

Posting for District Home Page Recent News Section.

Recently, Stafford Public Schools received official notification from the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) of a grant award totaling \$34,760 for technology to strengthen the wireless environment throughout the district. The award is a fraction of almost \$11 million made available to districts throughout Connecticut.

Ms. Lynn Reedy, Technology Integration Specialist, Mr. Dean Fortin, IT and Network Coordinator, and Mr. Michael Bednarz, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, collaborated to submit a proposal entitled, *Building Technology into the Common Core Classroom*. This proposal was originally submitted in February, 2015, and again in July, 2015 to reflect new grant requirements and limitations. Further delay was caused by cancellations of the State Bonding Commission meetings.

Stafford plans on using the funds to purchase and install Cisco switches and stacks to replace switches that are at or near "end of life". The Cisco switches will increase bandwidth to better utilize the district's 10gb backbone. Currently, we cannot "stack" switches. The new switches have the capacity to "stack" and allow virtually direct access to the backbone. This design improves speed to web-based content and minimizes buffering issues. This equipment will improve the desired wireless coverage and promote high speed connectivity to classrooms. In addition, these high-capacity switches are a necessary component for the upgrade of the district's phone system (currently over 10 years old).