

Spring Branch ISD Technology Teacher Survey May 2005

A technology teacher survey was conducted electronically during the last three weeks of school in May of 2005. Survey participants were randomly selected by campus. Emails were sent to 35% of the teachers (900) and 418 completed the survey. Several questions on the survey were similar to the survey questions administered by M&A during their study in the fall of 2003. The number of teachers surveyed was increased by over 300. The following charts give a break down of the participants. The alternative/multi level secondary group includes those teachers who teach at a charter school or across several grade levels.

Number of Respondents				
	M&A Fall 2003		SBISD Spring 2005	
Elementary	44	40%	192	46%
Middle School	30	28%	91	22%
High School	30	28%	110	26%
Alternative/Multi Level Secondary	5	4%	25	6%
Total	109		418	

Levels of Experience				
	M&A		SBISD	
1-5 years	28	26%	113	27%
6-10 years	24	22%	78	19%
11-15 years	20	20%	75	18%
16+ years	37	34%	152	36%

The information gathered from the report is summarized into four areas: Availability of Technology, Teacher Use of Technology, Technology Training, and PLATO/Compass.

Availability of Technology

The number of teachers having computers with internet access at home is consistent with the M&A report falling within an 89%-90% range and with 87% of the teachers reporting they use the home computer for job related activities.

In the classroom, 41% of high school teachers reported no access to computers for student use but there was a 10% increase to 30% of high school teachers stating that they have 4 or more computers in the classroom. In middle school, 36% say they have no classroom student computers with 15% having four or more. Only 9% of the elementary teachers reported having no student classroom computers and 11% had four or more student classroom computers. When teachers were asked if they had the right technology available at the right time, 49% responded “always” or “most of the time” for high school, 40% for middle school, and 46% for elementary.

Teacher Use of Technology

When teachers were asked if they use technology to support the curriculum, 40% of high school, 30% of middle, and 59% of elementary teachers responded saying they use technology weekly. Eighty three percent of teachers feel comfortable using technology as a tool for learning. Teachers also responded with 92% of the high school, 80% of the middle school, and 90% of the elementary teachers believing that technology enhances instruction. The percentages dropped when asked about technology motivating students. High school teachers agreed with 82%, middle school teachers agreed with 84%, and elementary teachers responded in agreement with 93%. In the M&A report only 63% of teachers felt that technology motivated students.

Technology Training

Technology training is offered throughout the year and when teachers were asked about the number of training hours they received this past year, 71% attended 3 or more hours with 28% attending 7 or more hours. Only 7% had not attended any technology training in the past year. Training was provided in several locations with 43% attending sessions at the Instructional Training Center, 47% receiving training from a district trainer and 58% receiving training from a campus person. The campus number may be high due to the number of trainer of trainer methods used for providing training for district wide initiatives.

The goal is to transfer knowledge and skills developed in training to the classroom. When asked if the training is easily transferred to the classroom, 68% responded positively. The most frequently used software program is Word with (62%) followed by PowerPoint (34%), KidPix (31%) Appleworks & Inspiration (26%), and Excel (22%). When teachers were asked to check programs and tools they are comfortable using themselves, the results were Word 95%, Excel 59%, PowerPoint 58%, Outlook 88% and using the Internet 94%. When asked about comfort level in using these programs for student instruction, the percentages dropped to Word 71% (-24%), Excel 31% (-28%), PowerPoint 43% (-15%), Internet 72% (-22%).

Over the past three years as mobile carts have been purchased for schools, 48% of the teachers responded with feeling comfortable using the mobile carts. The percentage of teachers feeling comfortable with scanners is 44%, digital camera 64%, video cameras 51%, and digital projectors 49%.

PLATO/Compass

PLATO is used by 23% of the high school teachers and 18% of the middle school teachers responding to the survey. Math is identified in the survey as the highest area of use. Credit retake was the main reason for using PLATO followed by individualized instruction and group instruction in a lab setting. Compass is used primarily at the elementary schools by 37% of the teachers for the areas of math and reading. The program is used mostly in computer labs and classroom centers.