



Student Tech Support

Success Factors – School Elements

These characteristics have been identified as factors for success by current practitioners. As you read through this list, think about your school or district and whether or not a student technology leadership program will work in your environment.

School culture Will adults in the school accept student assistance? Building support with all stakeholders—teachers, principals, and technical support staff—should be part of the plan. Without their approval and support, students will be fighting to help them.

Commitment Students will match the level of commitment that the school shows. If you plan to launch a student program commit time and resources to doing it right: name the group and publicize it; give students t-shirts, jackets, or name badges; provide a classroom or location for the group to meet and store equipment.

Schedule Elementary, middle, and high schools each have their own scheduling challenges. What will students have to give up to be part of the program? Will target students have transportation options if the program is outside of school hours? How will students provide support throughout the day without missing classes?

Sustainability What happens when this year's students graduate or the faculty advisor leaves? A progressive curriculum gives students options to continue the program and mentor beginning students. By involving a team of faculty and staff during development or joining an external organization, the program exists beyond the classroom of one dedicated teacher.

Funding the program Will funding come from the existing budget? How will the district make a commitment to continuing adequate funding to support the program? Is there a plan for fundraising or grant writing? How will these funding sources be sustained?

Equipment Students will need access to appropriate resources: tools, software, spare parts, Internet access, email, etc. Ask students for their input throughout the year. They can research new solutions and tools as part of their study.

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