

NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Reminder: the Needs Assessment information needs to be obtained from a variety of sources. List all groups from which data was collected and explain how the data was used.

Example:

Prairie Valley School District consists of one building that houses all K-12 students.

Included in the building are the following technology tools:

- Wireless lab: 16 tablets
- Wireless lab: 16 laptops
- PC lab: 18 desktop computers
- Two wireless laptop carts: 20 and 16 for each cart
- Two Video Conferencing Units

All classrooms and offices are equipped with Internet hookups as well as wireless access. All classrooms have a ceiling mounted LCD projector with about 2/3rd's of those having Smartboards. K-6 classrooms have an average of 3 computers for student use.

Technology is used extensively in our school. With the use of DDN Campus, attendance, assignments, and other information is available to teachers, administration, students and parents. The parent portal of DDN Campus has been extremely popular among the parents and has been a great way of communicating between the classroom and home. Email is used school wide on a daily basis for staff as well as parent communication. Through an intranet web site, announcements are posted each morning for staff and students to read. Teachers are encouraged to integrate technology into their lesson plans, students are encouraged to discover new ways to use the available technology and everyone uses the Internet on a daily basis. Teachers in all grade levels use Discovery Streaming on a weekly basis. In our K-6 curriculum, Destination Success, Successmaker, Accelerated Reader, Star Reading and Star Math are used extensively by all staff and students and have had a major impact on their learning and assessment of learning. Starting in the fall of 2009, keyboarding will be started the 4th 9 weeks of 3rd grade and an entire semester of computer time will be dedicated to keyboard in the 4th grade using a program called MicroType. Junior high and high school students are offered several technology-related courses such as basic keyboarding, web page design & Internet searching, Microsoft Office and programming. Microsoft Office 2007 was implemented in the summer of 2008 on all district computers.

To assess our needs, every spring the technology coordinator creates a technology survey that is completed by all certified staff online. This survey is a major element of our needs assessment for the next school year. School district administration then uses the results to plan in-services and to aid in the decision making process of purchasing of hardware and software. (Technology Survey – Attachment #1 – Staff) In addition to the survey created by the technology coordinator, as part of our NCA review, a team of teachers also surveyed teachers, students and parents of high school students in the Spring of 2008.

(Technology Survey – Attachment #2-1 – Student Survey) (Technology Survey – Attachment #2-2 – Teacher Survey) Because Prairie Valley School is part of the 1:1 initiative, our students and teachers were also surveyed by the State of South Dakota Classroom Connections. Information from this survey was also taken in to consideration when planning for technology in future years. (Classroom Connections Survey – Attachment #3-1 – Student) (Classroom Connections Survey – Attachment #3-2 – Teacher) Data from these 5 surveys were used to identify problem areas. With the help of the surveys, it was easier to determine what areas more professional development was needed. It was also easier to determine where technology hardware and software was needed.