

The Long Range Technology Plan and the Five Year Educational Plan

During the 2005-2006 school year, Spring Branch Independent School District embarked on a strategic planning initiative to develop a Five Year Educational Plan and a Long Range Facilities Plan that will chart the future of SBISD. In March, 2006, the SBISD Board of Trustees approved eight goals that will guide the development of the Five Year Educational Plan. In developing the goals, the Board considered a variety of inputs including 2005 district survey data and the SBISD Visioning Team's Findings and Directions. In August of 2006, the District Technology Committee, using the same eight goals, wrote the Long Range Technology Plan. After writing the goals, objectives, and strategies of the plan, the Technology Committee aligned the Long Range Technology Plan to the Five Year Educational Plan. The eight goal statements of the Five Year Educational Plan are listed below:

- **Student Performance** - SBISD will be an exemplary school district with an enriched and relevant PK-12 curriculum that promotes creativity, critical thinking and achievement.
- **Student Performance** - SBISD will be the premier college-focused district in the State of Texas and will prepare all students for success after high school graduation.
- **Student Performance** - SBISD will ensure that all students have a strong foundation in ethics and character development.
- **Student Performance** - SBISD will offer all students a wide range of school sponsored activities outside the classroom.
- **Safety** - SBISD will have a pervasive culture of safety and respect.
- **People** - SBISD, as the employer of choice, will recruit and retain the best people by rewarding excellence and providing opportunities for continual growth.
- **Community** - Students, parents, and community will be active partners in students' education.
- **Operations** - SBISD will use strategic plans to be fiscally responsible and efficiently use all resources - human, time and monetary - to support student achievement.

The ACTIVclassroom Initiative

The Five Year Educational Plan represents the district's shared vision for student performance, safety and security, people, community, and operations. A shared vision in education is the point where all stakeholders focus attention on what is important, motivates staff and students, and increases the sense of shared responsibility for student learning. The ACTIVclassroom supports the shared vision and creates a common language toward the future of 21st century effective

teaching and learning in SBISD. The ACTIVclassroom will help teachers improve their didactic pedagogy and provide opportunities for the development of constructivist pedagogical practices.

When use appropriately, formative assessment devices – either the ACTIVotes or eInstruction Systems produces the greatest achievement gains among the low achievers – more than any other group of students, helping to reduce the achievement gap. Each student will have at their desk a hand held student response device. Using these devices in conjunction with the ACTIVboard and ACTIVstudio, assessments can be taken at any time. These voting devices can drive instruction. The teacher will know immediately whether or not she needs to reteach or continue with the lesson. The voting devices give students real-time feedback to their answers, allow teachers and students to discuss how the classroom “voted,” gives the teacher the ability to change direction at any time depending on the outcome of the assessment, and provides a student-focused approach to teaching.

Student learning and student retention are correlated strongly with student engagement. The more actively engaged students are – with teachers, each other and with the subject matter itself- the more likely they are to have higher achievement levels.

The purpose of **the ACTIVclassroom** is to provide systemic reform in the areas of training, curriculum development, and technology integration by:

- Providing and effectively integrating technology tools into the curriculum to engage students in the learning process and to extend learning. To do this, the technology must be accessible and readily available, the technology must support the curricular goals, and the technology must help students reach their goals.
- Providing participating teachers quality professional development over designing and delivering effective instruction using the DDI model and educational technology strategies at the top of Blooms pyramid of cognition and technology integration.
- Providing participating teachers quality training over the technology resources and tools that will be used seamlessly in their classrooms.
- Providing participating teachers oportunities to collaborate and develop curriculum units.

Increased access to technology cannot enhance performance without an effective teaching force and high standards. SBISD plans to provide professional development to teachers in subject matter and pedagogy so that teachers can

think of sophisticated ways to use technology and envision how computers will fit into the menu of pedagogical techniques teachers employ every day. The ACTIVclassroom professional development will strengthen teachers' pedagogical styles that will begin to transform them to facilitators in a student-engaged learning environment.

Phase 1 of the ACTIVclassroom initiative is high school math and science, Phase II is a district Pre-K-12 pilot, and Phase III is district implementation in core classrooms.

Components of the ACTIVclassroom include all or parts of:

- Teacher laptop and replicator port for teachers
- ACTIVboard interactive whiteboard
- ACTIVotes or eInstruction Systems
- ACTIVslate
- ACTIVwand
- Professional development
- Scanner/document camera
- Projectors
- Computers on Wheels
- Wireless Access
- Atomic Learning
- Nettekker Academic Search Engine