 files to Adobe PDF
- 5 gigs of FREE storage

www.dvdvideosoft.com

- Free YouTube Downloader
- Convert YouTube files to avi, mp4, flv for use in PowerPoint and podcasting projects
- Check out all their other free goodies as well

www.kerpoof.com

- Make a Picture
- Make a Movie
- Make a Drawing
- Make a Card
- Make a Story

Not Free – But Cool – The Flip video camera

- Flip Video Camera – www.theflip.com
- Extremely easy to use video camera
- Prices under \$150.00
- Upload straight to YouTube
- “One of the most significant electronic products of the year” – New York Times



Open Forum discussion

New reporting requirements for Title II-D

The group discussed some options and requirements for the new Title II-D report that TEA has asked superintendents to submit. Thanks to Rosie Salinas from Freer for alerting us to the document sent out on May 30, 2008. Sections 1 and 3 are clearly defined for the first report.

Section 2 requires evaluation of last year's 8th graders. How the district assesses their students' literacy is a local decision so far.

Trish and Donita mentioned that using EasyTech helps teachers, since it's set up to fit the standards. Connected Tech adoption is aligned well to TA TEKS.

Online testing sites:

[Learning.com](http://www.learning.com) (Trish believes they pay \$1500 initial cost and \$3 per student)

[Simple Assessment](http://www.simpleassessment.com) (free)

If you know of other online testing sites, please send them for posting.

Other topics...

Technology Planning. Remember that a good plan starts with the District Improvement Plan. That plan should be used for each Campus Improvement Plan, and then the tech plan takes priorities from the campus objectives/strategies.

Curriculum must drive the technology, and student achievement must remain the priority through your plans. Many of our plans are obviously written by tech folks and are hardware-heavy. We still need the hardware, but link it to student achievement.

Supt. Survey for Testing Center: If you are asked to help complete this survey, remember that TEA does not want you to pad or whitewash your ability to test students online. Be sure to consider how many students will be testing at once—the most, then figure your other issues from that number. What about electricity needs, proctoring, locations, security....

Teacher Training:


The group discussed how each of us is managing on-site teacher training in technology.

Skyward allows just-in-time on line but is rather hit-or-miss when teachers must take the initiative. Some use Atomic Learning and issue a school password.

TM uses incentives for after, before-school sessions. Teachers take self-taught tutorials and tests, send in assignments which are graded by committees. Finishers get their name placed into level 1, 2, 3, or 4 prize hoppers. Prizes are drawn from the hoppers and winners receive equipment for their classrooms, such as cameras and projectors.

TM also conducts 2-day Intersession “camps.” Attendance is not as good as hoped.

We would like to get more input on this topic at the next meeting on November 6. That meeting will be available through the videoconference system, with a group at ESC-2.



Online systems:

DMAC – contact Faye Stone or Ric Gonzalez

CSCOPE – contact Gaye Glenn, Faye Stone, or Scott Trudeau

iNova -- contact Nori Mora or Ric Gonzalez

Coordinator Info Web Page : <http://www.technology.esc2.net/coordinators.htm>

2008-2009 Technology Contacts Meetings

Nov 6, 2008 1:15-4:00

February 26, 2009 1:15 – 4:00

May 7, 2009 1:15 – 4:00

August 13, 2009 1:15 – 4:00