

Part I: Applicant Cover Sheet

District or School Name	Kuumba Academy
Mailing Address	519 N Market St Wilmington, DE 19801
Primary Contact	Sally Maldonado
Phone Number	302-472-6450
Email	smaldonado@kuumba.k12.de.us
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District Superintendent or Head of School (print)	Sally Maldonado

Kuumba Academy Charter School Technology Plan 2013 - 2015

Part II: Overview of the plan

Kuumba Academy Public Charter School is one of Delaware’s premier schools of choice for parents seeking an academic environment that values parents as key partners in the education of their children. Teaching strategies honor the individual learning style of each student, and utilize the arts as a tool for learning. Taken from a Kiswahili word meaning creativity, Kuumba’s core educational belief is that parents are the primary educators of children. Together parents, teachers and children create a circle of learning designed to result in high achievement.

The purpose of Kuumba Academy Charter School (KACS) is to provide students in Wilmington with a world class education that utilizes an innovative combination of academics, arts, technology and family engagement. The KACS model focuses on the whole child and expertly combines effective uses of student centered instruction, character education, professional learning communities, parental engagement, and arts integration to meet each individual students instructional needs.

Recognizing the critical role that technology plays in 21st Century learning, KACS has designed a comprehensive technology plan that will ensure all KACS graduates have the necessary experiences and 21st century skills to become effective problem solvers and serve as positive agents of change within their communities.

Administrators, teachers and IT created the technology plan outlined in this document experts from the KACS faculty and staff. The plan includes priorities outlined by students, staff and parents and includes a 3-year plan to support KACS through the first phase of our expanded elementary and middle school program. The plan will outline the equipment, professional development and maintenance needs in order to ensure KACS students have access to quality technology education and resources.

Kuumba Academy’s Technology Plan 2013-2015

The technology planned for the KACS expansion includes an interactive smartboard per classroom, one laptop per every two students in grades 3-8; one digital camera per every 4 students in grades 3-8 and access to one tablet per students via shared mobile carts and printer accessibility in every classroom.

Professional development for the staff will be based on individual needs and aptitudes. These staff development needs will be addressed on both planned in-service days and after-school workshops. Whole school instruction will take place on in-service days and specific instruction will take place in paid after-school workshops. The instruction will be provided by professionals, staff members with technology expertise, and hired consultants when necessary. Annual professional development surveys will be conducted to maintain a clear understanding of the technology needs of the staff.

The technology plan includes emphasis on daily technology integration. Technology will be used in the classroom to support the regular curriculum by providing both integrated and supplemental tutorial, research, and basic skills opportunities. For example, students will use technology to support RtI through online programs such as Lexia and Dreambox and will also use technology to support projects and learning expeditions as outlined in the curriculum.

PART III: Core elements of the Plan

A. Goals and Strategies for Using Technology to Improve Education

Kuumba Academy Charter School will create a technology driven academic environment for 855 students enrolled in kindergarten through eighth grade by providing standards driven integrated curriculum instruction, comprehensive professional development for faculty members and state of the art technology equipment in each classroom.

KACS will conduct annual needs assessments of both staff and students which will include specific skills “tests” and online and paper surveys. The administration will designate a timeline of completion for all staff and student needs assessments and surveys. Test results will be compared year to year to ascertain the rate of skill improvement. **Goal 1: Have 100% of staff and students complete the assessment, and see an increase in skills attainment over time.**

KACS will continue to use E School to record demographic information, attendance and student grades. This system will ensure accurate reporting and record keeping. KACS will require each teacher to: record student attendance daily in E School and set up and maintain electronic grade books in E School. KACS administration will monitor online records including: attendance, lunch counts and academic grades. **Goal 2: Have 100% participation in keeping all student demographic and performance data up to date in ESchool.**

KACS will purchase mobile computing technology to support the curriculum and assessment needs of every KACS student.. Staff and students will also have access to scanners and mobile devices to support their work. There will be appropriate learning and operating software, as well as a school website, purchased and licensed by the school. The building Technology Coordinator maintains inventory software that is used to record the locations and inventory of all technology in the building and in the field. **Goal 3: Purchase and track, from installation to obsolescence, mobile and classroom information technology to support the academic program.**

The school will utilize adaptive programs to support student centered instruction and the RtI process. KACS will utilizes reading and math programs that will meet students individual learning targets and can be accessed both at home and at-school tp provide students and families with increased access to individualized learning. **Goal 4: Offer access to adaptive reading and math programs and instruction as part of student centered instruction and RtI process.**

