

FSBA INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY IN EDUCATION RECOGNITION PROGRAM  
2010 APPLICATION FOR RECOGNITION

**Purpose:** To recognize and share innovative uses of technology in school district operations.

**Goals:** \* To display innovation in the use of technology \* To improve student achievement  
\* To increase efficiency and/or reduce costs \* To increase safety

**Rules:** \* Application and attachment *must* be submitted electronically to [melton@fsba.org](mailto:melton@fsba.org).  
\* Written responses must be limited to one page and sent as an attachment to the application.  
\* Each district may submit only one application.  
\* Each application must be approved for submission by the school board.  
\* Applications and attachment must be submitted on or before **May 1, 2010**.

**Section I: District Information**

School District: Lake County Schools

District Enrollment: \_\_\_ Small (0-22,000) X Medium (22,001-75,000) \_\_\_ Large (75,001 and up)

Name of School or Department: Growth Planning Department

Contact Person: Harry Fix Phone Number: 352-253-6693

Email Address: fixh@lake.k12.fl.us Approved By:   
(School Board Chair)

**Section II: Description and Justification**

Title of Innovative Technology: Use of Geographic Information Systems and the Internet in Attendance Boundary Development

Please mark the category(s) that best applies to the application of technology (*Select all that apply*):

<input type="checkbox"/> Budget & Finance	<input type="checkbox"/> Human Resources
<input type="checkbox"/> Curriculum & Instruction	<input type="checkbox"/> Information & Data Systems
<input type="checkbox"/> Facilities & Construction	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> Food Service	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other <u>Planning/Attendance Boundaries</u>

Please provide written responses to the following (*Responses to all items must be contained in a ONE page attachment to this Application*):

1. Describe the innovative use of technology.
2. Describe how the application of the technology will improve student achievement, increase efficiency, reduce costs, and/or increase safety.
3. Describe the data that will demonstrate improved student achievement, increased efficiency, reduced costs, and/or increased safety.

**Section III: Judging and Recognition**

- \* The FSBA Technology Committee will review all timely submitted and complete applications.
- \* Finalists will be selected from a small, medium, and large district based on best practices in the use of innovative technology.
- \* Finalists will be formally recognized at the FSBA Annual Spring Conference scheduled for June 16-18, 2010 in Tampa.

1. **Describe the innovative use of technology.**

The Lake County School District has developed an innovative Geographic Information System (GIS) and web-based mapping system for developing attendance boundary changes which significantly decreases the time and cost of the process, while increasing public input and transparency. Although many Districts use GIS for developing attendance boundary recommendations, Lake County has taken this technology much further by dividing the entire county into Student Analysis Zones based on housing density, road network, developmental potential and environmental considerations, down to the individual tax parcel level. This allows our GIS and planning professionals to develop attendance boundary scenarios instantly, and produce maps, charts and graphs that allow the stakeholders participating in our Advisory Boundary Committees (ABC) to see the enrollment to capacity and demographic equity implications of their suggestions or requests within minutes, thus eliminating the need for weekly or bi-weekly delays between evaluations as historically undertaken.

In addition, an easy to use web-based GIS user interface using the same information allows the public to track the progress of the Committees, as well as develop their own attendance boundary scenarios and recommend them to the ABC for consideration. In one instance, more than a dozen different options were received from the public for evaluation by the ABC. This additional transparency provides for greater support from all stakeholders and a better understanding by the public of the complex issues that are an integral part of the process, making the final decision by the Board easier than ever before, with minimal public opposition.

Further saving time and money, once a recommended attendance boundary has been arrived at, it is relatively easy to create a modified address look-up system on the District's website, allowing parents and students to look up their residential address and understand immediately what the implications of the recommended boundary are on their household. The web site allows for the navigation to a PDF version of their proposed attendance boundary or an interactive web-based map depicting their address in relationship to the proposed boundary down to the street level. This, plus targeted mailings, has severely reduced the staff time at both the county administrative level as well as the school staff level previously dedicated to speaking to concerned parents who may not be affected by the boundary change, and allows for more knowledgeable and focused questions and comments by stakeholders at the District's public meetings.

2. **Describe how the application of this technology will increase efficiency and reduce costs.**

Through the use of this innovative integration of GIS and web-based systems for developing and evaluating attendance boundaries, increased efficiency is achieved by shortening the time it takes for the Advisory Boundary Committee to arrive at a recommendation and present it to the School Board for action. Costs are reduced by the same means, saving staff time spent developing presentation materials, working with the committee during their evening meetings, and then in public input meetings. Although the District still holds public input meetings, because of the transparency of the process, they are generally short and most participants are already aware of the recommendations and their effects on their students.

3. **Describe the data that will demonstrate increased efficiency and reduced costs.**

The technology used has reduced the normal attendance boundary change process from 16-24 months to only 3-9 months. For example, prior to implementation of this system in 2008, the District approved an elementary school attendance boundary revision which required 9 committee meetings, one public input meeting, and 3 Board workshops. In 2009, a high school boundary revision, typically one of the most contentious and difficult types of attendance boundary revisions, was completed with only 5 committee meetings, one public input meeting, and 2 Board workshops. The public input meetings, which had previously lasted two to three hours, took less than one hour each for 2009's revision, and there were no comments or complaints from the public at the final adoption hearings by the School Board. Needless to say the Board has greatly supported these efforts.