

Needs Analysis: Online Learning Implementation

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<b>Institution Description</b>	<p>The Friendly Public School district, located in Union County, New Jersey serves children in grades prekindergarten through twelfth grade. The district consists of four elementary, one middle, and one high school. During the 2018-2019 school year, the district's six schools had an enrollment of 4,909 students and 288 classroom teachers.</p> <p>The proposed online learning opportunity will focus on teachers that serve students in second through sixth grade at the four elementary schools within the district. The initiative includes basic skills, resource room, and special area teachers as well. The Director of Technology chose these grades because the students in grade two and up have their individually assigned google credentials, which gives them the capability of using Google Classroom. Once this phase is complete, a separate training program will be created for the younger students in grades prekindergarten to first grade to implement one-to-one iPads.</p>
<b>Current Status</b>	<p>Over the past two years, the Friendly Public Schools have phased in a one-to-one Chromebook initiative from seventh to twelfth grade. At this point, every middle and high school student has a district-provided Chromebook assigned to them. However, the Director of Technology is not pleased with how teachers are utilizing this technology in their classrooms. Unfortunately, during his learning walks, he has only seen basic level, substitution types of activities. The feedback from supervisors and principles is in agreement with this observation as well. There have been several in-person professional development opportunities offered, but many teachers have not taken advantage of them.</p> <p>At the moment, each elementary school has a few Chromebook carts, and several teachers have to share them. The teachers are experiencing several issues with sharing the carts because there is no sense of ownership. The carts are disorganized and in need of many repairs. The teachers are frustrated because they feel that no one takes the initiative to put in a service ticket when a Chromebook breaks. They are overall frustrated and are requesting one-to-one Chromebooks for their students like the middle and high school students have. Although, they have demonstrated an eagerness to incorporate technology into their curriculum, the Director of Technology is hesitant to move forward with this costly measure because of what is going</p>

	<p>on at the middle and high schools. Additionally, the Director of Technology believes that these students are too young to be assigned a Chromebook like the middle and high school students, however, he came up with a plan to address the situation.</p>
<b>Desired Outcome</b>	<p>The Directory of Technology has presented a plan to extend the one-to-one Chromebook initiative to include grades two through six. To entice teacher buy-in, each teacher that participates in the initiative will receive a free Chromebook upon starting the training that they may keep. Upon completion of training, they will receive a Chromebook cart for his/her classroom, which will stay in the classroom and not go home with the students.</p> <p>Any teacher that would like to participate will fill out a short application online, and they will have to agree to participate in the asynchronous online training program in which they can do at their convenience within an allotted amount of time.</p> <p>The objectives for the online training modules are that the teachers will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Use emerging technologies effectively in their classrooms.</li> <li>● Integrate technology seamlessly into their curriculum.</li> <li>● Distinguish the levels of the SAMR (substitution, augmentation, modification, and redefinition) model and execute engaging lessons.</li> <li>● Construct lessons using the TPACK (technology, pedagogy, and content knowledge) framework in mind.</li> <li>● Establish a cohesive online school-wide parent-teacher communication system.</li> </ul>
<b>Technology Requirements</b>	<p>Upon the approved application, teachers will receive a district-provided Chromebook for them to keep. They may use this Chromebook to complete their training activities at their convenience, anywhere that they have Internet access.</p> <p>The Friendly Public Schools utilizes G Suite for Education. Therefore, the training links will be set up through Google Classroom. Teachers will use their Chrome credentials to access the Google Classroom and to create accounts for various programs, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Google Classroom</li> <li>● ClassDojo</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● BrainPOP, Code.org, Tynker</li> <li>● Khan Academy</li> </ul>
<b>Training Requirements</b>	<p>In addition to receiving a Chromebook, teachers will also receive credit for 15 professional development hours upon their successful completion of the ten modules. Teachers can anticipate it taking one hour to complete the interactive videos and assessment components within each module. However, it could take more or less time, depending on the teacher.</p> <p>The module topics are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Google Classroom and Beyond</li> <li>2. Everything Google (Docs, Slides, Forms, Sheets, and Drawings)</li> <li>3. Creating Digital Portfolios</li> <li>4. Reboot Your Lessons with the SAMR Model</li> <li>5. Understanding the TPACK Framework &amp; Making It Work For You</li> <li>6. Aligning the ISTE Standards &amp; Core Curriculum Content Standards</li> <li>7. Incorporating AR, VR, &amp; Mixed Reality into Your Curriculum</li> <li>8. Interactive and Engaging Assessment Techniques</li> <li>9. Using Creative Coding Within Your Curriculum</li> <li>10. Digital Tools &amp; Parent-Teacher Communication</li> </ol> <p>From the start of their training, teachers have five months to complete all of the training material. Upon successful completion, an order will be placed for a Chromebook cart to be designated specifically for their classroom and students. The order, set-up, and delivery time are not expected to take more than 60 days in total.</p> <p>Additionally, in an attempted effort to improve the situation going on at the middle and high schools, those teachers will have access to the training modules and will receive one and half hours of professional development credit for every one-hour module that they complete. This extra measure will not cost the district anything and will hopefully get some teachers on board and moving forward with technology. If they complete all ten modules successfully, they will also receive a Chromebook to keep.</p>
<b>Potential Issues &amp; Solutions</b>	<p>Hopefully, every teacher will want to be a part of this initiative. However, probably unlikely. If there is an overwhelming response, the initiative will end up more costly than anticipated. However, the district is committed to</p>

	<p>not having to turn anyone away. It may just take a little longer than expected to outfit all of the classrooms. Teachers will understand that they will receive their Chromebook carts on a first-come, first-serve basis upon completion of the modules. This sense of urgency will hopefully help to move teachers along quicker through the training. If the allotted funds run out, teachers will receive their Chromebook cart when the funds replenish at the beginning of the following school year.</p>
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