

**BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION FOR EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE**

**COMMISSION OUTCOME FOR**

**MARCH 15, 2012**

1. **What will need to occur to help schools in Louisiana develop the necessary technological infrastructure for students to naturally apply knowledge through the use of technology when completing learning activities throughout the school year and when completing formal PARCC assessments?**

**Capacity, Access, and Resources**

- Capacity in bandwidth and technology availability throughout the entire state of Louisiana. On-going opportunities for students to utilize technology in learning tasks and environment.
- State provides funding to purchase technology for all districts.
- All districts and schools will have to be given resources to meet the minimum requirements necessary in technology. Colleges of Education will have to be provided resources to adequately train pre-service and in-service teachers as well.
- Equality of access. Every parish, district, schools, class, and student will have uniform (mostly national) standards, but will not have uniform resources. Are there enough grants to go around for every student to have an I-pad? This issue will overshadow the common core message, intention, and goal in public court of opinion, if not addressed.
- Need to have resources to address issue. Zip code will determine whether you have access. Common message, resource database, what is available, professional development.
- Provide teachers and students with technological resources needed for future.
- Technology costs money. Can the state afford the technology necessary to conduct and prepare for the PARCC assessments?
- Ideally, all students should have an I-pad each day for use at school. Get rid of textbooks and move to digital.
- The LDOE technology leadership for CCSS and PARCC seems to have a plan in place to inform school districts of what is going to be needed for implementation. I feel the disconnection will come at schools which may or may not have the necessary technology in place for the requirements for changes
- Broadband connection, leasing of I-pad, sponsors within the communities to help pay for leases and implementation, direction from DOE/BESE as to which apps are appropriate to deliver professional development.
- Community access to all technology units/modules.

### **Strategy/Plan**

- Develop a strategy/solution to address threshold equity for districts in hardware/software/bandwidth/connectivity. Low ratio for end user and device.
- Survey needs of each school. This should include not only hardware, software, but educational resources for teachers.
- Implement a plan to incorporate technology resources with a funding source for each district school according to survey results

### **Professional Development**

- Extensive professional development and pre-service on instruction practices that will change what happens in the classroom.
- Professional Development by local universities and state department. Expand the Career Technology course in all districts.
- Professional development.

## **2. How can technology be used to help teachers develop the knowledge and skills that they will need to help students successfully address the Common Core State Standards and PARCC assessments?**

### **Resources**

- Technology should be used as resources for research, development of programs and a visual book to take students to other places, times and cultures.
- Adequate resources will have to be provided. Access to online tutoring, activities would be beneficial.
- Needs to be a tool not a crutch, create a repository, website, record/share maybe a webinar that can be sent to all teachers via email/link/newsletters.
- Data and video resources and modules will assist teacher.

### **Professional Development**

- Teachers should be presented with specific ways that technology can be linked to common core, help teachers monitor achievement of the common core by using technology. Give them specific tools to use.
- Videos for model lessons with technology for teachers to view,
- Through blackboard our teachers can set up discussion boards where they can share ideas and lessons.
- PD can be developed and online classes can be used for instruction.
- Online course, practice sessions between teachers in local districts and those “master teachers” who are recommended by CCSS central
- Training specific to technology with Common Core for teachers.

Technology is extremely important for teacher information and professional development.

### **Integration of Technology**

- Students engagement and understanding can be improved using tech-based lessons.
- Integrate technology usage throughout content courses and teachers education method courses, also need significant and relevant field experience in K-12 schools
- The project based learning of CCSS match one to one the range of technology applications. The methodology drives the acquisition of knowledge; informs the pedagogy.

### **Online Learning**

- Changes to the entirely outdated textbook policies of the state. Online learning environments in which teachers' role is more like a facilitator of student learning will also help teachers to develop the knowledge and skills necessary to successfully address the CCSS and PARCC.
- Powerful online learning environment in English and Math are already available and could easily be adjusted to the states needs.

### **Other**

- To me, this is an unknown. How much technology is enough? Where is the balance in this change that will produce a better quality system? This issue will take up more time than is utilized currently for professional development. Teachers must commit more.
- Data tracking from assessments will drive instructions through technology utilization.
- Look at how other states helped their teachers with this.

### **3. What additional recommendations should be added to the draft recommendations to address other needs?**

- Include higher education in recommendations such as ic.
- Include a recommendation totally related to higher education such as the one on teacher development.
- Financial support for technology needs.
- Continued use of LDOE website to update teachers and districts on new programs and training and as a provider of the newest on testing, curriculum, CCSS and PARCC.