

Technology Immersion Pilot (TIP) Continuation
TIP C FAQ
Continuation Grants for School Years 2006-2007 and 2007-2008

Thank you for your many questions to the TIP mailbox. Most questions can be answered by reading the original TIP RFA located at <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/opge/disc/tip/index.html>. TIP R2 with vendor package information is located at <http://www.tea.state.tx.us/opge/disc/tip2/index.html>. Each has its own set of FAQs that can help you understand the history of TIP. Please continue to watch this page for more clarifying information as it becomes available. These FAQs were last updated on **April 6, 2006**. Send your questions to TIP at: tip@tea.state.tx.us

Frequently Asked Questions – FAQ

IMMERSED SCHOOL QUESTIONS

- 1. *May TIP Immersed Campuses that are continuing add additional content to their packages?***
TIP immersed campuses should extend subscriptions to current TIP package content. According to the evaluation study, teachers need assistance in fully utilizing the content in the TIP package.
- 2. *For immersed campus continuations, do we have to purchase professional development from the original vendor we used or can we build our own PD since we have been trained?***
Immersed campuses need to continue the professional development that was begun and enhance it. Evaluation results show there is much more work to be done in this area. Immersed campuses need continued professional development and pedagogical support. They may continue with their TIP package STAFF DEVELOPMENT partner, provide pedagogical support in-house and from their ESC.
- 3. *As a currently immersed district, if we have a district purchase agreement that can provide the laptops at a lower price, can we use that price instead of the package price and purchase the software licenses separately? For some districts, it may a cheaper option.***
As long as the district purchases the same laptop that is included in the approved TIP package and the overall price for the laptop and software package does not exceed the TIP package price. If the district prefers to pay more than the TIP package price by breaking up the package, the increased costs are not covered by the grant.
- 4. *What is our warranty in years 3 and 4 on our existing laptops?***
This information will be provided by your TIP Package provider.

CONTROL SCHOOL QUESTIONS

- 5. *Will control schools be able to immediately immerse both students and teachers in the TIP Continuation?***
Not immediately. Control schools must remain control schools through the extended study so immersion cannot take place in year three but can begin in year four. Based on lessons learned with the first TIP grants, the first year should be for “**planning for immersion**”. Year three will allow control schools to conduct this critical planning by determining needs for putting in place a robust infrastructure and secure network for the campus that will meet the bandwidth needs of students and staff. At the same time, include teachers into the planning process to prepare for immersion (securing their commitment to the plan), planning for additional equipment for classroom use along with the laptops. Then time needs to be allowed for ordering the equipment and bags (We’ve even learned you have to be choosy about the bags your students use!!!), imaging and tagging of laptops, training on basic productivity tools that come with the equipment, planning for insurance and security, ensuring that teachers have the technical as well as pedagogical support (people) for immersion as well as developing guidance for use of the equipment by students and parents, etc. Plan to send teachers to conferences that are dealing with One to One implementations. Actual laptop distribution and additional professional development on the actual packages may begin with teachers in the spring/summer of 2007 (Y3). Laptop distribution may begin with students in the Fall of 2007 (Y4).
- 6. *Can Immersion begin for controls at just one subject or grade level? We have concerns that our school will not have enough funding to fully immerse their campus all at one time.***

Technology Immersion Pilot (TIP) Continuation

TIP C FAQ

Continuation Grants for School Years 2006-2007 and 2007-2008

Control schools must, at a minimum, immerse by at least 1 grade level per year, starting in the 2007-2008 school year. Immersion is not to be implemented by subject level.

7. *Would a package for immersion include licenses, security, repair and cart?*

Licenses for the software in the TIP packages are included in the package as are the basic warranties. Security, insurance and carts are not built into the existing packages. Security and insurance needs to be considered as you budget for your packages. Charge carts are ok, but not laptop carts instead of student packages.

8. *Can Control schools buy immersion packages in Year 3 for both students and teachers?*

Control schools can buy Immersion packages and begin training on the packages **for teachers only** in Year 3. Student packages will be purchased and utilized in Year 4 (2007-2008 School Year).

9. *Can control schools purchase laptops on carts for classroom use?*

If you had planned to do so on a limited scale -- non-immersion -- out of local funds for school year 2006-07, then proceed with what your ePlan outlines. However, no attempt at student immersion can be made during the 2006-07 school year.

10. *My control school teachers already have laptops provided by the district and a newly updated infrastructure. Can we begin training our teachers on the immersion packages in August 2006 so they can start aligning the package resources to the curriculum? May they begin using the package resources for instruction during fall 2006?*

Is the district infrastructure truly fully prepared for the robust access that will be required when all students are using it? Yes, training for teachers can begin on the packages and alignment to the curriculum. Using the package resources for instruction in the fall 2006 may create confounding factors for the study so the recommendation is for teachers not to use the package products for classroom instruction until fall of 2007 (Y4).

11. *Can our control school spend grant funds on a curriculum consultant to guide teachers on aligning the package resources to our curriculum? Will any of the vendor partners offer this as part of a pd package? Would this be budgeted as a pd item?*

TIP package partners will customize professional development to meet campus needs. Alignment of the resources to the curriculum may be budgeted as professional development.

IMMERSED AND CONTROL SCHOOL QUESTIONS

12. *May TIP Campuses purchase additional support resources in terms of personnel?*

Yes, if the support is for the improvement of the TIP plan such as (increased or improved pedagogical support for teachers).

13. *Is the Texas Mathematics Diagnostic System still being required?*

Yes. The TMDS is required and meets the online assessment requirement. The Texas Science Diagnostic System will be available at no cost to schools during fall 2006, but will be optional for TIP Campuses.

14. *Will teachers need to continue filling out the Teacher STaR Chart?*

Yes. This will be required annually.

15. *Will schools be required to use all elements of the TIP package?*

The TMDS is required and meets the online assessment requirement. The other assessment components are optional. The other five elements of the TIP package are required (mobile wireless computing device, professional development, technical support, productivity software, digital content)

16. *What filtering systems are the TIP groups using now?*

Technology Immersion Pilot (TIP) Continuation
TIP C FAQ
Continuation Grants for School Years 2006-2007 and 2007-2008

You can send an email to TIP-Immersed@list.tetn.net and poll the other TIP Immersed campuses.

17. Can handhelds be used instead of laptops?

No. TIP Middle Schools must purchase from existing laptop TIP packages provided by Dell, Apple or ESC Region 1.

18. Will TEA be arranging special pricing for these services or do we negotiate with the companies individually?

TIP package partners have special pricing for TIP schools. TEA is working with TIP package partners for an updated TIP package that is similar to what the Immersed schools are using. This information will be provided by your TIP Liaison.

19. If a district wishes to switch computer brands, can they do that?

A currently Immersed TIP campus cannot change brands as that would add a confounding factor to the study currently in place. Control schools must select one of the TIP immersion packages.

20. If a school using one vendor training package requests to use another vendor training package, will this be allowed?

Immersed schools can add to their training packages but cannot replace what they originally selected.

21. Can a project director work part time on the project?

Although the project director may be funded as a part-time position, it is expected that they would be available at all times to support the TIP implementation.

22. What happens if our network shuts down and students cannot access their work?

You must plan for the use of equipment during network downtimes. Have electronic materials accessible on the laptops that students can use whether or not they are connected to the network (i.e., load electronic resources adopted by the state or purchased by the district). Use of package resources when internet and network access is not available should be covered under professional development.

23. Does anyone have any written documentation about ISP liability? During a discussion, a question arose regarding this scenario... If a student goes to an inappropriate or pornographic site...could the ISP be held liable?

Reference FCC's website on the subject at: <http://www.fcc.gov/telecom.html#text>. See under SECTION. 230. PROTECTION FOR PRIVATE BLOCKING AND SCREENING OF OFFENSIVE MATERIAL. Subsection (c) says the ISP cannot be held liable...

The National Center for Ed Statistics has some a basic policy and procedure samples. See <http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2003/secureweb/appendices.asp>

24. Must the 25% professional development costs be held only to the participating campus or can the dollars be used for district wide professional development?

TIP grant funds must benefit those teachers, staff and students directly involved in the TIP Project. Contact your TIP Liaison for the best ways to use your PD funds or send an email to tip@tea.state.tx.us.

25. Can we purchase projectors or white boards with the continuation funds?

Yes.

26. Will we have new options from the hardware vendor? The model we use now has been discontinued.

This information will be provided by your TIP Package provider.

27. Can we bring more than 4 people to the Leadership Conference?

For the Leadership Conference June 5-7, 2006 you can bring up to 8 people.

Technology Immersion Pilot (TIP) Continuation

TIP C FAQ

Continuation Grants for School Years 2006-2007 and 2007-2008

28. *If they have leftover money this year, can they carry over?*

No. Current grant funds must be spent and schools must receive goods by end of July 2006.

29. *With current year funding, can we purchase 2 year subscriptions since the grant is being extended?*

Yes. Grant funds cannot be used for subscriptions that extend past June 30, 2008.

30. *Is an ePlan approval certification for 2006 through 2008 going to be required for the continuation application? We usually don't get these until June which is after the continuation form deadline. Can I send the ePlan submission form?*

You may send the most current ePlan approval certification. The updated one will be required upon submission of the first progress report due in January 2007.