STAR Charts
School Technology and Readiness – Teacher Tool for Planning and Self-Assessing

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) produced the STAR Chart in 2004 to be used on a voluntary basis [http://starchart.esc12.net/docs/TxTSC.pdf]. Now, all Texas teachers are required to complete the online version of the chart annually and may find a review helpful at [http://www.tea.state.tx.us/starchart]

Our mission is to assist you with planning and using technology in the classroom. Located in your Technology pamphlet, the Technology Standards and required knowledge of online and technology resources is shown so that you can maneuver through the requirements needed for SBEC, TEA, and districts.

Teachers may or may not have adequate technology in classrooms. AISD’s plan is to put in an updated technology cart ($4500 per station) in each classroom, on a prorated basis. Shown is the prototype of the new system, including a document camera that can also be adjusted to catch student shots for further documentation and use of technology.

Essentially, use the technology you have for the best advantage for students.

Sample Performance Descriptions (pp. 4-5) indicate objectives. Study the list to understand what can be done NOW to help you prepare for next year’s classroom and subsequent years.

Noteworthy:

- Using gradebook, attendance, email, producing documents, managing curriculum and administrative tasks, and present electronic information to students. Although we are covering the essentials with email and websites, each district will provide training on specific technology tasks. Voluntarily attend professional development training at your district, either in person or online (e-learning).
- Awareness of K-8 TEKS [http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/technology/ta] and expected mastery for students. Formative assessment and documentation shows mastery. Enrichment activities for Tier 1 students must be available via technology as well as activities for Tier 3 students who need more reinforcement than a teacher can provide one-on-one.
- Whenever possible, have students use technology. When you can create online lessons including TEKS, you have shown a high technology use to support students.
- Integrating technology can take many forms: Power Points with notes for students who are absent or need modifications for taking notes; internet research; computer use for documents such as writing and editing; as possible, graphics, animation, multimedia, video; assignments and announcements on website; online lessons; using technology for vocabulary, review, higher order critical thinking skills; solving real world problems; learning across the curriculum (cross-curricular) to connect to other subject areas; class communicates online (as possible); project based learning.
- Highlight expected progress on the STAR charts (pp. 9-12).
- Parents are more involved in online grading, progress reports, and communication, so setting up your website ahead of time will allow you to work effectively.
- When interviewing, request information on campus technology. Often, when you ask, you get!

Ask teachers where you complete field experience about the technology they use on a regular basis.

When possible, attend Saturday School with Technology Specialist and request needed lessons ahead of time.