Smart School Technology Program Timeline

November 2014

Entities Involved

1. Utah Legislature: Created a pilot project known as the Smart School Technology Program to encourage the deployment of a whole-school technology plan in public schools.

2. Governor's Office of Economic Development (GOED): Directed to select a private education technology provider through a request for proposals process to develop and implement a whole-school technology deployment plan for schools.

3. Utah State Office of Education (USOE), directed to:
   - select schools to participate in the program;
   - make rules for selecting schools to participate in the program; and
   - evaluate the program and report to the Education Interim Committee.

4. iSchool Campus (Provider):

   The educational technology provider develops a customized whole-school technology deployment plan for each school participating in the program. The whole-school technology deployment plan is based on submitted proposals to the committee and may include the following components:
   a) a mobile learning device or digital textbook for each student;
   b) desktop or laptop computers for classrooms;
   c) peripherals and networking equipment, including a wireless network;
   d) Internet filtering;
   e) operating software for the technology system, including software that connects digital learning devices among students and a teacher to facilitate classroom interaction;
   f) professional development for educators and technology specialists on:
      i. the operation and use of the technology equipment; and
      ii. accessing and using online content; and
   g) ongoing technical support.

Timeline

March 2012
Senate Bill 284 passed Utah Legislature

April 2012
Senate Bill 284 signed by the Governor

May 2012
Independent Evaluating Committee constituted and first meeting held (late May)

June 2012
- Additional meetings of the committee
- GOED created and released the request for proposal (RFP) for a technology provider
- USOE created and released an application for schools to apply to participate in the program

July 2012
- RFP closed and was reviewed by committee
- Selected technology provider was approved by the GOED Board
- Contract was initiated with technology provider
- Participating schools were selected by USOE and forwarded to Utah State Board of Education (USBE) for approval

August 2012
- Final contract approved and signed by GOED, iSchool Campus, and State Purchasing
- Participating Schools were approved by the USBE
- Initial meeting was held with GOED, USOE, iSchool Campus and participating schools (late August, school had already started)

September 2012
- Initial professional development of school leaders held
- Custom plans for each school were created that included timelines building infrastructure upgrades, equipment procurement, professional development, and when students would receive computing devices

October 2012
- Infrastructure upgrades
- Equipment procurement and installation
- Professional development for teachers

November - January 2012
- Infrastructure upgrades continued
- Equipment procurement and installation continued
- Professional development for teachers continued
- Device deployment to teachers and students

March 2013
SB 284 passed Utah Legislature
- new requirement for schools to provide matching funds

April 2013
- Evaluation contract with SUU approved
- SB 284 signed by Governor

May 2013
- Independent Evaluating Committee meetings
- USOE created and released the year two application for schools to apply to participate in the program (Round 1)
- GOED created and released the RFP for a technology provider

June 2013
- Final contract approved and signed by GOED, iSchool Campus, and State Purchasing
- Participating schools were approved by the USBE (Round 1)
- Initial meeting was held with GOED, USOE, iSchool Campus, and participating schools (Round 1)
- Second evaluation contract with Southern Utah University (SUU) approved

July 2013
- USOE released the application for schools to apply to participate in the program (Round 2)
- Custom plans for each school were created that included timelines building infrastructure upgrades, equipment procurement, professional development, and when students would receive computing devices
- Infrastructure upgrades
- Equipment procurement and installation
- Professional development for teachers

August 2013
- First year program evaluation completed and submitted to USOE
- Participating schools were approved by the USBE (Round 2)
- Initial meeting was held with GOED, USOE, iSchool Campus, and participating schools (Round 2)
- Participating schools worked on matching funds financing options
- Custom plans for each school were created which included timelines building infrastructure upgrades, equipment procurement, professional development, and when students would receive computing devices
- Infrastructure upgrades
- Equipment procurement and installation
- Professional development for teachers

- Device deployment to teachers and students

September 2013 thru January 2014
- Participating schools worked on matching funds financing options
- Custom plans for each school were created that included timelines building infrastructure upgrades, equipment procurement, professional development and when students would receive computing devices
- Infrastructure upgrades
- Equipment procurement and installation
- Professional development for teachers
- Device deployment to teachers and students

September 2014
Second evaluation report received from SUU

October 2014
USOE released the application for schools for Round 3 to apply to participate in the program. Funding from:
- unfilled seats from Rounds 1 and 2
- cost savings from the seven schools selected during the 2013-2014 school year