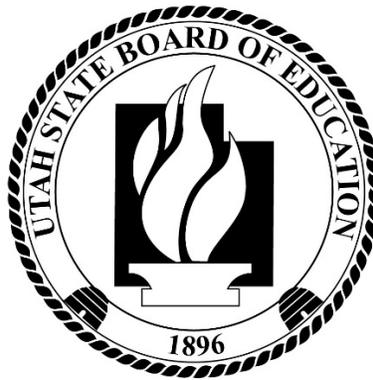


Technology Education Public Education

H.B. 514 (2012),
Utah Code Section 53A-13-111

Report of FY16



Prepared by the

Utah State Board of Education
Career and Technical Education

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LEGISLATIVE REPORT

TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION PUBLIC EDUCATION

PURPOSE

Utah Code Section 53A-13-111

“Provide for an educational program on the use of information technology at Utah high schools. The program shall be made available to high school students, faculty and staff. The program shall provide instruction on skills and competencies essential for the workplace and those requested by employers.”

“Program components include curriculum, online access to curriculum, instructional software for classroom and student use, certification for skills and competencies most frequently requested by employers, professional development for teachers, and deployment and program support; including integration with existing curriculum and standards.”

Amount allocated for FY16: \$510,000

Amount allocated for FY17: \$500,000

IMPLEMENTATION AND DELIVERY

- 1) Utah State Board of Education (USBE) continued with the use of the Microsoft IT Academy program that began with a pilot in FY13. The program had a name change to Microsoft Imagine Academy (MS IA) starting January 2016 and now includes components of the code training.
- 2) A deployment plan for the MS IA in Utah was developed with program support from Microsoft and Microsoft’s recognized industry certification partner, Certiport.
- 3) FY16 - USBE purchased MS IA licenses for 207 secondary schools, 99 Certiport Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS) site licenses, 5 Adobe site licenses, 750 Adobe certification vouchers, 100 AutoDesk vouchers, and test preparation software.
- 4) In the current year of FY17 – USBE has purchased MS IA licenses for 216 secondary schools, 100 Certiport MOS site licenses, 3,440 multi-certification vouchers for Adobe, AutoDesk, and Quickbooks, and 500 Microsoft Technology Associate vouchers.
- 5) In FY16 Career and Technical Education expanded the integration of curriculum and standards in to additional courses in Business, Marketing, Information Technology, Technology & Engineering, and Skilled and Technical programs.
- 6) All high schools with approved CTE programs, a large portion of junior high schools, and new beginning in FY16 - Youth in Custody (YIC) sites received an MS IA license. The license provides access to resources to all teachers and students in the school.

- 7) Teachers applied for the available (FY16 – 99 and FY17 – 100) Certiport MOS Certification licenses. To participate in the applicants had to provide a plan for implementation. Licenses were given statewide in metropolitan areas and rural, alternative schools, and YIC sites.
- 8) Face-to-face professional development training has reached more than 300 teachers and administrators. Additional trainings are scheduled for FY17.
- 9) Additional webinar training on the MS IA tool and Certiport certifications have been and are available to all faculty and staff. Webinars are in place and provided through the support of both Microsoft and Certiport.
- 10) Certification exams were and are continuing to be administered in grades 9-12 to students and are available for teachers to certify with the support of Certiport.
- 11) Feedback on the program results has and will be continuously solicited from the teachers, administrators, and students to provide recommendations for improvement.

The MS IA, MOS, MTA, and Adobe certifications are resources that were purchased as a sole source license to fulfill the purposes of the code. USBE was able to use the appropriated funds to provide the information technology program resource to 217 Utah schools including USBE. To meet all of the requirements of the code USBE partnered with Certiport to provide industry certifications which are made available to teachers and students.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

The table below provides a success metrics that identifies goals for program deployment. The metrics was developed in partnership with USBE, Microsoft, and Certiport.

Utah MS IA and Certification Metrics	2012 – 13 Actuals	2013 – 14 Actuals	2014 – 15 Actuals	2015 – 16 Actuals	2016 – 17 Goals
Teachers Trained (MOS)	464	174	211	325	400
Teachers Certified (MOS)	351	170	378	481	500
Teachers Master Level Certified (MOS)	0	0	0	1	10
Teachers Certified (MTA)	8	39	42	48	50
Teachers Certified (Adobe)	N/A	N/A	N/A	131	300
Teachers Certified (IC3 GS)	N/A	N/A	N/A	187	200
Students Certified (MOS)	1,685	3078	10,459	17,247	20,000
Students Certified (MTA)	63	151	177	186	200
Students Master Level Certified (MOS)	N/A	4	34	24	40
Students Certified (Adobe)	N/A	N/A	N/A	416	500
Students Certified (IC3 GS)	N/A	N/A	N/A	411	400
Schools deployed as a testing center	N/A	70	73	74	75
Youth in Custody – ConnectED	N/A	N/A	N/A	36	60

Table 1: Deployment Metrics

FINDINGS

The integration of the Information Technology Program supported from current code has provided progressive opportunities for secondary public education. Feedback from teachers and students has been encouraging as USBE continues on in a fifth year through FY17. For a fourth year in a row participants in the program and LEA's identify two components as the most valuable – industry certifications for both teachers and student and professional development that have helped teachers “raise the bar”.

Findings by Program Component Derived From LEA and Teacher Feedback

Curriculum/Lessons (including online) - All curriculum was provided online both to students and teachers. The online curriculum provided by the MS IA was used to complement course curriculum. In FY16 USBE staff provided support and information and expanded to additional curriculum areas. Microsoft added additional Computer Science components to their online curriculum and the USBE has received positive feedback from teachers. Teachers have reported that each year the curriculum and resources increase in quality and align more closely to the industry certifications. Teachers continue to be positive and have seen results with students.

Software for classroom – The MS IA site licenses provided 50 Microsoft Office licenses per site. Each year more LEAs utilize this benefit. LEAs continue to report that the licenses are needed at the middle and junior high school level. In addition, many LEAs need the current software for the entire school not just enough for one lab but find the 50 licenses helpful. With the approval of Microsoft, the USBE has been able to reassign some of the Microsoft Office licenses from schools who don't need them to schools that do. In some cases we have been able to reallocate enough license to upgrade an entire school.

Industry Certifications – Microsoft and Certiport reported that Utah students continue to be in the top states to lead the nation with year over year increase in industry certifications. When comparing certifications earned in FY15 to FY16; Utah increased by more than 6,700 certifications earned. The teachers that participated in the program continue to “raise the bar” by providing knowledge and skills to students that positively impact their college and career readiness. Teacher feedback indicates that students are engaged and excited about the rigor of the classroom along with the prospect of earning an industry certification. Please view the following brief video produced by Certiport about the success of Utah students: [View!](#)

Integration of program into existing curriculum and standards – In FY16, the program was integrated into Business, Marketing, and Information Technology courses that are currently taught in Utah. USBE expanded certification opportunities to include Youth in Custody, Technology & Engineering and Skilled & Technical programs. The Microsoft and Certiport team supported USBE in this process. With the introduction of Microsoft's Computer Science curriculum, the next step to expand the utilization of this resource into Science and Mathematics. In FY17, USBE staff have put the steps in place to integrate into additional educational program areas.

Professional development – Teachers in the program were encouraged to attend ongoing face-to-face trainings during summer and regional conferences. The professional development

was supported by the Microsoft, Certiport and USBE teams. Teachers were trained to utilize the MS IA resources and prepare them to pass the industry certifications. Webinars were also frequently provided as a form of professional development to all Utah faculty and staff. The webinars continue to be recorded and posted to a shared website. FY16 accommodated a large variety of topics as teachers have requested. All webinars were designed from USBE and LEA requests to the Microsoft and Certiport teams. FY17 will continue this successful model.

Program support – Throughout the process USBE, Microsoft, and Certiport teams have been available to help LEAs with the rollout of the program. Monthly conference calls with USBE, Microsoft and Certiport are in place to ensure a smooth and supportive experience for teachers and LEAs. Both Microsoft and Certiport have made themselves available directly to teachers and LEAs to answer questions and help with technical issues.

In an effort to improve support to USBE and alleviate some administrative oversight, two additional services were provided: Certiport provided a liaison assigned specifically to Utah that has provided weekly data reports and supported districts with technical issues for testing. The second service was provided by Software House International (SHI) provided support to LEAs with accessing their 50 Microsoft Office Licenses. The increased support from all team members was instrumental in sustaining the MS IA program. USBE is well supported by their partners.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Additional Sites– Due to the MS IA licensing agreement, students and teachers at all middle and junior high schools do not have access to the same resources as those in a 9 – 12th grade schools. USBE was able to license 217 schools for FY17. This number does not include all schools with 9th grade students or all charter schools. Each year additional schools open and as a result the number of licenses needed will also increase. This is an equity problem that USBE has identified that could hinder the program to continue in its current form. The cost of each license is just under \$1500 per school.

Industry Certifications – The program provided some opportunities for students to earn industry certifications. To maintain current certification opportunities, providing a larger number of certifications for students is essential. With the increased interest from LEA's, Community support and student pass rates, the number of allocated MOS Site Licenses is limited. Student, teacher and local industry feedback continued to identify industry certifications as the highest tangible value to the program.

Oversight and administration for the information technology program – The program implemented required a large amount of oversight from USBE staff. Costs associated with USBE training and support increase as the program grows. Current staff working on this initiative already have heavy assignments and workloads. However, USBE staff sees the valuable impact of the program and has worked diligently to make it successful. In order to continue to expand and provide the necessary management oversight of this initiative long term, funding for administration is recommended.

Software – To improve the information technology initiative it would be beneficial to consider allowing for USBE to facilitate statewide enterprise software licensing options for LEAs who

choose to participate in a group purchase. The cost savings to LEAs would be considerable due to the pricing model that is used when purchasing software in high volume. The common software availability throughout the state at all schools would make integration of the information technology program with course standards more attainable. Additionally, it would help address equity in access throughout the state.

ⁱ Copper Hills High School MOS Success Story by Certiport,
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1mdxIeD1ueY&feature=youtu.be>