

## Executive Summary

A School Board strategic goal in the FY'04 budget was that technology would be integrated into all aspects of school operations including curriculum, academic standards, and instructional delivery. During the 2003-04 school year, laptop computers were made available to grade nine students and faculty at Minnie Howard High School. During the following year 2004-05, the program was expanded to include Minnie Howard, STEP, and T.C. Williams High School, thus providing technology access to all students and teachers from ninth through twelfth grade.

Data were collected to monitor the implementation of the Technology Integration and to inform various constituencies about the progress to meet the goals of the endeavor. The major evidence in this evaluation relies primarily on responses to surveys from students, teachers, and parents - those people most directly affected by the project. Other presented data include classroom observations at the three high school sites and a review of laptop projects in other localities.

Some key findings from students were:

- in October of 2004, 15% reported that “most” or “all” of their teachers incorporated the laptop into instruction;
- in June 2005, 30% reported that “most” or “all” of their teachers incorporated the laptop into instruction - a substantial increase within the school year;
- 74% indicated in June that the laptop made it easier to type papers; and
- 72% reported in June that the computer made it easier to conduct research for school projects. Students with free/reduced meal status, were much more likely (87%) to agree with this statement than were students with full price meal status (62%).

Some key findings from teachers were:

- 72% assigned less than three hours of homework per week (confirming students' reports);
- 63% reported that the computers have made it easier for students to conduct research for school projects;
- 62% of teachers reported that their teaching had benefitted from the laptop; and
- 38% said they had received the right amount of technology training.

Some key findings from parents were:

- 56% agreed that the laptop made it easier for their child to do research;
- 61% said their child took the laptop to school every day; and
- 53% agreed that having access to a laptop made a positive difference in the way their child did school work.

Some of the commonly expressed concerns for program improvement were in the areas of filtering, overall accessibility, increased printing capacity (USB port), and email access. Some of these issues have already been addressed, while others will require more deliberation. The High School Technology Implementation Plan is a working plan that will continue to evolve.

The unequivocal success of the Technology Integration was the administration of more than 5600 online SOL tests in June 2005. Students received their results back as soon as three days after testing, in contrast to the eight or ten week delay of previous years.