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Reducing the Cost of Your School's Technology

As a School Administrator your education budget is under intense pressure. The demand to support your current curriculum while reducing your budget is getting more and more difficult.

A major factor for pressure on your school's or district's education budget is rising technology costs. Technology spending for the average school district is growing at roughly 15% per year – an enormous figure that many school administrators find increasingly daunting.

The critical problem is: how do you successfully reduce your technology expenditures while maintaining a system that is crucial to running your school and enhancing your students' education?

To begin to solve this problem for your school district, we suggest taking these four important, cost-reducing steps:

1. Establish a rolling budget looking out at least 18 months in advance.

Establishing an 18-month window when developing your school's 12-month budget allows a school to enter into agreements with longer term commitments that realize significant savings. For instance, you may have the opportunity to commit to three years of anti-virus software protection from a vendor and save 10-20%. When this approach is applied to hardware purchases, software support contracts, or consulting fees, the savings quickly add up.

2. Opt for a Thin Client environment over traditional PC's.

The benefits of Thin Clients over traditional PC's are enormous. The cost of a thin client is one-third the price of a traditional PC, has a lifespan of 10 years, utilizes 70% less energy, has no moving parts, does not require workstation support and provides a single, central point of management from a file server. Furthermore, this type of environment greatly reduces the number of support personnel that a traditional PC architecture requires. All the benefits of Thin Clients help to drastically cut your technology costs.

For more detailed information on Thin Clients visit www.crawleyinc.com/thinclients.

3. Avoid extended warranties.

The high price of extended warranties, especially on workstations, network switches, routers

and firewalls, can cost your school up to 15% of the cost of the device itself annually, and are often never used. By avoiding these extended warranties, your school can save a substantial amount quickly and easily.

4. Avoid hourly support and consulting agreements.

If your school or district utilizes outside vendors that bill on an hourly basis for network or software support, you should negotiate for fixed-rate contracts. It is next to impossible to establish a fixed-cost technology plan when dealing with monthly support bills that can vary tremendously month-to-month. But with a fixed-rate contract you will be able to accurately estimate your monthly support bill and you will also cut out the possibility of any surprise fees.

By following these four steps, you can help your school or district begin to reduce the high cost of technology in a world of shrinking education budgets. Watch for our upcoming monthly newsletters that will outline more ways to reduce your technology costs.

All the best,



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