

Technology



- All 12,000-plus Broward County Public Schools (BCPS) classrooms are networked, enabling students to connect to the Internet. All District offices are connected to Broward's Wide Area Network (WAN), enabling staff to implement efficient work flow practices. Technology standards are in place so that all new school construction includes network connectivity and computer technology.
- The District uses ParentLink to provide communications such as attendance calling and rapid parent notifications, assisting the district in becoming a leader in school-to-home communication.
- Through partnerships with technology vendors, Broward has deployed wireless network solutions to classrooms and campuses for projects such as using video on demand to deliver digital IP video content, including curriculum content, training, video conference, and synchronous and asynchronous meetings- to the District's desktops.
- The LANdesk Management Suite software, added as part of the refresh program and which the District uses for inventory control, helps tech team members control the software that can be loaded onto any single computer, helping to avoid issues such as viruses by quarantining computers so any potential viruses don't spread.
- The technology refresh program also included the purchase of 5,000 Lexmark multi-function printers/copiers/scanners- the first step in a long-term goal of providing printers to all classrooms in the District. The printers are being used by teachers as scanners to scan bubble sheets from quizzes and tests into their computers, so formative assessment data can be imported automatically and area available instantly in the teachers' Excelsior Pinnacle grade books- and, in turn, in the district's student database.
- The District implemented an initiative called Project Management Office (PMO) allowing the District's technology team to easily manage the various and often changing education technology and information technology projects. District administrators can track projects via a web-based system to see exactly where they stand- what percentage of a project is complete, who is responsible for it, the date it started, the date it is expected to be finished, and so on.
- Digital resources, such as online curriculum and just-in-time professional development, are available to students and teachers. The online resources include: Broward Virtual University, Broward Virtual Education (BVED-the District's online high school and middle school), and Atomic Learning, an online technology tutorial resource. Many educational resources are open to students and teachers through the Internet, providing access twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week (24/7).
- The District has purchased and offers to all key stakeholders the Blackboard Academic Suite that acts as the course platform for new district online initiatives including: eLearning Broward's online courses and programs of study for the district's adult students and adult community, HRD's staff development online courses, and Instructional Technology's online presence for K-12 teachers.
- The District provides professional development for teachers to integrate technology into their classrooms.
- Instructional Technology's Global Learning Initiative for Digital Students (GLIDE) has students achieving at high levels, increasing their critical-thinking skills, and drawing conclusions from project-based learning.
- Broward's award-winning Data Warehouse provides reports to teachers and other staff on data such as school demographics, student attendance, test results, student scheduling, and

discipline data. The reports include graphical dashboards with easy to read charts and graphs. Access is on a “24/7” basis.

- Parents, teachers and students can access information via the Virtual Counselor as powered by the Data Warehouse. Use of this technology through the District Web site enables access to information such as absences, academic history, assignment history, graduation information, marking period grades, student schedule, and test scores.
- The Broward Enterprise Education Portal (BEEP) provides a consolidated, Web-based portal needed for instruction and curriculum resources.
- The District’s technology Refresh Program includes portable racks with wireless connections to the IT system for use by students.
- One of the key components of the technology refresh initiative was the laptop cart program where the district delivered 2,000 mobile laptop carts throughout all schools, each loaded with up to 20 wireless-equipped Apple or Dell laptop computers, a Cisco Aironet 1000 Series lightweight access point (for carts at schools; that did not already have access points installed throughout their buildings), and a Lexmark printer.
- Conferencing Services at ETS (754-321-0484) provides videoconferencing via the public Internet, or through high speed ISDN lines. Staff continues to test streaming servers/TCS to record, house, and replay video content over the Internet to laptops and desktop computers.
- SBBC now has a total of 470 operational videoconferencing systems in schools and administrative sites. More than 4,800 audio conferences were held during the 2006/07 school year. For equipment training or support contact Conferencing Services @ 754-321-0484.
- Utilization of videoconferencing has saved the District a significant amount of money in travel and time, as administrators are conducting more meetings directly from their own offices.
- Multiple school sites can sign up for daily scheduled video conferencing classes that correspond with ancillary materials and lesson plans- thereby extending learning beyond the classroom.
- Through a District-wide licensing of Discovery Education’s united streaming digital content, all teachers and District personnel can access video content for integration into their classrooms and work environments.

- Over the last three years, the District has averaged 1.85 million minutes annually on the audio bridge.
- The District has access to a variety of collaboration tools, including Cisco’s Meeting Place- used extensively for audio conferencing and the Hospital/Homebound program; and Elluminate-enabling conferencing and collaboration to occur at the end-users’ desktop.
- The Digital Divide Program recycles computers and donates them to eligible families within BCPS. The project increases the number of first-time home computer families, provides extends student programs, and increases parents’ participation with access to online resources.
- The Inventory of Teacher Technology Skills (ITTS) is a web-based teacher technology proficiency instrument aligned to National Education Technology Standards for teachers to identify needs and assist teachers and principals with designing professional development activities and developing Professional Growth Plans.
- A Technology Advisory Committee (TAC) was formed by the School Board to provide input, advice, and assistance in the implementation of the District’s Information Technology Plan (ITP).
- District Technology Awards include 2006 Best Use of Technology, Educational Institutions, South Florida Business Journal.
- In 2007, the District was named a “Laureate” for 2007 in the Computerworld Honors Program for extraordinary use of information technology in Education & Academia. The District was one of 23 laureates in the Education & Academia category. The District was also a finalist in the Education and Academia Category for the 21st Century Achievement Awards, presented by the Computerworld Information Technology Awards Foundation.

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