

Technology Plan Cover Sheet 2016-2018 (July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2018)

**Organization Information**

District/Agency/School (legal name): Rochester STEM Academy

District Number: 4204-07

**Technology Plan Status**

The District/Agency/School has an approved 2013-15 technology plan:

✓ Yes No

2016-2018 Technology Plan Date of Creation: July 1ST

**Identified Official with Authority**

Name:

Title:

Address:

Phone:

E-mail:

**Technology Contact**

Name:

Title:

Address:

Phone:

E-mail:

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**2016-18 Technology Plan Template**

*Instructions: Add your responses by typing into the document below.*

*Technology Needs Assessment. Describe the processes(s) used to determine the technology needs for the LEA for 2016-2018 and briefly summarize the needs that have been determined. Make sure to include any technology needs that will be supported through E-rate discounts, such as telephone, telecommunications access, Internet, and other E-rate eligible services:*

The mission of Rochester STEM Academy is to provide a highly supportive learning environment for minority, immigrant and other students currently underserved in traditional area high schools and greatly underrepresented in Rochester’s STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) industries through a challenging program that emphasizes creativity, accountability, ongoing assessments, college-preparation, and high academic achievement. In order for Rochester STEM to achieve these goals we have created a 3 year plan: *Strategy 2018*. *Strategy 2018* is the plan to have every graduate from Rochester STEM Academy do so with a High School diploma as well as an Associates of Arts Degree. With the



education and economic gap that Rochester STEM Academy provides services for it is essential that our technological plan be integrated into every aspect of our educational experience.

Our Plan actually began this year; as we reinvested resources into our three computer labs (one stationary, two mobile). We replaced the desktops in the computer lab and purchased 18 new laptops for the mobile lab. During this process the mobile computers we had in our possession were retooled and formatted to be faster more efficient machines. Our E-readers will have updated operating systems so that they will better work with our new implementation of Google Education Suites.

The staff (district wide) meets biweekly to keep our goals aligned with our mission statement as well as aligned with the Minnesota state standards (Common Core). Keeping these goals in mind we have designed the following Goals and Strategies for the next 3 years. This included the use of smart boards and upgrading the wireless capacity for internet within the building. As technology is an important part of our mission as at STEM we are constantly looking to acquire the funding for newer and more advanced technology. Over the next three years we will be looking to acquire funding for new video and audio recording equipment, upgraded E-readers and mobile computers for students to take home with them when the graduate.

E-rate services that Rochester STEM participates in are: Internet, Phone, DNS (Domain Name Services) (Hoping for staff phones and projector mounts with internet connectivity)

*Goals and Strategies. List the specific goals and strategies for 2016-2018 that address how your LEA will use technology to deliver education and assist with school administration:*

The Rochester STEM goal is threefold (in line with *Strategy 2018* and the Common Core state standards)

First, is the integration of technology into every class. Our ultimate goal is to be able to have graduates from Rochester STEM leave with their Associates degree, High School diploma and a mobile computer of their own. Computers will be their textbooks, place to turn in homework, their digital classrooms where they can seek help from classmates and teachers, as well as their grade books; making them invaluable assets to these students as they travel onward towards college degrees. As we are almost 100% free reduced it is another way we can serve our underserved community and help to bridge the gap between our clientele and the rest of the educational world.

Secondly, we are interested in using our Google Education Suite (Google Classroom, Google Docs, Google Drive, Google Sheets, Google Sites) to its fullest extent. We are currently in the process of getting teachers Google Certified in order to have them better understand the



programs and their uses in the classroom. Over the next 3 years we would implement a school wide shift towards Google Classroom, which is a digital classroom where materials and communications can be traded back and forth from anywhere there is an internet connection. This provides students with more access to materials they previously had no access to (be it because of money, or because of more traditional reasons for separation e.g. weekends and holidays away from school). This shift towards Google Classroom/Drive also provides the background for a digital portfolio which is a cloud based storage location for student work and material. This will help these students demonstrate mastery of knowledge when they are ready to apply to colleges.

Thirdly, we are continuing and building new partnerships. We will use our technology to further our ongoing relationship with Compas and our resident artist Frank Sentwali. Both our [annual show](#) and the [Compas anthology](#) are important parts of our curriculum that will integrate technology from the preparation to the execution (links included). This combined with our future partnership with Highschool For the Recording Arts are important for our usage of technology. They give us the ability help train the students for jobs in the audio visual departments they may encounter in the future.

For this to be accomplished the steps we need to take are as follows:

1. We will need to obtain and make operational a server for Rochester STEM Academy. This is already in process and should be in place by August of 2015. This will allow us to better use and distribute the material we have for subject matter in all areas (in alignment with Common Core Standards)
2. The continual development of our technological resources. We want to keep the machines we have in repair as well as seek funding for more diverse types of technology in order to expose our students to the technology they will be in contact with at college and in the work force.
3. Staff development is key. In 2014/2015 we focused on Smartboard training. In our 3 year plan we will need the entire staff to be fluent in Google Education Suits. We are currently in pursuit of this with weekly staff development meetings with programing that includes Google Suit training as well as Google Certification opportunities. Also the new CEU program that has been purchased (PD360) which is entirely based online. It's digital aspects and ability to monitor teachers strengths and weaknesses is going to be essential for our digital school. Keeping the staff consistently training for technology as well as all other relevant subject through the technological means of Rochester STEM Academy. PD360 comes with a video function which will allow teachers to record classes; as well as give and receive feedback on those videos. This will allow the teaching staff (and administrators) to model the use of technology for the students.
4. With the technology available, and the staff up to date on its uses, our fourth step is to transfer this knowledge to the students. With their understanding of their school (both physical and digital) students will better understand how their Personal Learning Plans (PLPs) are



effective tools for tracking their growth and setting new goals. Our PLP implementation team is currently making the whole process electronic and updatable so that students will have no problems finding the materials and updating them multiple times a semester while keeping a running record of the changes made. This will allow for students to be recognize their own growth and help set attainable learning targets for the upcoming years.

The changes in technology presented and proposed also allow for us to better communicate with the community around us. Having digital classrooms that are accessible everywhere allow us to have better communication with families and guardians. Keeping families involved in the education process.

*Professional Development Plan. Describe the professional development strategies you have in place for 2016-2018 to ensure LEA staff are prepared to use the technology infrastructure, software programs, and online resources provided:*

Having multiple teams putting together a Professional Development Plan we have come up with a weekly training schedule in order to accommodate the transfer to digital classrooms within the Google Education Suite programing. The professional and continuing education training available through PD360 will help to keep our teachers, staff, and administrators up to date. We plan on having professional development and cross training courses with an IT department for understanding and operating the new server (when it arrives) as well as the CIPAFilter and the school wide internet maintenance. These steps will help meet the mission statement for Rochester STEM Academy.

*Evaluation. Explain the evaluation process for your technology plan for 2016-2018, including timeline, roles and responsibilities, and information gathered to assess how the technology plan goals and strategies are being met:*

As stated above we hold biweekly meetings with all of our teams within the district. We will use the meetings to evaluate teacher, administrator, and student input on the implementation of technology throughout the school. Through the use of digital surveys and conversion based meetings we will roll out the 3 year plan with adjustments which includes our technology plan.

Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA)

This LEA has an Internet Safety/Acceptable Use Policy in place.

✓ Yes No

If yes, please provide a link to access the policy at the LEA website:

This school district deploys an Internet filter to protect minors from material that is pornographic or otherwise harmful to them.



✓ Yes No

*Submit the cover sheet and template in PDF or Word (not a scan) by e-mail to:  
mde.schooltechplan@state.mn.us.*

