

WINDOWS 7 MIGRATION

Starting in April 2014, all HISD computer devices running Windows XP, including desktops and laptops, will be migrated to operate on Windows 7. The upgrade is part of the district's PowerUp initiative, which aims to digitally transform teaching and learning throughout the district. If a device cannot be migrated through a technology upgrade, then it will be replaced.

WHY NOW?

The Windows 7 migration is necessary to ensure all schools and district offices are equipped with the latest software and equipment to effectively and efficiently provide digital instruction, collaboration, and support for students and staff. In addition, Microsoft is eliminating technical support for devices running Windows XP which makes them more vulnerable to security risks such as viruses and outages. By migrating to Windows 7, HISD will not only get the technical support and assistance it needs for district devices, but will have a more equitable distribution of technology.

The HISD Information Technology department has assessed devices at all 282 schools and at district offices and has determined that nearly 64,000 will need to be

upgraded to Windows 7. Of those, an estimated 39,000 have been determined to be "ineligible" for Windows 7 and will instead need to be replaced.

WHAT SHOULD I EXPECT?

HISD Information Technology staff members have spent the last several months researching and developing a plan for the technology migration and have conducted a "test run" with a pilot group of schools. The end result is an implementation plan which will occur in four phases during the spring and summer of 2014.

- **PREPARATION** — a team will visit work locations/campuses to inventory and tag devices as eligible/ineligible
- **RE-IMAGING** — a team will visit work locations/campuses to migrate eligible devices to Windows 7
- **REPLACEMENT**—a team will visit work locations/campuses and replace all ineligible devices
- **REMOVAL**—all non-eligible equipment will be removed from work locations/campuses

The exact date and time of your migration will be communicated to you by your work supervisor. Every effort will be made to coordinate closely with school administration and work location supervisors to make this technology upgrade as smooth as possible. No migrations will take place at schools during district or state assessments. Complete migration is expected to be complete by the start of the 2014-2015 school year.

WHAT CAN I DO TO PREPARE?

- Start backing up your data now. Verify your data is saved on a USB drive, CD/DVD or shared network location. Ask your work location supervisor if there is a preferred saving location for your job function.
- Make a note of any specialty software currently on your computer, such as Kiosk devices (i.e. Weather Bug) or engineering devices running Auto Cad etc.
- Write down or copy your internet favorites, and if there are particular settings on your computer that are important to you, make a list or copy of those settings as well.

