



# KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Information Services

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### MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Members, Board of Education

**FROM:** Jim White, Director, Information Systems

**DATE:** March 11, 2010

**SUBJECT:** Change in Funding of District Technology Plan (Computer Replacement Cycle)

**Background:** In 1999, the borough assembly set up a joint borough/school district Technology Working Group to respond to the district's many requests for technology funding. This group developed the "Technology Plan" that used a combination of \$1.6 million in borough one-time funds, one year old Connections computers, and dedicated reimbursement funds from the Federal Communications Commission E-Rate program. Our agreement with the borough was if they fronted the \$1.6 million to get us started, we could sustain the plan indefinitely. Fast forward ten years and the district is still true to our word. The Technology Plan may be one of the most successful and long running programs the district has ever embarked on.

**Reason for this Work session Item:** The Technology Plan replacement cycle is fundamentally sound, but the underlying funding mechanism must change. Changes in computer technology are altering the type of computers Connections wants to provide to students and also what the district wants for computers for our neighborhood schools. As Connections moves toward laptops, they are no longer a reliable source of computers for the Technology Plan. The original plan required us to set aside \$217,000 per year to supplement the Connections computer contribution. That didn't happen every year but \$1.3 has been set aside over the years in the equipment fund for the purpose of tech plan computer replacement. This work session is to inform the school board of our intention to use the equipment fund as the sole funding mechanism for the Technology Plan. New GASB accounting rules require a designated fund must have a consistent outside funding source. It is our intent to designate our annual E-rate revenue to the equipment fund to meet this requirement.