



Community Report

Carver-Chanhassen-Chaska-Victoria, Minnesota

October 2011

Innovation Requires Investment Vote November 8!

On November 8, the Eastern Carver County School Board is asking residents to consider creating a stable funding source for educational technology.

The Proposal:

A capital projects referendum in support of technology –\$1.98 million each year for 10 years

The money will allow investment in five areas:

Classroom Technology—Examples: interactive whiteboards, responders, video over IP

Student Devices—Examples: computers, iPads

Teacher Devices—Examples: tablet PC's, document cameras

Course Specific Content—Examples: hardware/software for STEM classes, *Project Lead the Way* classrooms

Infrastructure— Examples: expanded network, wireless access, server capacity

TECHNOLOGY PLAN SUPPORTS INSTRUCTION INTO THE FUTURE

What's the Plan?

Our 10-year plan is most specific in years 1-3. We know our current needs and can project for the short-term. With the pace of technology changing so rapidly, we know that further into the 10-year plan, we will be facing needs we can't yet identify. A stable funding source for technology will allow us to be prepared for a future we can't predict.

The School Board's proposal extends 10 years. Beyond year 3, the district will be finishing large projects, evaluating tools, establishing a stable replacement cycle and reviewing best practices in education to determine where technology is shifting and how we can best support students.

Year 1 Plan

- ▶ Sound reinforcement system expand to 100 additional classrooms
- ▶ Begin replacement of LCD projectors
- ▶ Expand purchase of personal computing devices like iPads
- ▶ Improved websites to allow more interactivity
- ▶ Begin expansion of wireless access to all schools
- ▶ Expand video capacity to more schools, allowing students to share video between classrooms, building a sense of school community
- ▶ Expand purchase of classroom

responders and interactive whiteboards across schools
▶ Offer support to teachers with innovative technology applications through grants

Year 2 Plan

- ▶ Re-establish replacement schedule for school computer labs
- ▶ Incorporate additional digital resources into the middle level science curriculum
- ▶ Continue infrastructure upgrades to expand network capacity
- ▶ Expand courses available using technology, e.g. *Project Lead the Way*
- ▶ Infrastructure in more buildings to allow students access to school networks on their own devices
- ▶ More classrooms fitted with sound reinforcement systems

Year 3 Plan

- ▶ Continue replacement cycle for computer labs
- ▶ Continue infrastructure updates
- ▶ Continue investment in personal computing devices and classroom technology

Year 4 and beyond

- ▶ Continue to upgrade and replace technology tools and infrastructure as required
- ▶ Review best practices to determine where technology is headed and how to best support students

Referendum Will Impact the Success of Every Student

To the Eastern Carver County Schools Community:

On September 8, the School Board voted unanimously to bring a technology referendum to residents of Eastern Carver County Schools. This is an action we're taking on behalf of the children you elected us to serve...9,000 this year and growing.

With a successful referendum, we will finally achieve a stable funding source for educational technology. That means we can provide the infrastructure and technology tools needed in all of our schools... tools that enable teachers to engage students and personalize instruction. Knowing we can count on a specific budget amount each year will enable us to plan, addressing urgent technology needs today as well as adjusting to the unknown needs of the future.

Most importantly, we believe this proposal will directly impact the success of each student.

Become an informed voter. Read this newsletter, visit our website at www.district112.org, and ask questions. Look for more information from us in the weeks ahead. We want to provide you the facts you need to make an informed vote on November 8.

The Eastern Carver County School Board

Jim Leone, Chair Lisa Anderson, Vice-Chair/Clerk Carole Baab, Treasurer
Fred Berg, Director Tim Klein, Director
Heather Nelson, Director Dick Tirk, Director



How does Eastern Carver County's technology investment compare to other districts?

Currently, our school district uses the Capital Fund to finance hardware, software and devices. That means technology competes with other capital expenditures like roof replacement and parking lot repair. Many districts avoid these competing priorities with technology referenda.

This chart illustrates the difference a technology referendum can make.

District	Current	Proposed
Eden Prairie	\$648 per pupil	
Minnetonka	\$624 per pupil	
Wayzata	\$539 per pupil	
Bloomington	\$293 per pupil	
Edina	\$120 per pupil	\$549
Eastern Carver Co.	\$ 0 per pupil	\$220

Why invest in technology now?

Roofs or Technology? We face competing priorities for capital spending. As technology became central to student success, the Board put more of its capital budget into providing technology tools for teachers. The ever-growing maintenance needs of our 13 buildings challenge our ability to continue to invest in technology at our current level. Without additional funding, the Board must spend less on technology in order to keep buildings and grounds safe and useable.

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Eastern Carver County Schools
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Questions?

Bring them to our **Referendum Information Night!**

**Tuesday, October 18
6:30 p.m.**

District Education Center
11 Peavey Road
Chaska (Enter door #3)



Please vote November 8!

For more information on the November 8 Eastern Carver County Schools Technology Referendum, visit www.district112.org.

Community Report

is published by the Eastern Carver County Schools' Community Relations Office. Any questions or comments should be directed to: Lori Kendall, Community Relations assistant, 952.556.6186 kendalll@district112.org

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About the Election

Absentee Ballots Available Now

To request an application for an absentee ballot from the Superintendent's office, call 952.556.6110. Ballots must be received by November 7.

Polling Places

Polls will be open on November 8 between 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.

- ▶ **Residents of Carver** – East Union Elementary School, 15655 County Road 43, Carver
- ▶ **Residents of Chanhassen** – Chanhassen Rec Center, 2310 Coulter Blvd., Chanhassen
- ▶ **Residents of Chaska/Chaska Township** – Chaska Middle School West, 140 Engler Blvd., Chaska
- ▶ **Residents of Victoria/Laketown Township** – Victoria City Hall, 7951 Rose, Victoria



What happens if the referendum fails?

Our ability to move forward with 21st century programs designed to prepare our students for success beyond high school will be seriously curtailed. The School Board must spend more of the capital budget, technology's primary funding source, on the capital needs of our buildings.

Fewer dollars for technology means:

- Unreliable, outdated technology in labs and classrooms
- Students less engaged, less prepared for real-world technology use
- Curriculum choices narrow with inability to select technology-rich programs
- Reduced ability to update technology that supports new redesigned, enriched curriculum at all levels
- Fewer tools for teachers to personalize and enrich classroom learning

What will the technology referendum cost?

Market Value	Monthly Impact	Annual Impact
\$200,000	\$5.66	\$68
\$240,000	\$7.00	\$84
\$300,000	\$9.00	\$108
\$400,000	\$12.41	\$149
\$500,000	\$15.58	\$187
\$1,000,000	\$35.08	\$421

You can calculate the impact on your own taxes by visiting our website, www.district112.org, and using the Tax Calculator. The Tax Calculator is equipped to calculate taxes on homes, commercial and agriculture properties.

Prepared and paid for by: Independent School District 112 (Eastern Carver County Schools), 11 Peavey Road, Chaska, MN, 55318.

This publication is not circulated on behalf of any candidate or ballot question.



Why invest in technology now? continued from front

Teachers engage students through technology

▶ For today's student, technology is as natural as breathing. It's part of every detail of their lives. Our teachers increasingly use technology to engage students. Technology doesn't replace good teachers—it enhances good teaching. When teachers use technology, they make learning more relevant to students.

New curriculum moves away from textbooks

▶ Curriculum developers around the country are moving away from textbooks and toward digital resources. Without easily accessible technology, students and teachers will be unable to take advantage of up-to-date programming.

Equity among schools

▶ Facing limited funding for the purchase of technology tools, schools seek funding through grants and PTO fundraisers. The result is unequal distribution of technology among our schools. A successful referendum will allow us to buy more devices we know work with our curriculum such as iPads and interactive whiteboards.

Maintaining the investment in redesigned, updated curriculum

▶ Over the past five years, Eastern Carver County Schools invested the time and money necessary to strengthen and redesign school programs at every level. Many new programs require a significant investment in technology. Engineering, biomedical and architectural design classes, for example, offer students incredible opportunities to explore these potential careers before entering college. They cannot exist without the required access to hardware, software and program licenses.

ALL OF US WANT WHAT'S BEST FOR KIDS

When most of us think about school, we're really thinking about our own experience growing up. But school today is a far cry from school as I knew it or as most adults knew it. The expectations are higher. The stakes are higher. When kids graduate today, they won't be competing with kids from Waconia or Eden Prairie. They'll be competing with kids from Ireland and Singapore. It's a global economy.

We have to prepare students in multiple ways. Students need an assortment of technological experiences to be ready to be a contributing citizen of the 21st century. Technology is as natural as breathing to today's students. It's part of every detail of their lives.

And so our teachers increasingly rely on technology to engage students in learning. Technology doesn't replace good teachers—it enhances good teaching. When we use technology, we're making the lesson more relevant to students. One of our priorities is to ensure that all of our teachers receive the training necessary to use technology appropriately.

Why would we use something less than 21st century tools to prepare students for the competition of a global economy? Technology is so important to today's curriculum that we need to do whatever we can to keep it up-to-date and available.

Technology doesn't replace good teachers — it enhances good teaching.

If we fall down on that expectation, I think we change the trajectory of success for our students. And that's a real concern.

All of us in the community want what's best for kids. Your schools are deeply committed to ensuring students are properly prepared for the future.

There is never a good time to ask residents to increase their taxes. However, there are times when the needs of our students compel us to ask for additional support. This is one of those times.

We need the community's help to meet the community's expectations.

— Dr. Jim Bauck, Superintendent