

VANCOUVER
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NEWS RELEASE

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21st century learning environment initiative rollout begins in Vancouver schools

Vancouver Public Schools has launched a new one-to-one technology plan to create 21st century learning environments, giving students access to personal, dynamic digital-learning tools.

On April 24, sixth-graders at Alki Middle School received new mobile tablets that they will use at school and home. Staff there underwent rigorous training leading up to the implementation of one-to-one devices. Students agreed to abide by guidelines governing use and care. Parents also received a copy of the rules and had the option to buy into a district assurance plan to reduce liability in case the device is damaged, lost or stolen.

Over the next five years, technology tools, including mobile devices and laptops, will be issued to students in grades 3-12 at the rest of the schools in the district. The phased rollout enables in-depth teacher training and the development of program support.

With the new one-to-one technology plan, the district is fulfilling a key initiative of its Design II strategic plan. Parents, staff, and community members prioritized technology-supported teaching and learning during the public-engagement phase of the planning process.

The expansion of technology in the district's schools is possible due to voter approval of a six-year technology levy in February 2013. In addition to mobile computing solutions, professional development, and infrastructure support, the technology levy will pay for upgrades of computer labs and standard classroom equipment, a learning management system, and curated digital content. During the last year of technology levy funding, the district will review and refresh the devices and digital content.

"Vancouver Public Schools is grateful for the community's support of 21st century learning environments and is excited about the rollout of one-to-one devices for students," said Lisa Greseth, chief information officer. "However, the district's plan for the use of technology is not just about the devices. It's about equipping students with the adaptive skills they need to thrive in today's global and digital world. It's about ensuring that graduates are future-ready."

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