

MCS ACCESS UPDATE

JULY 10, 2017



What worked?

- Increased instructional technology usage in classrooms with blended learning
- Engaging lessons utilizing technology—noted in technology classroom walkthroughs
- NC Digital Learning Rubric—all schools have moved to Advanced level.
- 90 staff members trained with ACCESS Ambassadors model from Friday Institute
- Teacher Talk survey shows teachers more confident in their abilities. They volunteer to present at PD sessions.
- 2nd Summer Camp will be held August 10th.
- All schools receive a minimum of 10 technology PD hours each year.
- Schools have implemented Fishbowl learning walks...very positive outcome in schools with teachers.
- Excitement of students with technology...student and teacher focus groups conducted by Friday Institute.
- Wifi on buses....drivers report that discipline on buses has dropped.



What did not work?

- Students taking care of their device.
- MCS has spent \$67,000 for parts to repair devices. This amount doesn't include parts that will have to be purchased for summer repairs, which is approximately \$15,000. There are no labor costs to parents for repairs. MCS assumes all labor costs associated with repairs.
- 2015-16 “free repair” was abused. Laptops would be held until multiple damages would occur and then expect “free fix”
- Laptop chargers
- Elementary school damages—tracking shows this is a teacher supervision issue.
- Uniform collection of charges/fees on a regular basis by schools.



ACCESS program changes & updates for 2017-18 school year

- 4 DLC positions this year. Each will serve 3 schools.
- I3 Management Team is investigating possibility of technology insurance. This could be optional for parents to purchase and in addition to technology fee. Another option would be to raise the technology fee and include insurance for all. If included for all, technology fee would need to be raised to \$45. This insurance would not cover students losing and/or not turning in chargers or bags. It would include device damages.
- Exploring options at elementary level for students taking home devices. Survey is out for teachers and parents to express opinion.
- Would like to propose that schools are responsible for fees at end of school year from their school funds. Would promote accountability for schools to collect fees.
- Work with schools to maintain zero balances. Will be reviewed quarterly and schools will begin collecting fees as they occur, starting in August. Any student that did not pay fees will have a Start of Year balance on their account for this year.
- Have schools collect fees throughout the year with events and not wait until the end of year.
- When damages occur, bills will be mailed to parents. This is in addition to bills being sent home with each interim report and report card.

