



## **Technology Strategic Plan - 1:1 Program Overview**

The District aims to provide a rigorous and relevant instructional program delivered by high quality educators who use innovative, research-based strategies to enable students to participate in a global environment. It envisions students who are engaged in meaningful learning and teachers who serve as leaders and partners in their learning goals. Technology prepares students in our rapidly evolving world for the challenges of high school and beyond, and helps to build critical 21st century skills, such as communication, collaboration, creativity and critical thinking. The District is committed to providing teachers with these powerful tools and students with these critical learning opportunities. The broad goals of the Technology Strategic Plan involve coordinating efforts to increase equity and access to technology tools, and to provide effective professional development in the innovative use of those tools.

At the Middle School level, this vision involves implementing a 1:1 iPad program starting in the spring of 2015. Beginning with a group of 8<sup>th</sup> grade students, the plan will expand over three years to include all Middle School students. School visits, workshops, conferences and other professional development opportunities will help teachers identify best practices to make optimal use of this instructional tool. In addition, the Instructional Technology Coach provides specific training, assistance and expertise to support teacher learning and innovative lesson design. Ongoing infrastructure development and dedicated technical support are critical to the success of the program.

### ***1. What are the benefits of a 1:1 program?***

Instant access to information and Internet resources is transformational. It allows students to take more ownership of their learning and facilitates engagement and a more personalized education experience. Teachers are able to assess student understanding and receive immediate data on their progress. 1:1 access also provides more opportunity for student collaboration and communication – important 21st century skills. As more technology becomes embedded in our everyday life, whether for work or simple convenience, it is important that the school environment teach responsible use of these tools and mirror the real world. Providing all students with a personal device ensures the same technology is equally available. With many textbooks moving to a digital format, it makes sense to provide each student with the device that will store these textbooks and much more information.

### ***2. What is the advantage of a 1:1 program over shared devices?***

Students with their own device have consistent access to the same device, which allows them to develop expertise and gives them a greater level of responsibility. A personal device allows for better time management and organization because

the student does not have to worry about shared storage and extra steps to save work. For Middle School students, 1:1 devices also are available for use at home. Sharing tablets can be complicated by schedule limitations if multiple teachers need access at the same time. Some work may require a device other than a tablet, and these computers will continue to be available in shared carts.

**3. *Has the District investigated BYOD programs?***

The District considered a “Bring Your Own Device” (BYOD) program because of the obvious cost savings advantages. BYOD also helps avoid obsolescence and has the advantage of students being generally more familiar with their own personal device. From an equity standpoint, however, BYOD falls short as it does not guarantee equal access to similarly equipped tools. From an instructional and support standpoint, it is difficult to teach and troubleshoot on inconsistent devices. This is particularly problematic if the teacher wants to use an app that is only available on a single platform. Distribution of required apps on non-District-owned equipment is another potential hurdle, as well as the ability to guarantee the safety and security of the students and the network. Finally, there are legal implications regarding search and seizure of devices in disciplinary cases, and liability issues for damage/theft. If financially feasible, a District-owned 1:1 program is the best option.

**4. *What is the rollout plan for the 1:1 program?***

For the Middle School, the Year 1 (2014-15) rollout will include a pilot group of students and teachers in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade, starting in the spring. In Year 2 (2015-16), the rollout will expand to the entire 8<sup>th</sup> grade. In the subsequent two school years (Years 3 and 4), the program will expand to include the 7<sup>th</sup> grade and 6<sup>th</sup> grade, in that order. When the Middle School program is fully implemented, a 6<sup>th</sup> grader will get a new iPad and keep the same device for 3 years (turning it in over the summer for maintenance and updates). For the elementary schools, the 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes will get additional iPads over Years 1-3 until everyone reaches a 1:1 ratio. In grades TK-4, devices will be available at different ratios to match curriculum and age appropriateness.

**5. *Will all students in the 1:1 program get to take their devices home?***

Middle School Students (grades 6-8) will be able to take their devices home, subject to appropriate use and adherence to school and District agreements. Devices in 5<sup>th</sup> grade will be available at school only.

**6. *Why did the District choose tablets over laptops for the 1:1 program?***

The District Technology Advisory Committee (DTAC) discussed the benefits of both laptops and tablets, and decided that both should be available at school. The District also explored other successful 1:1 programs, and staff came away incredibly excited and impressed about the potential. In building the 1:1 program based on best practices from other schools, tablets have numerous advantages, including cost, longer battery life, better portability, ease of use for video, built-in sensors for science & math, ability to turn on instantly, and ease of

reading eBooks. In addition, a 1:1 laptop program would cost twice as much as the current plan and is not considered feasible.

**7. *Why did the District choose iPads over Chromebooks or other tablets?***

There is no “right” device for a 1:1 program and no device does everything perfectly well. Any decision has to balance a number of factors. iPads have a number of advantages over other devices, including wireless display capabilities, a dual camera, video recorder, accelerometer, and touch screen. iPads are also especially adapted to creativity involving multimedia content. While some Chromebook models would save money over the life of the device, they are not as durable or flexible in their capabilities, and require an Internet connection for most functionality. In addition, the District has already invested in more than 1000 iPads. Training and support is easier on a consistent device rather than having to learn a new operating and management system. Finally, there are many other schools with experience using iPads in a 1:1 program, which allows us to share information and leverage their expertise. The District Technology Advisory Committee acknowledged that technology changes quickly, and in the future, different factors and developments may necessitate reconsideration of the devices we use.

**8. *Is the first year of the 1:1 program really a pilot?***

The program is a pilot in the sense that various apps, projects, and management strategies are being tested to determine which work best for MVSD. Exploration and failure are encouraged, because these are hallmarks of innovation. A successful strategy will employ a “cycle of inquiry,” in which staff and students continually try things, evaluate and revise methods and tools. While the decision to go 1:1 has been made, the implementation will be based on teacher/student feedback and experience. There will also be ongoing opportunities for parents to ask questions and provide feedback.

**9. *How was the decision made to select the participants in the 1:1 pilot?***

Teachers were selected from different subject areas to allow exploration in a variety of curricular strands. The pilot was meant to model the fully implemented 1:1 program, so all of the teacher’s 8<sup>th</sup> grade students needed to participate. Selection was based primarily on scheduling and class assignments in order to have the greatest impact.

**10. *How will insurance work for students in the 1:1 program?***

For Middle School students who will take the iPads home, optional insurance will be offered for parents to cover liability for accidental damage and/or theft with no deductible. The District investigated multiple insurers experienced with 1:1 programs in schools, and is contracting with a company to manage the group policy and repairs. Generally, the student will receive a spare iPad to use while the damaged one is being evaluated and repaired. A student should not be without a device for more than one or two school days. As specified in California Ed Code, parents are responsible for any District-owned instructional material that is given to students (such as iPads, textbooks and musical instruments). The

cost of insurance will be covered for families who qualify for the National School Lunch Program.

**11. *Is there some protection against "jailbreaking" devices or bypassing District safeguards?***

There are robust restrictions on District devices, which are enrolled in Apple's Device Enrollment Program (DEP) and the District's Mobile Device Management (MDM) system. Tampering with these protections/restrictions, whether by a student or a thief, will generally make the device inoperable. While there are no foolproof systems, the District has implemented industry standard security. In addition, the 1:1 Program Agreement outlines expectations for appropriate use and behavior, and there will be consequences for students who violate its terms. Incidents involving poor judgment, such as taking inappropriate photos or videos, will be handled the same as any other violation of school rules.

**12. *Are there controls on the devices in the 1:1 program that prevent students for installing games or personal apps? How will personal communications be regulated during the school day?***

Students will only have District approved apps on the iPads and security will prevent them from installing games or other personal apps. During class, teachers have the ability to lock a student into a particular app or website, helping to ensure focused attention. In addition, the 1:1 Program Agreement, signed by students and parents, specifies that the devices are intended for educational use. While students may choose to use their device for personal communication outside of school, this is an area where digital citizenship education and family agreements are of primary importance. Current MVMS policy prohibits use of personal devices during school hours, except as required for class work. The same policy will apply to 1:1 devices. Students are required to share all account information (including passwords/passcodes) so that parents and staff can check devices and monitor activity.

**13. *How is the 1:1 program funded?***

The 1:1 program is funded as part of the overall Technology Strategic Plan (for student hardware) and is supported as part of the District's technology budget along with Kiddo! and PTA contributions. In particular, the PTA parent "ask" includes monies earmarked for the District tech fund. These specific contributions support student hardware at all sites and grade levels, and are critical to the success of the program. The combined District tech fund ensures equitable access for all students, and regular replacement cycles.

**14. *Where can I go to learn more or ask questions about the 1:1 program?***

There is a 1:1 program page on the Technology section on the District website ([www.mvschools.org](http://www.mvschools.org)). Contact information, program documents, and a public forum for conversation, questions and feedback will be available as the program rolls out. You can also email: [iPadSupport@mvschools.org](mailto:iPadSupport@mvschools.org) with questions.