

Maine School Administrative District #75
Steps to Increase Accessibility

“ . . . a description of the steps the applicant will take to ensure that all students and teachers have increased access to technology. The description must include how the applicant will use Ed Tech funds to help students in high-poverty and high-needs schools, or schools identified for improvement or corrective action under section 1116 of Title I, and to help ensure that teachers are prepared to integrate technology effectively into curricula and instruction.”

Introduction. This document serves as an outline of steps the District Technology Department is taking to increase accessibility to technology. Accessibility refers to not only the availability of technology resources, but also the accommodations made for disabilities and the means for overcoming other challenges that serve as obstacles to District information and technology services.

- 1. Increasing accessibility through availability.** The District is taking steps to increase the availability of technology in the schools through various methods and resources.
 - a. Mobile Labs.** Providing computers that are available to support a classroom of students.
 - b. Fixed Labs.** Providing locations within each school where a class may be conducted using technology.
 - c. Computer in every classroom.** Providing each teacher with the means to conduct administrative business conveniently and to allow them to augment instruction or permit a student to use technology independently.
 - d. District-wide Network Login.** Providing District staff the ability to move throughout the District and still login to the network to access information as required.
 - e. Home Access.** Access to e-mail is made available from home through the WebAccess application. Access to other systems will be made available after they are evaluated for security vulnerabilities.
 - f. Telecommunications.** Providing telephone service to each classroom to facilitate communication.

- 2. Increasing accessibility to students with special needs.** The District recognizes the challenge for students with special needs and strives to ensure their needs are met in many ways.
 - a. Specialized Equipment.** With the support of the Special Education Department, the Technology Department will assist in integrating specialized hardware such as oversized keyboards, trackballs, oversized monitors, and microphones to support students with special needs.
 - b. Operating System Configuration.** With the support of the Special Education Department, the Technology Department will assist with customizing an Operating System to support students with special needs. This includes the integration of specialized hardware with the operating system, use of oversized fonts as required, and activating other accessibility features as may be found in the operating system.

