

The English Department of Ross S. Sterling High School would like to provide a consistent opportunity for students to type their essays and other assignments by providing a class set of Logitech Wired Keyboards for each ELA class to be used in conjunction with the 1:1 iPads, because teacher observation has shown a low incidence of digital note taking and diminished quality of mechanics as students move from a handwritten drafts to typed drafts due to discomfort with the iPad touch keyboard, students' lack of familiarity with a standard keyboard and limited opportunities to visit the only open computer lab on campus to refine those skills.

Keyboarding is no longer required course for high school students and many lack the typing skills to transfer their writing to a typed final draft. Currently, all 25 ELA classrooms share one computer lab and can schedule a single library computer space. There are few opportunities for students to complete work with a physical keyboard and many complain that the touch component of the iPad keyboard is not feasible for long projects and leads to many mechanical errors in typing. Providing keyboards so that students can type assignments in an authentic way will lead to familiarity with the skill of keyboarding and hopefully assignments presented with greater mechanical correctness.

The proposed project would provide 30 Logitech Wired Keyboards with Lightning connectors for 25 ELA classrooms. The requested version Logitech Wired Keyboard is a school specific product and constructed to be durable with that usage in mind. The project would last as long as the keyboard technology is relevant to the applicable devices in our 1:1 iPad initiative. As we are in the early phases of 1:1 student iPads, the keyboards would be in use for a minimum of 3-5 years.

As schools prepare to send students to post secondary education and the workforce, communication in writing an integral skill. Students must be able to compose assignments, emails and other communication without the mechanical issues currently seen in assignments. Increased opportunities to respond digitally builds skill and confidence that will transfer into student's real life application of the communication skills we teach.

Steve Koester, district technology director, is the project director and will implement the project. He will be responsible for distributing the keyboards and managing any issues with the hardware.