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School Technology Survey Shows Steady Improvement

BARRE – A survey of technology available at schools by the Vermont Agency of Education reveals steady improvement including more than 85,000 computers in use compared to 68,000 last year.

The 2016 survey also revealed that, for the first time, all of the 305 schools who responded to the survey have wireless access within their buildings.

“Vermont schools should be congratulated for continuing to provide technology to support digital learning across their curriculum landscape,” said Peter Drescher, education technology coordinator at the Vermont Agency of Education. “Schools continue to make this a priority and the increasing availability of more robust broadband only will serve to enhance the educational prospects for all Vermont students.”

Drescher presented the results of the survey to 40 school technology leaders on Monday at Essex High School.

Broadband coverage has steadily increased with download speeds of 100 megabits per second in 180 of the schools, which has more than tripled in the past two years.

Schools that provide a computer for each student in multiple grade levels increased to 195 from 137 schools in 2015.

The survey also delved into the number of systems that are employed, cloud services used, and personalized learning plan platforms.

“I really want to thank all the schools for responding to the survey in a timely manner, it’s clear the schools continue to prioritize technology and want to be on the cutting edge,” Drescher said. “This is an important survey because we get asked about it by legislators who have continually advocated for the best available technology for all Vermont students.”

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