



VSEM Plan

August 15, 2011

Mission : *Collaborating to most efficiently and effectively educate all learners.*

Vision – *Be the trusted provider of education promoting economic opportunity and life long learning for the Itasca Area.*

Overarching Strategy: *Achieve education transformation and improve sustainable educational outcomes through strengthened partnerships and cooperation, state-of-the-art architectures, integration of functions and enhanced stakeholder understanding.*

Strategy One – Enhanced teaching and learning through continuous improvement.

Strategy 1, Execution A: Develop a common assessment process for first grade students across IASC.

Outcomes:

1. IASC teachers will be able to compare student data across the region in at least one grade level by the end of school year 2012/2013. The assessment instrument will include benchmarks for performance and allow comparison of data from year to year.

Metrics:

- i. SAC will receive updates on the development of a trial assessment instrument in October 2011, December 2011 and April 2011.
- ii. The assessment will be fully implemented by the 2012-2013 school year.

Superintendent Responsible: Joe Silko

- Assigned to: Rochelle Vandenheuvel, Amy Galatz, Sue Akre, Sue Hoeft

Strategy 1, Execution B: Build-Partner-Acquire technologies and processes for curriculum and instruction.

Outcomes:

1. Create a 21st Century Learning Team comprised of superintendents, principals, teachers and information technology technicians. The following metrics will be included as part of the team's charge:

Metrics:

- i. By April 1, 2012, the 21st Century Learning Team will develop recommendations for the SAC on creating an ongoing, annual or semi-annual technology institute for regional teachers
- ii. By October 15, 2011, the 21st Century Learning Team will propose benchmarks that will be used to track progress in online/interactive learning, including student participation, student achievement, student and teacher satisfaction in the interactive/distance learning experience.
- iii. By XXXXX, the 21st Century Learning Team will develop a comprehensive approach to interactive/distance learning, including but not limited to: common definitions, benchmarks,

use of existing data as benchmarks, assessments that include control groups, staff development and qualitative surveys.

2. By December 15, 2011, the 21st Century Learning Team will provide recommendations on the infrastructure needed to develop a Best Practices Repository to share lessons among colleagues, provide student access to classroom lessons and allow for peer review of lesson delivery.

Superintendent Responsible: Matt Grose

- Assigned to: Rochelle Vandenheuvel, Lora Mathison, Sue Akre

Strategy 1, Execution C: Build-Partner-Acquire technologies and processes for staff development.

1. Transform the existing Multi-District Day Committee to a Staff Development Committee that will identify the training offered in each district, the training desired by each district.

Metrics:

- i. By the November SAC meeting, the Staff Development Committee will identify training being offered in each district and the training desired by each district.
 - ii. By the November SAC meeting, the Staff Development Committee will work with the Community Education staff to use R Schools to allow staff to sign up for training opportunities and for making open slots available to the broader community. Part of this effort should include allowing staff the option of signing up for an automatic, electronic feed as classes are posted for which they might be interested.
 - iii. By **XXXX**, the Staff Development Committee will make recommendations on how to develop a “training transcript” for staff in each district that documents the training staff has received and, therefore, the resources available to the districts.
2. IASC will support and participate in the development of a Teacher Academy.

Metrics:

- i. IASC will maintain ongoing engagement with the Community Conversation Group formed around this issue.
3. Interactive distance learning instructors will receive staff development training prior to implementing and future training will be the responsibility of the 21st Century Learning Team.

Superintendent Responsible: Joe Silko

- Assigned to: Multi-District Day Committee to be renamed IASC Staff Development Committee.

Strategy Two – Build and strengthen partnerships within and beyond IASC.

Strategy 2, Execution A: Build strong partnerships within IASC, among School Boards, higher education and individual districts.

Outcomes:

1. IASC School Boards will receive informational updates on IASC monthly.

Metrics:

- At the end of each SAC meeting, Lora Mathison will help superintendents summarize four-five bullet points to be shared with school board members from all districts so a common message is coming from IASC.
 - These bullet points will be shared with superintendents and their assistants electronically.
 - As VSE is implemented, reports will be provided to school boards on progress.
2. A region-wide School Board event will be planned and held to build a common understanding of IASC and each district's benefits from participation by November 2011.

Metrics:

- i. At the September IASC Board meeting, school board members will be asked to help create an agenda for the Regionwide School Board meeting
 - ii. An explanation of the VSE process will be used as a way of informing school board members.
 - iii. SAC will consider video clips from teachers and students about the importance of elements within the VSE planning document, such as Telepresence, etc.
3. IASC Principals will meet with IASC Superintendents a minimum of two times during the 2011/12 school year.

Metrics:

- i. Meetings will be held with principals in September and February.
4. Local district programs, marketing and influence will be aligned with the IASC Mission, Vision, and Strategy.

Metrics:

- i. As individual districts develop their own VSEs, they will have available copies of the IASC VSE to ensure, as much as possible and appropriate, alignment.

Superintendent Responsible: SAC

Strategy 2, Execution B: Build strong partnerships beyond IASC.

Outcomes:

1. Develop a plan for cultivating external partners that includes defining the goals of the partnership for IASC and potential partner and a set of four-five questions to ask before approaching a potential partner by June 2012.

Metrics:

- ii. During August SAC meeting, create a schedule for developing a plan for cultivating external partnerships, including but not limited to:
 - Potential partners, including nonprofits, vendors, businesses, etc.;
 - A method of evaluating the appropriateness of such partnerships that identifies the mutual benefits to IASC and the partner;
 - The definition of a partner;
 - The participation level of each partner;
 - The cost/benefit to IASC and the potential partner.
 - Possible competition.
 - Educational philosophy.

Superintendent Responsible: Matt Grose

- Assigned to: SAC

Strategy Three – Improve services and systems for all learners & stakeholders.

Strategy 3, Execution A: Deliver connectivity & learning opportunities 24/7 to enable effective outreach to all learners and families.

Outcomes:

1. IASC will become more involved with community initiatives to expand the geographical presence of broadband.

Metrics:

Matt Grose and Lora Mathison will attend and participate in community-based meetings discussing expansion of broadband and will report to the SAC on an ongoing basis.

2. By the end of 2012, recommend how to optimize the time students spend on the bus to provide extended learning options by the end of 2012.

Metrics:

The 21st Century Learners Team will recommend options to the SAC by the end of 2012.

3. Telepresence will be available to support K-12 learning, Community Education, Professional Learning Communities, business meetings, and other district and community opportunities.

Metrics: **WHO WILL IMPLEMENT THE TWO METRICS BELOW?**

At least one class will be developed and advertised in Community Education brochures and online for the 2011-2012 school year.

Working with CISCO to determine who has and uses Telepresence, several community education offerings will be available for the 2013-2014 school year.

4. A system for capturing and posting classroom lessons will be acquired and implemented.

Metrics:

This will be accomplished via the Best Practices Repository discussed under Strategy 1, Execution B.

5. IASC will examine and ensure network redundancy within IASC districts.

Metrics:

By January 2012, log in will be seamless across districts.

By July 2012, (WHO?) will make recommendations to the SAC on the options to create redundancy, the cost associated with each option and the physical changes required.

Superintendent Responsible: Mark Adams

- Assigned to:

Strategy 3, Execution B: Continue to analyze and investigate best practices for services.

Outcomes:

1. IASC Business Managers will recommend a next set of best business practices across IASC districts by June 2012.

Metrics:

Business managers will make a recommendation on additional savings, both within individual districts and IASC-wide, including possibilities that exist outside of the business managers' role. Total cost savings should be included—dollars, time and resources.

2. IASC will evaluate whether information gathered by the results of implementing the substitute teacher automated calling system into HR/Payroll in one district can be implemented throughout IASC districts.

Metrics:

At the December SAC meeting, Grand Rapids will make a report on its experience with the automated calling system, at which time the SAC will identify a date by which it will determine whether it makes sense to broaden this effort.

3. IASC districts will choose, implement and support a common e-mail package by September 2011.

Metric:

This has been accomplished. Gmail is being used where appropriate.

4. IASC districts will choose, implement and support a common web page platform by September 2011.

Metrics:

This has been accomplished. R-Schools is the choice.

Superintendent Responsible: Phil Johnson

- Assigned to:

Strategy 3, Execution C: Build-Partner-Acquire technologies & processes for Safety & Connectedness.

Outcomes:

1. IASC campus buildings have Wi-Fi and are “seamless” so they don’t require IASC staff to re-authenticate or use a different address.

Metrics:

This is addressed in Strategy 3, Execution A.

2. New installations of physical security systems in IASC districts will be done in communication with local police departments and county sheriff, as developed and implemented.

Metrics:

This will be addressed as districts contemplate new systems.

3. IASC principals will develop and share a common crisis communication plan in collaboration with emergency services agencies.

Metrics:

During the September meeting with principals, the SAC will discuss the need for a common approach across districts in dealing with emergency services/crises, including crisis communication, crime, fire, environmental threats, weather threats, etc. The principals will be asked to review existing crisis manuals, signage, resources available, etc.

By December 2011, principals will develop a plan for developing commonality where appropriate and a plan for involving emergency personnel in the planning, as appropriate.

Superintendent Responsible: Mark Adams

- Assigned to: Lora Mathison, Dean Yokum

Strategy Four – Effectively communicate the mission & objectives.

Strategy 4, Execution A: Communicate IASC's work and successes.

Outcomes:

1. Highlight the outcomes of the VSEM plan to all stakeholders through a comprehensive outreach plan.

Metrics:

In December/January, the SAC will discuss how to move forward with this effort, including possibly hiring a contractor to develop a plan.

Superintendent Responsible: Matt Grose

- Assigned to: Lora Mathison