



State of Vermont
Vermont Department of Education
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Planning for Technology Plans Fall 2011

As we look ahead into 2012, we are faced with the end of another cycle on technology plans. Most of you had a plan that was written for the period of July 1, 2009-June 30, 2012. That means it is time to begin thinking about the next iteration of plans which will cover another three year period. This document is intended to give you some information, guidance and instruction in moving forward with your local plans. It is important to read this entire document. This is *NOT* a call for your technology plan to be submitted. A number of steps must take place, this is to help you begin planning.

There have been some changes since our last iteration, notably:

- Title IID has been discontinued and Title IID required technology plans to receive funding. The Vermont Department of Education advocates for the continued use of technology plans in anticipation of future funding sources having a similar requirement.
- E-rate requires a technology plan but there have been some changes in this requirement, notably, anything other than Priority 2 services no longer requires a technology plan. We do have some schools that this would apply to. I would like to confer with those schools in regards tech plans. Again, the VTDOE advocates for schools completing a technology plan.
- In the past, E-rate required 5 areas covered: Goals and strategies for using telecommunications to improve education, professional development strategies, assessment of telecommunications, evaluation of goals and strategies, and a budget. In 2011, a budget is no longer required.

For the 2012 technology plans, the Vermont Department of Education is moving the technology plan process to an online system. We will be using our Grantium-G3 system which currently houses all of the formula grants in the Consolidated Federal Program. Our plan process will not include any financial records, but the system is well suited to allowing schools to create overarching categories, much like our past plan and then create strategies under those categories which would mirror our current "action steps". The move to an online system would also better provide a letter of approval that schools can use and refer to on their own when need arises to produce it. The online system could also allow schools to go in during the three year period and edit or change strategies that have been completed. More detail on this system will be forthcoming as it is currently being developed for a planned January implementation.

In the meantime, to begin the process for technology plans for the 2012-2015 period, the VTDOE is instructing schools to commence with the following steps:

1. "Create" a plan in the next two weeks. This means to simply open your existing 2009-2012 technology plan, date it with the current date, do a find and replace and change all dates to the new plan dates, (2012-2015). This will signify the "creation" of your new plan for USAC purposes. This "creation" of the document signifies that you have begun a new plan prior to the submission of your 470 process which comes later this fall. You do not need to (and should not yet) rewrite your entire tech plan NOR should you send anything to the DOE. This is to begin your tech plan process. Further guidance will be forthcoming on what the new plan should look like and include as we move into Fall. **THIS IS AN IMPORTANT STEP TO STAY IN COMPLIANCE.**

2. Begin thinking about the members of your new (or old) technology committee and perhaps schedule a meeting or two this fall to review the 2009-2012 plan and formulate some of the goals you hope to address in a new plan. Your time now would best be spent in reviewing the old plan to see what areas need to be continued and what areas have met with success.

The Timeline and Process

According to the Universal Service Administrative Company, USAC, Vermont is in current compliance with our technology plan process. Vermont schools have current approved plans on file with the Vermont Department of Education until June 30, 2012. So long as a process has been started (see above) to provide a new approved plan by July 1, 2012, schools will be covered for the funding year that they are about to embark on with the 470 process later this fall. Vermont plans will not need to be extended unless there are delays in creating the online system. If that should occur, plans will be in place to accept and approve written tech plans in time for the next funding year.

The planned timeline is as follows:

Activity	Planned completion	Entity responsible
Update to the VT State Plan	Late November	VTDOE/local representatives
Online template creation	January, 2012	VTDOE
Webinars, training on using new online system	Ongoing January-March 2012	VTDOE, Locals
Submission of Tech Plans	Late May 2012	Locals
Approval Process	May-June 2012	VTDOE
Approval Letters to Locals	Mid June 2012	VTDOE/Online system

State Master Contract

As a reminder, the Vermont Department of Education embarked upon its own state-level 470 process in the Spring of 2011 on behalf of all schools in the state. This process resulted in Education Networks of America (ENA) being selected to provide broadband access for schools that wish to avail themselves of the service. Education Networks of America was chosen on behalf of the schools with input from representatives in local school districts. Schools are urged to look at the services offered by ENA and ascertain the appropriateness of their services for the local schools.

A master contract with ENA has been put in place with the State of Vermont and it is available to any school that wishes to sign a contract with ENA. Schools do not need to file their own 470 if they choose to avail themselves of ENA’s services. The VTDOE’s 470 that was filed in Spring 2011 can be referenced for this purpose. Information necessary for the filing of schools 471 forms is below:

VTDOE 470 Application Number	Master Contract # with BGS State of Vermont	Allowable Contract Date	Date of Contract Signature
557560000867158	19849	12/14/2010	8/24/2011

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