

Staff Development & Training

The following list details various opportunities available to staff in all district employee groups:

Bytes of Technology Training: This two week event held just prior to the start of the academic year provides teachers with instructional support and time to investigate technology applications and tools, plan for incorporating new instructional strategies based on available technical resources, and produce communication forums including websites, newsletters, and blogs. Technology coordinators, master teachers, and media specialists facilitate this training. Participants are paid for their time attending these sessions and receive clock hours for licensure renewal.

Elementary Technology Crew: A cohort of elementary teachers from grades 2-5 meet throughout the academic year investigate technology applications and write technology-infused lesson plans based on District 112 content-area outcomes. At monthly meetings, under the guidance of the Elementary Technology Coordinator, crew members share their lessons and discuss their effectiveness in the context of student learning and ultimately student achievement. This forum supports and encourages teachers to share resources, try new applications, and serve as technology curriculum integration leaders for their grade-level teams.

Secondary Technology Crew: Four cohorts of secondary teachers meet with technology coordinators and professional development staff to investigate and apply applications of technology within their specific content area(s).

Teachers involved in the Technology Crew projects report dramatic, positive changes in their teaching and in student learning. Participants cited the Tech Crew experience as “*one of the most beneficial staff development opportunities*” in which they have participated.

Clerical Training Sessions: Job-specific training sessions are offered throughout the academic year to train clerical staff. The training sessions focus on updated software and new applications. There is a recognized level of computer expertise required for this specialized group to use the district network and CIMS (*Comprehensive Information Management System*) effectively and efficiently. Courses are taught by technology specialists, the student accounting specialist, or a technology coordinator.

Staff Specific Training: Training is offered on an on-going, as-needed basis within buildings, departments, grade levels, and teams. Training is customized to meet the specific need(s) of the group. Participating teachers and administrators can receive continuing education clock hours toward licensure renewal.

Individualized Training: (Just-in-Time) Technology support staff are present in each building. Media specialists, technology associates, technology coordinators, technology specialists & assistants, and a district-wide help desk are available to train and assist staff on an “as-needed” basis.

New Teacher Training: New teachers are introduced to the district’s technology resources during their initial orientation sessions. Administrators encourage newly hired staff to attend the “*Bytes of Technology*” training session. Instructional mentors, building technology staff, media specialists, and various instructional peers provide ongoing support and assistance to new teachers.

Training Grants: Training for teachers made possible by grant revenue. Examples include: Intel’s *Teach to the Future*, *Teach Thinking with Technology*, *Project Lead the Way*.

Technology Staff Training: District technology staff groups routinely receive training in their job-specific roles as well as training to raise awareness and investigate applications of new and emerging technologies. Training opportunities include: Monthly Technology Training meetings held at the District Technology Training Center for all MIS staff, building level technology associates, technology coordinators, and media specialists; Monthly training sessions with the Information Systems Administrator for MIS staff and technology coordinators; Vendor-provided training on specific software/hardware applications for job-specific employee groups; Local, regional, and national workshops and conferences on topics under investigation by the district for staff appropriate to the topic.

Special Education /Adaptive Technology Training: District 112 provides training and support in the areas of IEP software and adaptive technology. Training is targeted to the specific staff that use and deploy these technology applications.