Smart Schools: Smart Students - Phase 1

Setting the scene

Phase 1 will address the pressure placed on the current bandwidth connecting schools to the internet and to each other. The majority of colleges and secondary schools will be connected using fibre-optic cable and primary schools will be upgraded using fibre, fixed cabling or wireless.

This will put ACT public schools at the leading edge of bandwidth provision both nationally and internationally. Reliable and ultra high-speed connections will provide fast internet access and support contemporary media resources.

Infrastructure will also be improved by the replacement of school servers, proxy servers and a core infrastructure upgrade.

Wireless networking will be introduced to public schools to significantly enhance the flexibility of ICT provision.

Other projects involve administrative and management efficiencies in schools, including enhancements to the student attendance system allowing electronic roll marking by teachers.

SMS messaging will be introduced as one option to parents and carers to advise of non-attendance and possible truancy by students.

SDP

The Student Digital Passkey project will enable students to create and maintain an electronic portfolio throughout their education.

Smart Schools: Smart Students - Phase 2

Transforming the classroom

Phase 2 projects include Video on demand. Video conferencing, Video projectors, Podcasting and Datacasting will improve access to information and allow the classroom to move beyond the school.

A Parent Portal will provide a window for parents to access their child's class work. Secure and private online access for senior students will allow students to access their Year 12 grades and UAI scores.

Improvements to the management of student IT networks will significantly reduce the support and administrative load in schools.

Smart Schools: Smart Students - Phase 3

Multimedia and consolidation

The final phase will provide an on-line Library system shared by all schools providing access anywhere, anytime to school library catalogues.

A Multimedia and Innovation Centre will be the showpiece for ACT public schools, providing a facility where they can evaluate and utilise the latest in technology.

An evaluation of the potential impact of new and developing technologies on our schools will also be commissioned.

07/0227

Smart Schools:
Smart Students

Improving the access of ACT public school students and their parents to information and communication technology

ACT GOVERNMENT

ACT Public Schools

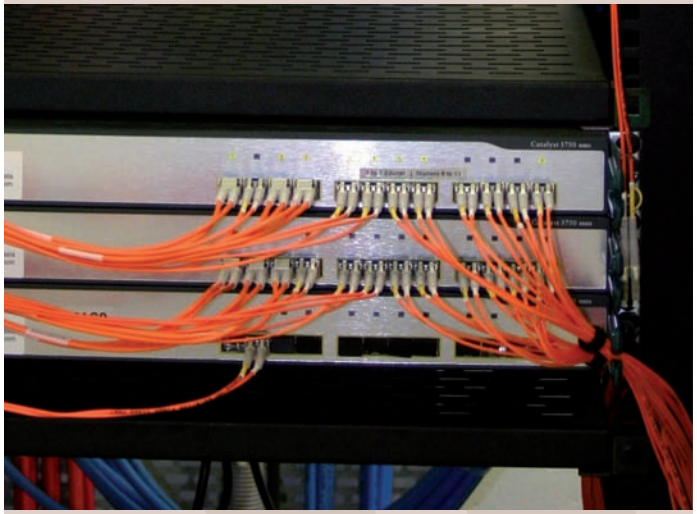
So much more to offer

Message from the Minister

The information age and globalisation means that our students, more than ever before, will need to compete in an increasingly global workforce, and be able to handle the rapid pace of change that will be the defining feature of the 21st century. We must strive, therefore, to create an education system that effectively equips our students.

Renewal of our school IT infrastructure will ensure that students can enjoy all the opportunities that state-of-the-art access to the internet and cutting edge technology can provide. This is why we are committed to providing the latest technology in schools to create closer links between parents, children and teachers in the ACT, and throughout the world.

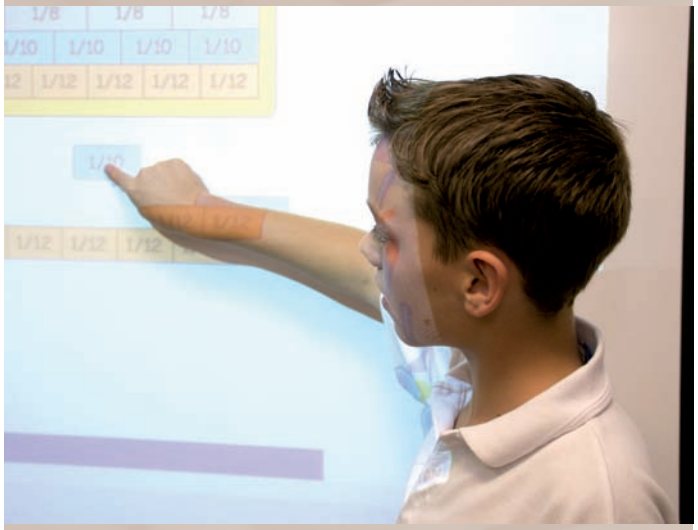
Andrew Barr MLA
Minister for Education and Training



ACT public schools lead Australia in the provision of ICT services.

For many years the ACT has led Australia in providing quality information and communication technology (ICT) services for education and training.

The $20 million Smart Schools: Smart Students initiative will provide public school students with an exciting and extended range of learning experiences.



Technology trends in schools of the future

Students are increasingly technologically literate and expect more immediate access to the digital world.

In the future, a student is likely to join a class that will operate as a digital classroom. Students in a digital class may be physically in another school in the ACT, across Australia or the world.

Inexpensive internet access and small wireless computing devices will allow students more options for learning and accessing information. In the digital classroom students will likely have their own small personal computer to allow access to information or complete coursework at school and at home.

Video conferencing and multimedia learning resources will enable distance learning for students and schools. Students will extend their learning opportunities by accessing information and resources online with experts at university, museums and galleries, as well as business mentors.

Schools will be equipped with large interactive computing displays and interactive whiteboards. Students will store information and their assignment work as a digital portfolio, enabling teachers to monitor students' work as they progress through their schooling.

Smart Schools: Smart Students

The ACT Government is investing $20 million in information communication technology in schools to help students, teachers and parents realise the opportunities being provided by the latest technology. ACT public schools will continue to lead Australia in the use of information and communication for teaching and learning.

The renewal of public school infrastructure will enable students to capitalise on state-of-the-art internet access and the very latest technology. Students will have a fully portable multimedia portfolio of their work accessed by a personal student 'passkey'.

Students will be able to access information via podcasts and vodcasts and parents can be advised of their child's attendance at school via their mobile telephone SMS service.

The initiative continues the ACT Government's enhancement of ICT infrastructure in ACT public schools, including the Schools IT Infrastructure Fund and the Interactive Whiteboards and Schools IT Support initiatives.

Electronic whiteboards, broadband access, laptop computers and wireless networks have already significantly altered the way students learn and teachers teach. Today, ICT skills are a prerequisite for entry into the workforce.

21st Century Learning Environments
OECD 2006