IETA Legislative Presentation

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The Idaho Education Technology Association

- IETA members promote, facilitate and sustain education technology and all its users while enhancing the education of Idaho's students for tomorrow's technology.
- IETA Members include technology directors, technology staff, teachers, and administrators from public, charters, virtual, and private schools.
- Members from the majority of Idaho's schools.
- Board includes six regional representatives, president, president-elect, past-president, SDE representative, and 2 special appointees.

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IETA Grants

- IETA Grants
  - $10,000 a year
  - For teachers and technicians.
    - Forrest Bird Charter - Student IT Help Desk;
    - Priest Lake - Lego Robotics;
    - Orofino - Science and Wind Measurement Technology Stations;
    - Snake River - Online Learning Lab;
    - South Fremont - Chromebooks for Science for Differentiation.

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IETA Conference

- IETA Conference
  - Focused on integration of educational technologies and infrastructure technologies.
  - Three days at the Boise Centre.
  - Tracks for teachers, administrators, and technicians.
  - 850 individuals over the next three days. Largest education conference in the state.
  - Local, state, and national speakers.
    - Apple, Microsoft, OETC, NCCE, . . .

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Complexity of School Networks

- School Networks use the same infrastructure and end-user technologies as large corporations.
- Schools use many programs that are unique to education.
- School Networks are often larger and more complex than corporate networks with multiple sites to maintain.
- Schools are operating with significantly fewer staff and significantly smaller budgets than most corporations.
- Many school districts do not have full-time technology staff. Some do not have any technology staff.

Complexity of School Networks (continued)

- Idaho's Largest Employers (Department of Labor, 2015)
  - St. Luke's – 12,000+
  - Wal-Mart – 7,000+
  - Micron – 6,000+
- Idaho's Largest School Districts – Students and Staff (SDE, 2016)
  - West Ada – Students 38,122, Staff 4,084, Total End Users – 42,206
  - Boise – 26,166, Staff 3,061, Total End Users – 29,227
  - Nampa – 14,351, Staff 1,311, Total End Users – 15,662

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Current Issues

- The Internet is a utility as vital to education as power and water and state broadband committee;
- Complexity of E-rate Funding;
- State wireless contract;
- Spending Flexibility – Infrastructure;
- Mastery based education;
- Lack of technical staff, time, and/or resources at the local level;
- Restore refresh cycles;
- Classification of Technology Directors as classified or certified administrators;

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How We Make A Difference

- Almost all jobs our student will hold in the future will require the use of technology.
- Teachers need to be able to integrate technology into their lessons to ensure Idaho students are prepared for their future jobs.
- Besides providing all the support to make the network and devices work, we also provide lesson guidance and a safety net for teachers.
- Teachers need to feel confident that they can try new technologies in the classroom and not worry about the technology failing.
- Teachers who are uncomfortable with technology will be more likely to attempt to integrate technology into their classroom when they know there is a supportive technology team to help them prepare their lessons and support their technology.
- Without a dedicated and supportive technology team Idaho students will be at risk of failing behind student from more technology savvy states and have difficulty competing for future jobs.
- Students all over the state spent their snow days attending school from home.

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What's Going on in Idaho

- Snake River
  - Cathy (not the students real name) is in 1st grade. She's very shy and rarely talks out loud to her teacher, school staff, or her peers. She loves school and does well in her written work, but because of anxiety regarding speaking, it is hard to assess some skills. Her teacher listened to some of her readings recorded in Imagine Learning and was astounded at the level of accuracy and fluency with which she read. She let the principal listen to the recordings and the principal said, "I've never heard her speak a word. I've tried to talk with her, but she doesn't reply because she's so shy." Because it is easy and authentic to record her voice in private, Cathy's teachers know that she is reading at or above grade level.
  - Prior to having the ability to record students reading naturally, Cathy may have been targeted for intervention for fluency readings. Now that teachers understand that she can read fluently at grade level, they have expressed their confidence in her ability and she feels less pressure to read out loud. Interestingly, Cathy is starting to communicate more with staff and peers. I can't imagine the pressure some students must feel to read quickly and out loud when they have such a hard time talking to people. I've been watching Cathy since this incident happened last year and she is much more confident and talkative. I fear that she would have been just the opposite had teachers pressured her to read out loud.

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What's Going on in Idaho

- West Ada
  - One-to-one in Academies.
  - Students worked with district technicians and Intel to replace mechanical drive with solid state drives, and upgrade RAM in more than 4,000 computers. Also, helped roll out all new teacher computers.
  - Personal time with a teacher is a key part of a new approach to teaching students at Meridian Academy and West Ada School District's other two academies, Central and Eagle. All of them are alternative schools, taking students who have slipped behind in their schoolwork or struggled to fit into the larger, traditional schools.
- Mountain Home
  - One-to-one K-6th grades;
  - Blended Learning pilot in all grade levels;
  - Robotics with Sphero and Lego Robotics.

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What's Going on in Idaho

- Bonnevile
  - One key to our success has been the flexibility afforded in how to spend these dollars. Five years ago, when the first classroom technology dollars came to districts, the legislation limited to districts to only being able to purchase devices. This limitation created a significant challenge for us. Because we did not have adequate bandwidth to support an influx of devices onto our network, we were forced to purchase offline devices for students instead of iPads or laptop computers. We could not spend state technology money on infrastructure.
  - When the legislature changed the statute to provide more flexibility in the spending, our plan changed dramatically. We were now able to use the state funding in conjunction with federal eRate dollars to build the wired and wireless infrastructure necessary to support every student bring a device.
  - Building these networks has been expensive and time-consuming, but it has allowed us to rapidly and successfully put over 3,000 Chromebooks into our students' hands in a year's time. This would have been an absolute failure if we had not been able to build the network first. The Chromebook and BYOD initiative have enabled teachers to truly approach instruction differently. At Rocky Mountain Middle School, teachershave created a blended-grade project-based learning team. This team has been selected as part of the Summit Basecamp group of schools to learn how to radically alter traditional instruction to implement project-based learning. Discovery Elementary has used the Chromebooks as an integral part of their work to become a premier writing school based. Due to severe overcrowding, we have been forced to convert the traditional PC computer labs in several of our schools to regular classrooms, but because we now have sufficient wireless bandwidth, we have been able to successfully replace them with mobile Chromebook labs instead.

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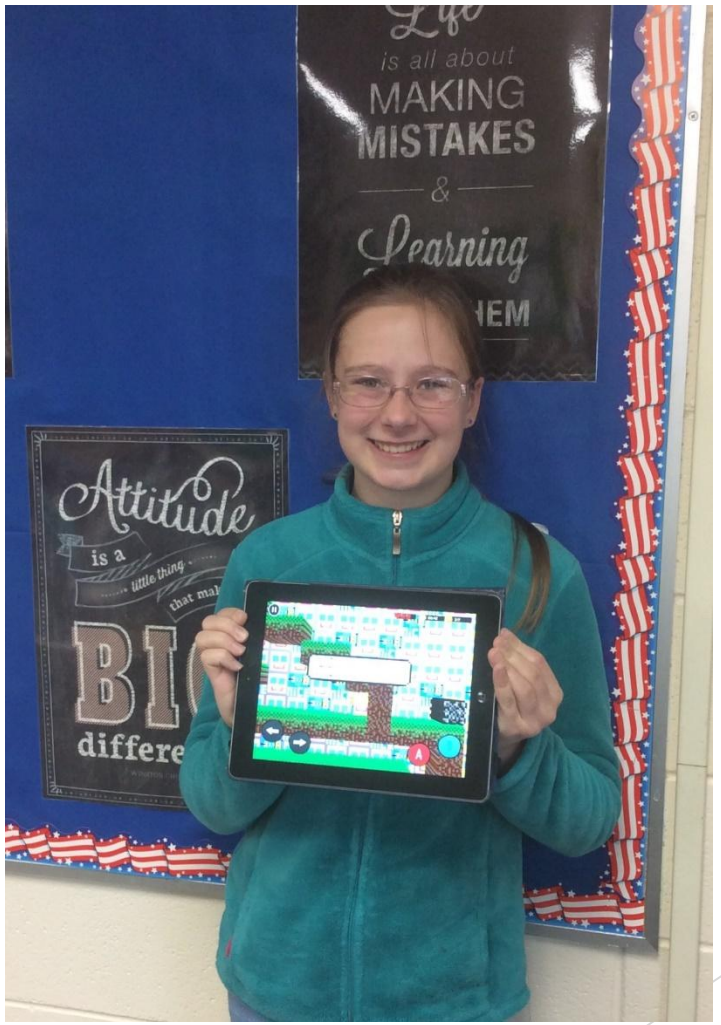
What's Going on in Idaho

- Lewiston
  - A Student has created a anti-bullying video game using Bloxels on her classroom iPad. Her game requires the player to collect compliments and give them away to others in order to defeat the bullies and win the game. She used the Bloxels app, her classroom iPad, and design thinking to create a great game.



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What's Going on in Idaho

- Kellogg
  - Mrs. Colburn's social studies classes "Mystery Skyping" with students from all over the world.
  - Mrs. Miller's HS English classes using Chromebooks to research various topics and create a project that reflects a concept they learned in class and apply it to their lives.
  - Mrs. Ferreira using an LCD TV, Chromecast, and Chromebook to conduct staff sessions to identify and target specific areas of student achievement school wide, to meet students' needs and celebrate successes.
  - Students utilizing ubiquitous WiFi and fast Internet to individualize their learning with a variety of tools such as Youtube, Kahn Academy, Discovery Education, and TedEd.
  - Mr. White using Google Earth and Projector to bring his social studies lessons to life in ways students of the past would not have thought imaginable.
  - Mrs. Krusemark using computer and projector to visually present a myriad of art concepts and examples to her students in an interactive way.
  - Teachers district wide using Google Forms to connect with students daily, to develop positive relationships, which are proven to increase achievement as much as any other teaching or learning pedagogy.
  - Mrs. Haralson using her document camera and projector to highlight student work, allow students to model learning, and also to demonstrate concepts for the entire class to see!
  - Principal Bayer using his digital displays to promote school pride and improve communication for his school.

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What's Going on in Idaho

- Across the state schools are restoring their refresh cycles for servers, switches, wireless APs, UPSs, computer, tablets, laptops, Chromebooks, projectors, and software;
- Working towards one-to-one in all grade levels;
- Improving internet and wireless connectivity;
- Implementing mastery based education;
- Students are coding, and learning using technology.

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