

Memo

To: Members of the Computown School Board
From: Tony Presley
CC: Public School Administrators
Date: 24-Feb-2009
Re: **Recommendations for Bridging the Digital Divide**

A Recommendation for Bridging the Digital Divide Within the Computown Public School System

Defining and exploring the effects of the "Digital Divide"

In one sense, the "digital divide" (later here-in referred to as "the divide") can be summarized as the gap existing between those that have access to technology based resources such as computers and internet service. Furthermore, our summary of the divide may include the ability to *utilize* such technology based resources and the efforts made (or not made) to increase this ability. The National Center for Educational Statistics reports that 98 percent of schools and 77 percent of instructional rooms have computers and internet access. However, many classrooms and important educational products are *not* connected, making these educators deprived of excellent internet-based resources (International Society for Technology in Education, 2006). As you can see from **Table 1** on the following page, the divide is quite real and perhaps larger than you may have expected. In "bridging" this divide, we must first recognize the need and then labor to find means of overcoming the division between those who are "in the know" in regards to technology and its applications and those who are not. With this perspective and approach we can overcome the horrible effects of the divide, namely in our case students being left behind and in general societal disadvantages as we proceed into the technological age.

"Bridging" the Divide

Following are three recommendations I would like to respectively propose to the school board members in an effort to overcome the divide within our very own school district. First I would recommend a focus on building an adequate infrastructure of hardware and networking (or internet connecting) systems as kind of a foundation in which to build our improvements