



Enabling Access to Learning and Teaching Electronic Resources (ALTER) for Special Schools

Executive Summary

03/05/2003

Where do we want to be?

By 2005, technology is used to establish and maintain state-of-the-art academic instruction, management of information, and administrative support. Also envisioned is 100% use of web-based assessment tools to diagnose and assess student performance.

Where have we been?

Special schools, serving special populations, have traditionally lacked the needed tools to prepare students to use technology as a tool as called for by state and federal guidelines. Teachers have also lacked the necessary access to curriculum resources and tools available only online via the Web.

Where are we?

Currently, special schools lack the technology infrastructure to accomplish Vision 2005 goals. Internet connectivity, if any, is available only in specific locations at dial-up speed and teachers lack access for gradebook and attendance reporting, student information through PIPE, curriculum management system, and instructional resources available only via a high-speed connection. Extremely limited access through dial-up district account at very low speed.

How are we going to get there?

Provide Internet access to Special Schools, as well as a comprehensive professional development program involving laptops for teachers to increase use of district-required tools (e.g. gradebook, PIPE, Curriculum Management System) as well as use of web-based assessment instruments with students.

How will we know if we are getting there?

- When special schools teachers have access to the online teaching tools that all other teachers in SAISD currently have access to.
- When students at special schools can participate in online, protected learning environments via the Web.

When should we be there?

By 2003-2004 school year

What are the resources needs/issues?

- Providing high-speed Internet access
- Providing restricted, safe access

For a description of the technical issues and options developed by Network Services staff, please refer to attached document.

POLICY CITATION

**BACKGROUND
INFORAMTION AND
SIGNIFICANT ISSUES;
PREVIOUS BOARD OR
ADMINISTRATIVE
ACTION**

RECOMMENDATION

FISCAL IMPACT

To be specified by Network Services

**PROCEDURAL AND
REPORTING
IMPLICATIONS**

**EXECUTIVE/CABINET
TEAM MEMBER(S)
RESPONSIBLE**

SAISD Accountability, Technology and Management Information Services Department

Technology Project Information Form

PROJECT NAME	Enabling Access to Learning and Teaching Electronic Resources (ALTER) for Special Schools			
ATMIS DEPARTMENT SPONSOR	Miguel Guhlin, Director, Instructional Services			
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POST-IMPLEMENTATION PROJECT OWNER	Richard Garcia, Director, Special Schools			
VISION 2005 REFERENCE	VI_SAISD_Goals.PDF document at SAISD web site: By the year 2005, 100% of the teachers will regularly use web-based assessment tools to diagnose and assess student performance.			
ATMIS STAFF AFFECTED	Instructional Services Network Services			
OTHER SAISD DEPARTMENT(S) AFFECTED	<u>Special School</u>			
PROJECT COST ESTIMATE	<u>To be determined by Network Services</u>			
ONE-TIME	\$44,000 for wireless laptops Internet Installation and Charges			
RECURRING	Internet charges			
ADDITIONAL STAFFING REQUIRED				
CRITICAL DEADLINE	May 30, 2003			
FACILITY REQUIREMENTS	Internet wiring as needed			
SOLE SOURCE PURCHASE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> NO
VENDOR NAME				
BUDGETED FUNDS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> NO
BUDGET CODE				
EXISTING PROJECTS RELATED TO				
CONSEQUENCE OF NON-APPROVAL	Special schools will continue to lack resources needed to achieve minimum expectations for teaching and learning in SAISD as outlined by Vision 2005.			

Options Available based on Network Services walk through1) SAISD could provide additional Remote Access logins into our network. Bexar County would be responsible for providing the additional phone lines for the computers. Modems would also be needed for the computers. As noted at the walkthrough connections were very slow over phone lines.

2) Another option is to tap into Bexar Counties Token Ring network. These drops would have to be approved and authorized by Bexar County. As noted at the walkthrough network access speeds were a little slow but acceptable. If Ethernet drops can not be provided, then any SAISD computers would have to be modified with Token Ring cards. This would have to be done by a PC hardware vendor. SAISD does not have a PC hardware shop. Also the Bexar County network does not have any internet filters.

3) The SAISD network could be extended into the facility. This would require approval and coordination from Bexar County and the cost would be very high; AT LEAST \$20,000 just to get started with a basic network infrastructure. At the walkthrough it was noted that funds were lacking for this type of setup.

4) Internet access could be purchased directly from Time Warner (Road Runner) or SBC (DSL). Once again approval and coordination of the installation would have to come from Bexar county. Also internet access is not filtered.