

Division of Technology

**Connects Update to the
Fort Worth ISD Board of Trustees
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Process Timeline

- ❑ March 2007 – Closing of RFP #06-131
- ❑ April/May 2007 – Selection committee chosen
 - ❑ Committee was comprised of members from Curriculum and Instruction, School Leadership, nursing and special services, campus administrators, teachers, clerks, Guidance and Counseling, Assessment and Data Quality, and Division of Technology
- ❑ March – November 2007 –
 - ❑ Vendor reviews and stakeholder meetings
- ❑ December 2007 – Board approves Tyler Technologies as Student Information Vendor

Professional Development Timeline



Fort Worth
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

- Spring and Summer of 2008
 - Process mapping
- Fall of 2008 –
 - Analysis sessions with stakeholders begins
 - Seek input from District Advisory Committee
- Spring of 2009 – Spring analysis sessions, stakeholder meetings, needs assessments formalized

Professional Development Timeline



Fort Worth
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- ❑ September 2009 – Scheduling training began
- ❑ November 2009 –
 - ❑ Enroll/Withdraw training began
 - ❑ Grade book training of trainers
- ❑ January 2010 – Overview training for secondary schedulers
- ❑ January – March 2010, developed and published online tutorials

Professional Development Timeline



Fort Worth
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February 2010 –

- Live site opens for scheduling
- Scheduling training and open labs
- Secondary principal training

March 2010 –

- Course request training and open labs
- Sixth grade campus grade book trainings

April 2010 –

- Open labs for secondary scheduling
- Elementary scheduling training

Professional Development Timeline



Fort Worth
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- April – May 2010

 - Parent Portal Pilot

 - Eight sites

- April – August 2010

 - Labs open every day except July 4th week

 - Saturday scheduling labs began in August

Professional Development Timeline



Fort Worth
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

- ❑ June 2010 – Walk-in scheduling training for secondary counselors
- ❑ June – July 2010
 - ❑ Summer School Pilot
 - ❑ Complete attendance and reporting cycles
 - ❑ Use of grade book by all teachers
 - ❑ Provided opportunity for 3,440 teachers to attend paid sessions in June and July (nearly 80% were filled)

Professional Development Timeline



Fort Worth
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- ❑ August 2010 -
 - ❑ Provided paid training sessions for elementary clerks and secondary attendance clerks
 - ❑ Administrator discipline training sessions offered
 - ❑ Elementary counselor training provided
- ❑ September 2010 – Nurses receive foundation training

- ❑ Created a Connects help desk staffed from 7:30 – 5:00 Monday through Friday
- ❑ Connects phone lines are staffed by FWISD employees as well as representatives from the vendor
 - ❑ Assisting with account log-in, scheduling, staff location moves, attendance and grading.
 - ❑ During the first few weeks, staff members worked through the weekend



- ❑ Facilitated role-based focus groups
 - ❑ Received good feedback from the participants
 - ❑ Helped us to create job specific training based on their feedback
 - ❑ Attendance clerks, data clerks, counselors, assistant principals and nurses
- ❑ Identified hardware challenges and planned a refresh for key data personnel
- ❑ Ongoing training continues to be planned and developed for new hires and those who need refresher training

- No institutional knowledge of the new system
 - Everyone is at the same place
- State-mandated change in Career and Technology courses (CTE)
 - Provided late in the process from TEA
- New requirements at the elementary level in terms of scheduling
 - Federally-mandated tracking of instruction time by subject

- School boundary changes required student population adjustments
- Early performance issues identified with the system
 - Addressed as they were discovered
 - Ongoing monitoring
- Definitive timeline is required
- Data access requests continually audited and validated
- After-action review

Connects has provided to date over 17,000 credit hours of training and support

Teachers > 13,000 hours

Librarians and TIEs > 900 hours

Administrators and support staff > 2,700 hours

Open Labs > 500 hours

Educational Staff at all traditional high schools for the first 10 days of school

Quick Reference Guides and online tutorials

Website and Frequently Asked Questions

- ❑ Connects has provided dynamic resources for feedback and assistance
 - ❑ Connects e-mail assistance
 - ❑ 6 to 10 staff dedicated phone help desk
 - ❑ 12 sessions of targeted focus groups
 - ❑ Now providing ongoing job specific training based on focus group feedback



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