

# CUSD Information Systems Department

## Report to the CUSD10 Board of Education

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# General Information

- Implementation of a new district password policy has begun. Because of password security concerns we have started to implement a new password policy that requires the CUSD staff to create a more secure password. In addition to the password changes the CUSD staff will be able to change their own password as needed.
- ThinkLink testing was successfully completed at all grade levels with the exception of Collinsville High school, which at this time has not implemented the program. **Discovery Education** provides Kindergarten through High School assessment solutions that measure and improve student achievement and predict performance on your state's high-stakes exam. Built from Vanderbilt University assessment research, Discovery Education Assessment is the one solution that truly contains the assessment tools you need to quickly and accurately measure knowledge, identify weaknesses, remediate with engaging Discovery Education *streaming* video content, and predict student performance with 80-90% accuracy.

# General Information

## **Student Information/State Reporting**

- Completed and submitted the 2009 Special Education Summer School State Aid Claim.
- Completed and submitted to the state our student enrollment for Fall Housing. This includes all in–district and out-of-district student placements.
- Imported all 2008 – 2009 ISAT, Explore, PLAN, PSAE and ACT scores into our student information system (Schoolmaster).
- Implemented Electronic grading at DIS.
- Increased the usage of the Schoolmaster program called PASS. This program is a Parent portal for posting grades, attendance, and progress reports. Training for PASS is incorporated into the Gradebook training sessions for teachers. The teachers that decide to use the PASS program then send a letter home to the parents with the students ID and PASS pin information. The letter includes instructions on how to access the student ID and pin information. The letter can be printed in either English or Spanish as needed.

# Software Update

- Currently testing a new Internet Management solution called “LightSpeed” This product was specifically designed for schools and has the capability of allowing much greater access and control over what web sites can and cannot be viewed. The reporting of individual users web habits and programs being used can now be documented for a better understanding of our student and staff needs. Our current system does not allow individual users access to certain educational sites that are very appropriate to the learning environment.
- We have implemented a new reading program at Kreitner Elementary called *READ 180*. This program is an intensive reading intervention program that helps educators confront the problem of adolescent illiteracy and special needs reading on multiple fronts, using technology, print, and professional development. *READ 180* is proven to meet the needs of struggling readers whose reading achievement is below proficient level. The program directly addresses individual needs through differentiated instruction, adaptive and instructional software, high-interest literature, and direct instruction in reading, writing, and vocabulary skills.
- Our department was able to renew our anti-virus subscription (AVG) for another three years with the 3<sup>rd</sup> year added at no extra cost. We have been successfully using the AVG product for many years and have been very happy with the results and ease of use.

# Hardware and Infrastructure Update

- With help from Mike Hollingshead and his custodial team we were able to install 5 new 32" LCD monitors at Jefferson Elementary. The previous 27" monitors were on large carts and were very cumbersome for the teachers to use. We will use the removed monitors for locations that have replacement needs.
- CAVC Director Bruce Dye and our department have worked to obtain new hardware for some of the CAVC rooms. We will be installing new interactive boards, laptops with carts, computer stations and projection systems. This will allow those rooms that currently do not have this technology to be of similar nature to the existing CAVC rooms.
- Kreitner Elementary has received 15 of the new Dell Netbooks. These devices were purchased in order to be able to implement the new Read180 program for our students so they would have the necessary hardware. The netbooks are much smaller than a normal laptop, less expensive and do not take up as much valuable space in the classrooms. They are connected to the Read180 program with a wireless connection.

# Professional Development Update

- Karen Muller has been very busy with training our secretarial staff and teachers. Listed below are some of the latest training she has done:
  - Conducted Gradebook training for all elementary, DIS, CMS and CHS teachers in the past months of August, September and October.
  - Conducted training for registration and all school secretaries on the new state \*(SIS) requirements and the impact on Schoolmaster.
  - Conducted training this past summer for school secretaries on creating reports in Schoolmaster and exporting those reports into Excel to create customized reports.
- Our technology team also had an hour long Schoolmaster training via a live web presentation from a Schoolmaster trainer. The training was specifically on how to create customized reports with the data our department uses.

