

Coventry Public Schools

Transforming Teaching and Learning to Meet the Needs of 21st Century Students

Blended Learning is an essential component of learning in today's global economy. Students must have authentic learning opportunities, thus technology must be readily available to them so they can access resources, conduct research, create online content, collaborate in an online environment and digitally communicate with others. Anything less is a failure to provide our students with the basic needs for learning today.

The 2014-2015 school year is the beginning of our transition to a blended learning environment. To support our efforts, Coventry Public Schools is implementing a 1:1 device initiative in grades 6-12 and an infusion of chromebook carts at the elementary level.

Our district theme for next year will be Blended Learning: A Year of Discovery. The information below further explains *WHY* Coventry Public Schools has made blended learning a priority.

Support for Student Learning

- Provide students with essential tools - technology - for 21st century learning.
- Provide students the opportunity to attain technology skills necessary to compete in a digitally connected global society.
- Provide students the opportunity to collaborate, communicate and create content with the tools of their generation, thus emulating the workplace environment of the 21st century.

Alignment to Standards

- Sixty-three (63) Common Core State Standards specifically address the use of technology in teaching and learning.
- International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) standards for students, teachers, and administrators.

Connection to Federal, State and District Plans

- Connects to the National Technology Plan.
- Connects to the Rhode Island Department of Education Technology Plan.
- Connects to the Coventry Public Schools' District Strategic Plan.
- Supports the State's online PARCC testing program.

Additional Opportunities

- Eligible to participate in Gates Grant due to our 1:1 program thus potentially garnering significant funding and resources for the middle school and high school.
- Potential to realize significant restructuring of school department budget due to possible cost reductions in textbooks, resources, and paper.

Support from the Community

- This technology initiative acknowledges and addresses the fact that Coventry Public Schools is significantly behind other districts with regard to technology integration practices in teaching and learning.
- Coventry Town Council increased the FY 2014 school department budget by \$300,000 specifically for technology. Taxpayers voted to support the initiative.
- Coventry Public Schools spends less than 0.5% of its budget on technology.

***Coventry Public Schools: Supporting our Students with Technology for Learning
It is our professional responsibility!***