Progress Report

For Dickinson Tech Proposal

1/8/15

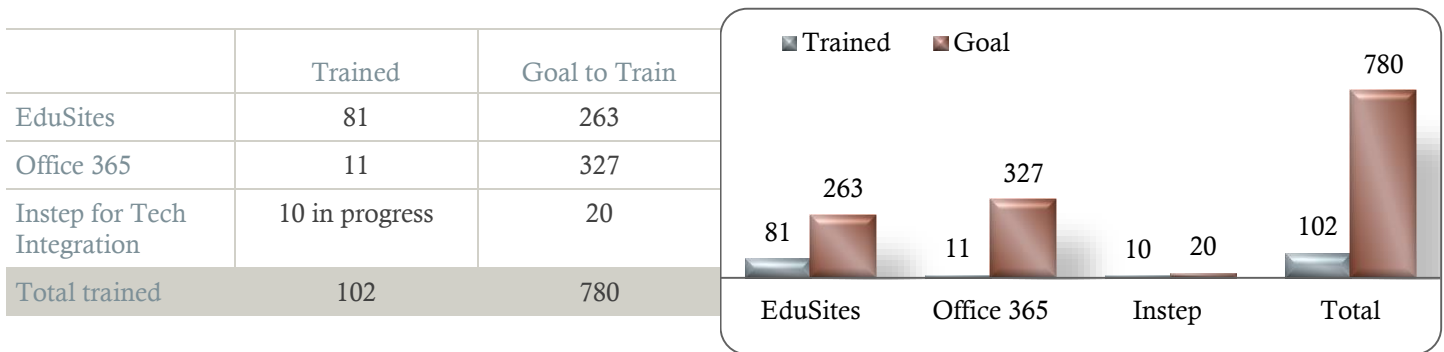# Overall Goals

The 3 major goals for the plan:

1. **Utilize Website and Social Media as a communication tool.**

2. **Build Teacher Independence**

3. **Support Tech Integration in the Classroom**

To accomplish the goals of the plan, several different types of trainings are planned with goal numbers of how many people within the district we would like to train. Some teachers may receive multiple trainings to assist others with technology.

Website and Social Media

The first step of the proposal was getting the new Dickinson website up and running, which we excitedly turned live on 1/6/15. The website has received a lot of positive feedback from the tech team as well as teachers during the course of trainings. Dickinson's social media presence is embedded throughout the new site to encourage parents to follow for information. Tech Department and Tech Paraprofessionals have been trained on each of the according sites as well as all outside entities such as Early Childhood Center, RASP, West Dakota, and the Foundation.

More EduSites trainings will continue to be scheduled. The new site was able to go live because all information from the old site has been transferred over. In going live, we are hoping that seeing the new site will encourage more participation and communication from stakeholders.

	Trained	Goal to Train
EduSites	81	263
Office 365	11	327
Instep for Tech Integration	10 in progress	20
Total trained	102	780

Building Teacher Independence

Currently there are 10 teachers in the district working on tech projects with the InStep program. We are hoping to get at least one teacher from each school, and as of right now the 10 teachers are from 3 of the schools. Our goal is to assist 20 teachers/administrators in using technology in their schools so they would feel comfortable sharing what they learn with other educators from around the district.

A tech department website has been created with documentation and a collection of video tutorials that will always be available to assist teachers with different technology questions. Items will continue to be added to the tech department site to assist teachers based off of frequent technology help tickets from the district.
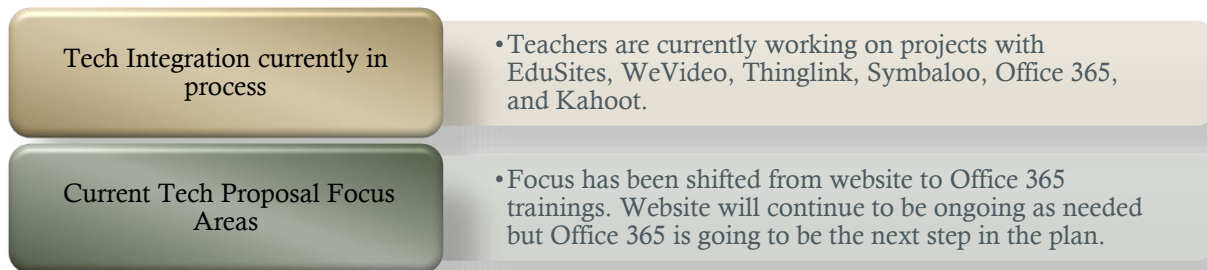
The proposal has also been presented and the main goals have been defined to the Dickinson Cabinet and the District Tech Committee to encourage more participation from each of the schools, as well as encourage them to communicate with all of the educators of the district that there is support available.

Tech Integration in the Classroom

The next major step in the plan is to better integrate technology into the classroom and to educate administration, teachers, and students on how to use Office 365 in their schools. A dpsnd.org Office 365 account has been created for training purposes and has been utilized to help coordinate and answer questions for teachers throughout the district.

Work has begun with Hagen Junior High and Dickinson High School to line up dates to train teachers and students on Office 365. The goal is to complete a bulk of the Office 365 training during January and February.

Melanie Kathrein is also working on setting dates for teachers who are interested in coming to get trained on Office 365 from other schools around the district. These may have to occur after school depending on subbing availability.

Tech Integration currently in process	• Teachers are currently working on projects with EduSites, WeVideo, Thinglink, Symbaloo, Office 365, and Kahoot.
Current Tech Proposal Focus Areas	• Focus has been shifted from website to Office 365 trainings. Website will continue to be ongoing as needed but Office 365 is going to be the next step in the plan.

Amendments to the Original Tech Proposal and Obstacles Encountered

The plan has encountered a few barriers that have slowed down progress but solutions have been created and the numbers of people trained will drastically increase over the course of the next couple months.

One of the major obstacles has been finding dates and times that are available to train large groups. This has lead to many small group trainings. Our solution for upcoming Office 365 trainings is that we are hoping to train several teachers within their own classrooms while also training their students. We will also offer afterschool training opportunities for those interested.

The tech integration coaches from the original proposal were changed due to the unsuspected lack of volunteers to participate. It was changed to InStep so that the participants could get College credit, which has increased volunteers, and EduTech rather than Integration Coaches will do Tech Integration presentations.

The pre and post survey used in the overall evaluation of the original proposal was amended since the AdvancED survey had recently been distributed upon implementation of the proposal. It was decided that the tech evaluation would come from the questions within AdvancED survey that refer to technology needs as well as interviewing educators that worked closely with the tech proposal during the course of the school year, such as tech paras, teachers, administrators, and Central Office staff.

Another obstacle that slowed progress was transferring all the content from the old website to the new website. This was a very time consuming process and took a lot of people being trained enough times to feel comfortable in their abilities so that they could work independently on transferring content. School was already in session and everyone has other duties, so many dates for other possible trainings were being used to complete this first major step of the plan.

Things to look forward to in the near future

- Tech Integration presentations at individual schools.

- More InStep tech projects being started and completed. Only one participant has completed InStep to date.

- More educators using Office 365 with students.

- Continual updating of the new Website