

Greene County Public Schools

"Our Children...Our Future...Our Responsibility!"



Technology Plan 2004-2010

www.greencountyschools.com

Table of Contents

Executive Summary	3
Stakeholders	5
Mission/Vision Statements	6
Integration	7
Professional Development & Support Programs	11
Connectivity	13
Educational Applications	18
Accountability	23
Technology Funding	25

Executive Summary

The goals listed in the Technology Plan for Greene County Schools are important in ensuring the quality of education for our student population. This will involve open communication between the staff, administrators, and community of Greene County. This plan is the first step in that communication process. As time progresses, the Technology Plan will become a “living document,” providing a roadmap for the utilization of technology within our district.

Greene County Schools Technology Plan has five basic goals to guide our efforts in the coming years:

1. The first goal is **to integrate technology within the classroom setting**. This is very important in meeting the needs of students and of teachers. Integration of technology allows students to access information quickly and efficiently, enables students to be exposed to a variety of educational teaching techniques and allows students to access interesting and varied educational content.

To help achieve this goal we will investigate the use of technology for improving reading skills. We plan to use interactive web sites in the classroom. We will investigate using different presentation and other educational equipment in the classroom. Training the faculty is an essential part of this effort, covered in the next goal of our plan.

2. Our second goal is **training our staff to use the technology available now and in the future**. We will do this by continuing to complete our TSIP program for all Instructional Personnel. We plan on offering a variety of classes and training to our school staff and to monitor their progress in becoming proficient in the use of technology.

We will offer the incentives available through our participation in the SVTC consortium and encourage all teachers to take the NETS*T training as well as NTTI and other conferences. This NTTI training could make available equipment they earn as they progress through NETS*T certification.

3. **Connectivity at all levels will be our third goal in Greene County Schools**. We plan to offer timely support for the computer equipment found in our classrooms and offices. We hope to increase staff in the technology department and at the school level to do this. We also plan to provide loaner computers to the schools, helping shorten the time it takes for repair. We will monitor this support through statistics from our help desk and meeting with on-site technology leaders. We will try to maintain a five-students-to-one-computer ratio and to develop a

replacement policy for classrooms as well as administrative offices as computers become out of date.

Connectivity will be enhanced throughout our network by replacing hubs, certifying the wiring and improving our network speeds and assuring any new connections will be given the fastest bandwidth possible. The technology staff will support server problems in a reasonable time, establish guidelines for installation of server based curricular applications and make comparisons of speed from one year to the next.

Remote connections will be created to allow staff, students and parents to access information that allows communication between all stakeholders involved in education in Greene County.

4. **Support of the use of educational applications is our fourth goal in Greene County Schools.** We will support and encourage websites created by teachers and others who wish to communicate educational information throughout our community. Libraries use various applications that need to be supported and enhanced to meet the needs of all students. Student database management and financial packages used by the schools will be supported and enhanced. With more requests for information about our students from the state and federal governments, there is a great deal of support needed for our SASI student database.

Technology Teams at each school will be used to make recommendations on the purchase of software. Help will be provided to develop online educational applications and teleconferencing opportunities for education of our students and staff development.

5. **Our fifth goal is to develop an evaluation method** that will help us assess the success of our technology in meeting the educational needs of students and teachers. This will be accomplished by developing an evaluation form to be used on a yearly basis and compared with progress within the school. We also want to develop a model of research and evaluation that will help us to make administrative decisions that are based on research.

Stakeholders

Committee Members:

Within the System

Stover, Lee	Middle School Faculty
Ross, Andrea	High School Faculty
Carson, Connie	Primary School Faculty
Crocker, Wendy	Elementary School Faculty Member
Adair, Brian	Elementary School Faculty
Parkhill, Becky	Central Office Staff
Herring, Dale	Technology Coordinator
Phillips, Barb	Training Coordinator and Elementary School Faculty

Community at large

Alan Yost

To ensure that the Technology Plan is distributed to the staff of Greene County Public Schools as well as the citizens of Greene County, the following steps will be taken:

1. The Technology Plan is available via internet at the following address:
http://www.greencountyschools.com/users/tech/tech_plan.pdf
2. A copy of the plan will be given to each school's Tech Team Leader at the first division wide meeting of the school year. The Technology Plan will be re-distributed annually.
3. The Tech Team Leader will then distribute a copy to each member of the school's local Tech Team.
4. Each local Tech Team Member will then distribute the plan to the grade level or department they represent.
5. The Administrative Team, consisting of principals and support staff, will be given a copy at the first faculty meeting of each school year.

The distribution of the Technology Plan may be in paper format or electronic format. The web address for the Technology Plan will be communicated to all parties noted above.

Mission/Vision Statements

Mission Statement:

Greene County students will receive the technological skills necessary to make them independent and enthusiastic learners. Educators will receive the necessary training and skills in technology to provide an effective learning environment for students and increase their own skills. This will then meet the expectations of the mission statement of Greene County Schools, which states we should “create an environment in our classrooms that results in this high level of performance.”

Vision Statement:

Greene County Public Schools holds the belief that technology will enhance the learning experience of each child.

Integration

Goal: Improve the educational experience for faculty, staff, and parents through the use of technology.

A. Objective 1 – To integrate the use of technology within the classroom.

- a. Current
 - i. Teachers will use technology mainly for presentations or basic research. The form of a presentation can be a simple PowerPoint slide show for an individual class to a newscast presented to the entire school.
- b. Strategy
 - i. Investigate alternative methods for the use of technology within the classroom. This can be accomplished with the use of contacts within other districts as well as other states.
 - ii. Determine how technology is currently being used at each school.
 1. Although technology is being used, what impact does the particular technology have on student learning? How did the SOL test scores as well as scores on other assessment tests compare to the classes in the same grade level who did not use the same technology? A simple survey will be sent out in May of 2004 to determine what Technology is being used in each grade. In May of 2005 the same survey will once again be sent to the teachers. A comparison of the two surveys will be performed in July of 2005. This will be compared to the SOL scores to try and develop a correlation between the two.
 - iii. Determine the amount of technology available to the students.
 1. Currently, Greene County Public Schools maintains a ratio of 1 computer per 5 students at the High School and Middle School level. This is in compliance with the SOL technology initiative. The same ratio needs to be maintained within the Elementary Schools. This ratio will be achieved by June 30, 2005 for our Elementary Schools and June 2006 for our Primary School.
 - iv. Model the use of technology in private industry. In a lot of situations technology is being used within the classroom, but the impact is no greater than it would have been if none were used. Teachers and staff need to ask questions such as:
 1. Why use technology?
 2. What are we trying to accomplish by using technology?
 3. What will the savings be? (Time, improved test scores, etc.)
 - v. Investigate methods of placing technology in the hands of the students for items such as looking up a class schedule, menus,

grades, reporting, and e-mail. With greater access to technology for communication and research, testing scores and academic achievement should improve. A pilot program among staff was started to investigate the Palm Platform vs. the Pocket PC platform. This was started in April, 2004. Student beta testing should be started by June, 2005.

- vi. Investigate the use of technology to improve reading skills. This would include, but not be limited to, the use of digital recorders to record student presentations.
- vii. Investigate the use of interactive web sites in the classroom. This is currently being done by a few staff members but needs to be consistent from grade level to grade level.
- viii. Investigate methods for teachers to be able to electronically distribute class notes, lecture materials, and assignments. One area where this may be accomplished is through the use of the School's web site. To assist teachers in the creation of web pages, School Center has been purchased. This is an interactive web creation service. Training for this will begin in May of 2004 and continue through to May of 2005.
- ix. Investigate the use of different presentation devices which would engage the students during a lecture. One example is the use of Smart Boards. Are they being used effectively? If not, what steps need to be taken to fully utilize this technology?
- x. Train the faculty on how to correctly implement technology within the classroom. Such training would cover topics such as "How to Integrate Technology into your Lesson Plan", "How to use Search Engines in the Classroom", "Multimedia Content for the K12 Environment." Once the teacher is knowledgeable in how to use the tools available in the classroom, the educational experience for the students should be improved. This should result in an improvement in SOL scores and overall academic achievement. These courses will be offered starting in September 2004 and continue through the life of the current technology plan.
- xi. Investigate ways to make technology less intimidating to staff members.
- xii. Investigate grants and additional funding for new technology.
- xiii. Employ additional student assessment software. Teachers are finding that programs such as Edutest provide a quick and easy method of assessing a student's current ability. Already teachers have begun testing students on material before it is presented in the classroom. This gives the teacher an idea in which areas students need the most assistance. After completing the classroom material, students are once again retested to see if their scores improve. Assessment programs such as this need to be implemented at all grade levels.
- xiv. Develop online classes for homebound students. Homebound students would be defined as students who are not in the academic environment during the normal school day. The reasons may

include an illness as well as other issues. Technology such as “Blackboard” would allow students to take a course while at home and still receive the direct student-to-teacher interaction important for academic success.

- c. Timeline to accomplish the above strategies:
 - i. Identify the number of students on the average this technology would impact
 - 1. To be completed by December, 2004
 - ii. Identify what technologies may satisfy this requirement
 - 1. To be completed by December, 2005
 - iii. Beta Test the various technologies
 - 1. To be completed by June, 2006
 - iv. Implementation
 - 1. Started August, 2006
- d. Progress Measurement
 - i. Compare purchasing requests from one academic year to another.
 - ii. Survey the administration at each school at the end of each academic year.

B. Objective 2 – To provide information to both students and parents.

- a. Current
 - i. Students or parents have no access to student information.
- b. Strategy
 - i. Develop a method for all students to have the ability to look up simple information such as schedules, lunch menus, and grades. This could be accomplished by using a single workstation for student access, web access, or through the use of PDA's.
 - ii. Develop a method to allow parents the ability to look at grades and teacher comments online.
- c. Timeline
 - i. The communication between the parent and teacher is especially important to the success of the child’s learning experience. The following time frame has been established for the completion of this strategy:
 - 1. Investigate different software packages available to help facilitate communication between the parent and teacher without compromising security.
 - a. Start date: July, 2004.
 - b. Completion date: June, 2005
 - 2. Beta Testing of selected package
 - a. Start date: July, 2005
 - b. Completion date: June, 2006
 - 3. Implementation
 - a. Start date: July, 2006
 - b. Completion date: August, 2006
- d. Progress Measurement

- i. Survey the parents to determine if the use of technology was beneficial. This is to be completed at the end of each academic year, in the month of May.

C. Objective 3 – To improve the use of technology by support staff and administration.

- a. Current
 - i. Technology is used by support staff and administration mainly for access to the Student Information System.
- b. Strategy
 - i. Provide additional training to support staff and administration. This would include courses in the use of technology as well as Microsoft MOUS certification courses.
 - ii. Investigate new technology to assist with administrative functions such as scheduling.
- c. Progress Measurement
 - i. Survey the administration at each school at the end of each academic year.

Professional Development & Support Programs

Goal 1: To establish a program of continued technology training which will stress integration of technology to effectively support educational goals.

A. Objective 1 - Training will continue to be offered to address the Technology Standards for Instructional Personnel (TSIP).

- a. Current
 - i. Although most teachers currently have this certification, each year new hires include some instructional personnel who have not received technology training relating to these standards.
- b. Strategy
 - i. The training relating to the Technology Standards for Instructional Personnel needs to be provided for certified personnel who still need this training. This training will be provided through website activities and portfolios, onsite inservices, prepackaged inservices, or evaluation of activities and projects already completed.
- c. Progress Measurement
 - i. The number of staff who successfully completed certification.

B. Objective 2 - A variety of classes, training, and resources pertaining to the effective integration of technology will be available for staff development.

- a. Current
 - i. All teachers do not effectively integrate technology into their curriculum.
 - ii. Some teachers do not have either the resources or the knowledge to effectively integrate technology into their curriculum.
- b. Strategy
 - i. Training will be provided to certified staff in a variety of ways which may include:
 - 1. Onsite technology integration training
 - 2. Onsite training through WVPT and the VDOE
 - 3. Attendance at regional courses and training offered through the SVTC Ed Tech Grant
 - 4. Attendance at the NTTI Conference and training
 - 5. Attendance at regional and state training and conferences
 - 6. Attendance at the SVTC training for administrators
 - 7. Online courses and/or distance learning
 - 8. Attendance at conferences conducted by VSTE and VDOE
- c. Progress Measurement
 - i. The number of educational technology classes and inservices available to certified staff.
 - ii. The number of staff who successfully complete at least one technology integration training opportunity during the year including onsite training, course work, regional training, NETS*T certification and NTTI Conference follow-up training.

- iii. The number of administrators who participate in training opportunities that help them develop a plan to oversee the use and evaluation of technology integration in their school.

Goal 2: To provide the necessary staffing to support technology education and integration into the educational curriculum.

A. Objective 1 - Technology Training Coordinator position increased to be full time.

- a. Current
 - i. Technology Training Coordinator is currently a stipened position.
 - ii. Technology Training Coordinator does not currently have time during the school day to oversee technology integration.
- b. Strategy
 - i. Technology Training Coordinator position should be increased to full time.
- c. Progress Measurement
 - i. Position changed to full time with time during the school day to oversee technology integration.

B. Objective 2 - Site-based technology resource teachers are available to all schools.

- a. Current
 - i. Site-based technology resource teachers are not available in each school.
 - ii. Assistance at the school level is currently being conducted by a technology team leader who is generally not responsible for offering instructional technology assistance.
- b. Strategy
 - i. Create positions of technology resource teachers in each school.
- c. Progress Measurement
 - i. Positions of technology resource teachers created in each school.

C. Objective 3 - Technology training staff will be provided with training opportunities and experiences.

- a. Current
 - i. Technology Training Coordinator is currently attending a limited number of conferences within budget limitations.
- b. Strategy
 - i. Technology Training Coordinator should continue to attend certain conferences.
 - ii. Funding to finance certain conferences for Technology Resource Teachers, ET 2.
- c. Progress Measurement
 - i. Attendance at conferences and training sessions by Technology Training Coordinator and Technology Resource Teachers.

Connectivity

Goal 1: Technology Availability – To ensure that the necessary technology is available for staff and student use.

A. Objective 1 - Provide an adequate response time when repairing computers.

- a. Current
 - i. Currently all computer problems are reported to the Technology Department via an on-line problem reporting center. Problems are resolved in the order of importance, or priority. As the number of computers increase within the system, so will the number of problems. This could lead to the possibility of a teacher being without a computer for a longer than acceptable period of time.
- b. Strategy
 - i. Provide a loaner computer to any instructor without a computer for a period of 2 days due to hardware failures. This would require the purchasing of approximately 2 machines each year as spares. These machines would need to be preloaded with the standard software and ready to go.
 - ii. Examine the possibility of increasing the number of staffing within the Technology Department. Currently, the Technology Department has 2.5 positions supporting 6 schools with a student population of 2,600. As the needs increase, so should the staffing. Other areas to examine would be the possibility of outsourcing.
 - iii. Provide loaner computers to each school.
 - iv. Provide additional training to on-site Technology Leaders.
- c. Progress Measurement
 - i. Surveys distributed regularly to random staff members.
 - ii. Review of statistical information available from the on-line help desk.
 - iii. Regular meetings with each school's Technology Teams.

B. Objective 2 – To maintain the appropriate level of computer-to-student ratio.

- a. Current
 - i. Our High School and Middle Schools have a ratio of 1 computer per 5 students. The other schools have a level of approximately 1 computer per 4 students.
- b. Strategy
 - i. Bring all schools to a level of 5 students per 1 computer.
 - ii. Work with each school and develop a plan to replace all out of date computers while maintaining the appropriate ratio.
 - iii. Determine what the maximum age of a computer should be.
 - iv. Determine the amount of additional funding needed per school per year to maintain the appropriate ratio.
 - v. Develop a plan to recycle out of date computers.

- c. Progress Measurement
 - i. Comparison of the yearly inventory to the expected student enrollment. This should be completed at the closing of one school year and before the start of the next to ensure that any changes that need to be made are done so before the start of the upcoming year.

C. Objective 3 - To maintain an adequate level of computers for administration use.

- a. Current
 - i. The administration has no plan to regularly replace out of date equipment.
- b. Strategy
 - i. Work with the administration at each school to develop a plan for replacing technology in the offices on a regular basis.
- c. Progress Measurement
 - i. Evaluation of the number of machines per staff member on a yearly basis.

Goal 2: To maintain an adequate Network Infrastructure.

A. Objective 1 – Verifying that each instructor has access to a network connection.

- a. Current
 - i. Each room has a network connection of speeds 10 MBps with most areas having speeds of up to 100MBps. The areas which have a slower connection are the Elementary schools.
- b. Strategy
 - i. Replace all hubs with switches as needed.
 - ii. Certify the wiring at all schools on a regular basis.
 - iii. Any new additions should be wired with the fastest possible wiring available at the given time to ensure appropriate bandwidth for future applications.
- c. Progress Measurement
 - i. The number of classroom instructional areas with appropriate network connectivity.

B. Objective 2 – To maintain the appropriate bandwidth at each school.

- a. Current
 - i. There are no guidelines to determine when the current school's bandwidth is inadequate for their needs.
- b. Strategy
 - i. Develop a baseline throughout a given year to determine what the normal activity is for each school at given times throughout the year.
 - ii. Install software/hardware monitoring devices to alert staff members when the bandwidth has exceeded the predefined threshold.
 - iii. Develop a plan to upgrade network equipment as needed based on the network activity at each school.

- c. Progress Measurement
 - i. The maintaining of appropriate bandwidth and speed within each educational facility.

C. Objective 3 – To ensure that the local server is adequate for the needs of the school.

- a. Current
 - i. Each school houses a server which is used for printing and various educational and administrative programs. There are no guidelines on how to upgrade the servers based upon future needs.
- b. Strategy
 - i. Develop a baseline for normal server response.
 - ii. Develop guidelines for the requesting of server based programs.
 - iii. Examine the staffing and student enrollment and make a comparison to the previous academic year.
 - iv. Develop a procedure for testing server based applications.
- c. Progress Measurement
 - i. The comparison of a baseline measurement from academic year to academic year.
 - ii. A comparison of user feedback from academic year to academic year.

D. Objective 4 – To ensure that the internet connectivity is sufficient for current student and staffing needs.

- a. Current
 - i. Each staff member and student has sufficient access to an internet ready machine. As more and more online educational tools are being utilized in the academic environment, the speed of this connection is beginning to slow.
- b. Strategy
 - i. Create a survey to determine what online educational tools are being used.
 - ii. Examine which sites are frequently visited by staff and students.
 - iii. Limit access to various internet activities which are not educational in nature but create a drain on the district wide resources. **This would be done in such a manner as to allow access when needed.**
 - iv. Investigate methods of increasing the amount of bandwidth available on a district wide level.
 - v. Implement various software packages to analyze the current network traffic.
 - vi. Implement methods to decrease the amount of school to school network traffic.
- c. Progress Measurement
 - i. Regular reviews of data indicating the amount of network traffic.
 - ii. A review of user satisfaction through the use of surveys.

Goal 3: To ensure that staff and students have access to the necessary technology when needed.

A. Objective 1 – To allow connections to be made by staff and students remotely.

- a. Current
 - i. Staff or students are not able to connect to the network from a remote location.
- b. Strategy
 - i. Develop a connection for staff member to be able to access information remotely.
 - ii. Implement a secure environment for staff and student remote connections.
- c. Progress Measurement
 - i. A comparison of student test scores from academic year to academic year.
 - ii. A survey of staff to determine user satisfaction.

B. Objective 2 – To ensure that both staff and students have access to needed technology at home as well as the school environment.

- a. Current
 - i. There are no devices for student use after the normal academic day. Each school has at least one portable computing device for staff use.
- b. Strategy
 - i. Develop a plan to purchase portable computing devices for student and staff use.
 - ii. Develop a method to offer all students and staff access to these devices.
 - iii. Develop a method to ensure the integrity of the device.
- c. Progress Measurement
 - i. A comparison of student test scores from academic year to academic year.
 - ii. A review of inventory records to determine the use of each device.
 - iii. A review of the work order history to determine the amount of software/hardware failures by each device.
 - iv. A survey to determine user satisfaction.

C. Objective 3 – To ensure the availability of lab space at each school for student use.

- a. Current
 - i. Each school has a sufficient number of labs for student use. What is missing is the availability of an open lab for independent student research.
- b. Strategy
 - i. Investigate the possible areas available at each school to house an open lab.
 - ii. Meet with administration and develop a strategy to have an instructor available within each open lab.

- iii. Investigate new technology, such as wireless, to allow students to bring their personal devices to be used in the school environment.
- c. Progress Measurement
 - i. A survey of staff members to determine if the labs were used effectively for academic purposes.
 - ii. A review of work orders for the open labs as compared to the labs used only for instruction.

Educational Applications

Goal 1: Web based applications and resources will be developed and supported.

A. Objective 1 – Web sites will be enhanced at the school level and classroom level for communication with parents and students.

- a. Current
 - i. There are web creators at each school with a small stipend to develop a school website for each school.
 - ii. We are examining ways to promote teachers creating websites. We are currently researching how to create the availability of student information to parents and stakeholders with web based applications. Information on academic progress, important class activities and other pertinent information are being investigated. They have received training and support.
- b. Strategy
 - i. The classroom and school websites will be made available to parents and students. This should include pertinent information about the school with links to teacher sites (see objective 3 below). Lessons, homework, resources, academic progress, school events and other pertinent information should be made available. Privacy and security of information will be maintained.
- c. Progress Measurement
 - i. Determine how schools are providing the kind of information listed above and assess security measures.
 - ii. Use statistics from usage of websites. Is there significant usage?

B. Objective 2 - The library media centers will have updated adequate equipment and connectivity to enhance easy and timely access to the internet and other information services.

- a. Current
 - i. Libraries currently have workstations for students to access book indexes and internet information. Some of these workstations are more than four years old and need replacement. The computers in the library are in many cases outdated and need to be replaced. In some cases we do not have enough connections and other peripheral equipment. The middle school needs a lab incorporated with their facility.
- b. Strategy
 - i. A survey will be taken of the libraries' needs and a plan will be made for replacement and additions will be made as needed.
- c. Progress Measurement
 - i. The number of computers, peripherals and connections available to students in the libraries.
 - ii. The available electronic book services.
 - iii. The number of problems reported from the libraries when access is not available.

C. Objective 3 – We will research and develop applications in which pertinent information and educational opportunities will be provided for staff, students and parents online.

- a. Current
 - i. We do not have online classes specifically for our staff but teachers are beginning to take classes online from colleges and universities on their own.
- b. Strategy
 - i. Possibilities for online classes for inservice or for credit will be explored and encouraged where possible.
- c. Progress Measurement
 - i. The number of course offerings taken online for professional development that is offered or promoted by the school system.

D. Objective 4 – We will develop online surveys and evaluation tools to help assess activities and staff development offerings.

- a. Current
 - i. It is particularly difficult to survey any segment of our community because of the time taken to tally results. We need to use evaluations to determine current practices and the needs of our staff.
- b. Strategy
 - i. We will develop and use online survey tools to gather and analyze input from all sectors of our community and school staff. This would be very helpful in evaluating our technology progress from year to year.
- c. Progress Measurement
 - i. By how many surveys have been taken online by staff and community.

Goal 2: Teaching and learning will be enhanced by appropriate use and support of educational applications.

A. Objective 1 – Each school will have appropriate staff to support these objectives. The ratio of one resource teacher per school would meet this objective.

- a. Current
 - i. The first line of technology support at each school is provided by teachers with full time teaching responsibilities. They are given a stipend to support technology for that school. This help must come between classes or after school. The rest of the support comes from the technology office that has only two full time personnel and a part time support person responsible for networking, repair, student data base upkeep and all other technology related functions. Many important projects are delayed because of lack of technical help.
- b. Strategy
 - i. Each school should have a support person who has at least two periods available for technical help for the staff. Eventually, the

support staff should become full time without teaching responsibilities. Study should be made of the training needs for this support staff and training should be given.

- c. Progress Measurement
 - i. The number of hours and periods given school technology support staff.

B. Objective 2 – Greene County will follow the process of using technology teams in the schools to determine what educational software will be recommended for purchase. This recommendation should then be sent to the office of technology for final approval. Only requests that adhere to the Greene County Technology Plan will be approved.

- a. Current
 - i. The process of purchasing software for classrooms and computer labs is not universally known among our staff and administration.
 - ii. There have been occasions when software purchases were made without following the process outlined in our previous technology plan.
- b. Strategy
 - i. This problem will be studied and discussed with administrators and faculty.
- c. Progress Measurement
 - i. The number of instances of problems with purchase approval among faculty and administrators.

C. Objective 3 – All division, school-level administration and teachers will participate in workshops and inservices for educational application online software.

- a. Current
 - i. We offer technology inservices to teachers for TSIP certification and some classes. Generally we do not yet have funds or resources for many workshops or inservices. The coordinator of staff development in the technology area is a teacher with full-time responsibilities.
- b. Strategy
 - i. We should offer workshops that would benefit all levels of the staff and the administration should be asked to participate in this training. More release time needs to be given to the inservice coordinator.
- c. Progress Measurement
 - i. By examining how many workshops are offered and how many teachers and staff participate.
 - ii. The amount of release time given to the technology inservice coordinator.

Goal 3: Utilize current and emerging digital learning technologies.

A. Objective 1 – To more fully utilize teleconferencing opportunities for staff and students.

- a. Current
 - i. The high school presently has the “satellite classroom” for our students. In the high school there is a Governor's school classroom that has telecommunication possibilities with other regional schools.
- b. Strategy
 - i. We need to investigate the telecommunications possibilities at the Governor's school classroom. We should examine possibilities of telecommunication to take advantage of opportunities such as teacher training and other communication among schools in our region.
- c. Progress Measurement
 - i. We should record the number of times this room is used by other classes and faculty. The usage during school should also be recorded. The number of classes and frequency that telecommunication takes place should be recorded.

B. Objective 2 – To investigate, evaluate and communicate the emerging technologies that are effective in helping students learn.

- a. Current
 - i. Many ideas and new technologies have been discussed among the technology staff and administration. We have been aware of digitized devices that appear on the horizon and may be useful in the instructional setting.
- b. Strategy
 - i. We will keep looking at the newer technologies that seem to be working in the schools setting. Instructional portability with laptops and pocket pc's with wireless features are examples of developing technology. Any new technology that will aid in the efficiency and effectiveness in the schools will be researched and evaluated for inclusion in the schools.
- c. Progress Measurement
 - i. The amount of new types of technology adopted in our school system over the years.

Goal 4: Administrative programs and databases will be supported and improved to aid in reports and decision-making.

A. Objective 1 – Help teachers and educational specialists to be able to use to the fullest extent, the student database program in Greene County.

- a. Current
 - i. Many parts of the SASI database are used at the high school. We take attendance from classrooms using the following parts: scheduling, grades, transcripts, demographics and other standard

uses. We recently have incorporated keeping track of verified credits for SOL tracking. The elementary and primary schools have minimal usage. Training has not been encouraged for secretaries and other users. Availability of training is limited but is offered from time to time. Not always are these opportunities used. Most secretaries and other users of our SASI database can not or do not take advantage of user group meetings. Administrators generally do not attend these training sessions.

- ii. Our student database is not well understood. It is not used to access information for decision making and training. Support is minimal.
- iii. Most SASI support comes from a part-time person on a 50 day annual contract.

b. Strategy

- i. We will develop and make available a plan of training for secretaries and other users and schools. This training will be strongly encouraged for administrators and secretaries.
- ii. The database will be converted into a district wide database to make reporting and access from all schools easier. This will require much more support than is currently available.

c. Progress Measurement

- i. The number of administrators who can use features of the database such as a query to find information to help in decision making.
- ii. The number of staff indicating they are finding all the information they want.
- iii. By indication of the number of reports submitted to the VDOE electronically.
- iv. Converting the separate student databases into district integration.
- v. The number of users attending workshops and other opportunities on the SASI database.
- vi. How much more support is given for the student database.

Accountability

Goal 1: Evaluate the impact of technology on student learning and staff productivity.

A. Objective 1 – To develop a consistent means in which to evaluate the use of technology within the Greene County School System.

- a. Current
 - i. Teachers and staff members meet regularly to discuss various technological issues. This includes the use of technology in the classroom and office environment. These discussions, although beneficial, can be rather subjective.
- b. Strategy
 - i. Develop an evaluation form to be used on a yearly basis. This form should be used for software as well as hardware. (Hardware devices such as Blackboard could be evaluated where a printer may not be.)
 - ii. Compare the results of the evaluations to each school's test scores.
 - iii. Train administrators on how to recognize the effective use of technology in the classroom.
 - iv. Continue to develop a relationship with other school divisions. Arrange visitation to other districts for the school administrators so that they may observe how other divisions are using technology.
 - v. Seek out funding for the technology that has the greatest impact on productivity and student learning.
 - vi. Develop a plan to use the same software from school to school within the division. Programs such as grading programs should be consistent.
- c. Progress Measurement
 - i. A comparison of the evaluation from one academic year to another.

B. Objective 2 – To develop a standard technology curriculum to be used in the classroom.

- a. Current
 - i. The staff of Greene County Public Schools follows a standard curriculum when training students in the use of technology. What is not being done is the standardization of the use of technology within the classroom.
- b. Strategy
 - i. Form a group of educators to evaluate what technology is currently being utilized within each class.
 - ii. Examine various test scores before and after the technology was introduced into the classroom.
 - iii. Determine what forms of technology work best for each grade level.

- iv. Develop and offer the appropriate training to all staff with grade level specific technology.
- c. Progress Measurement
 - i. Compare test scores from year to year. Perform the comparison not by school, not by grade, but by classes.
 - ii. Meet with the group mentioned in the strategy above at the end of each academic year. Review the success and failure of the use of technology within the classroom.

C. Objective 3 – To develop methods to use available data to drive the decision making process.

- a. Current
 - i. Teachers and administrators rely on the data in the student database to effect their decision making process. Each school currently maintains their own individual copy of their own database.
- b. Strategy
 - i. Integrate all of the student data into one central database. This can be accomplished with the current student database product, SASI, through the program called district integration. This would mean an increase in the technology staffing requirements.
 - ii. Integrate the Special Services program, Tranquility, into one central database.
- c. Progress Measurement
 - i. A comparison on a yearly basis of the time and manpower required to generate various documents requested yearly by the Department of Education.

D. Objective 4 – To develop methods to assist administrators in the performance of their job duties.

- a. Current
 - i. There is no central calendar for administrators to use. Also, purchase requisitions are done by hand at each school.
- b. Strategy
 - i. Install a central program to assist administrators in the scheduling of meetings and conference areas.
 - ii. Investigate and acquire a program which will automate the process of requisitions. This will lead to a better method to track the purchase of technology and prevent the purchase of any equipment not suitable for our particular environment.
- c. Progress Measurement
 - i. A yearly review of the technology expenditures being made.

Technology Funding

Funding for Technology within the Greene County School system comes from a variety of sources. These sources include, but are not limited to, State, Federal, and local funding. Below is an approximation of funding over a three year time frame:

	<u>2002-2003</u>	<u>2003-2004</u>	<u>2004-2005</u>
State (SOL Technology Initiative)*	\$232,000	\$232,000	\$232,000
ERATE**	\$ 32,000	\$ 38,000	\$ 39,000
Local***	\$200,000	\$210,000	\$220,500
Title II-D		\$ 11,451	\$ 9,963

Currently, the Technology Department employs 2.25 full time equivalents. This number is made up of the following staff:

1. Technology Coordinator – 12 month
2. Computer Specialist – 11 month
3. Data Specialist/Computer Technician – 50 days per year
4. 6 Webmasters – Full-time teachers who are paid a small stipend for web maintenance.
5. 6 Tech Team Leaders – Full-Time teachers who assist with technology purchasing guidelines and administration.
6. 1 Division Wide Training Coordinator – A full time teacher who is paid a stipend to train faculty members on how to integrate technology in their classroom environments.

(Total cost for items 4-6 is \$18,500 per year)

Current staffing is well below state guidelines. Funding is needed to provide for a full time technology assistant at each school, a division wide full-time Training Coordinator, and additional technical support staff. If funding is not available for the increased positions, the plan will need to be modified.

*SOL Technology Initiative – This money is provided to prep the school division for SOL online testing.

**The ERATE amount can vary from year to year as this is a reimbursement for expenditures.

***Local funding includes salaries, training, and additional hardware purchased outside of State or local grants, consultant fees, lease agreements, repairs, etc.