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**Use of Innovative Tools in Oklahoma Schools Growing
With Schools Spending \$105 Million on Technology in 2007-08 school year**

OKLAHOMA CITY - Oklahoma schools spent more than \$105 million on various technology needs during the 2007-2008 school year. State Board of Education members received this information today during a regular monthly meeting of the Board. The information was included in the State Department of Education's annual "School Technology Survey."

SDE Instructional Technology Director Eric Hileman in his presentation to the Board - via a cutting edge Keynote presentation controlled by an iPhone - told members that nearly 62 percent of the \$105 million spent was for hardware, resulting in an Oklahoma student-to-computer ratio of 3.28:1. The other 38 percent of technology expenditures, Hileman reported, were for networking (\$12 million), instructional software (\$12.1 million), licenses (\$11.2 million), professional development (\$3.7 million) and video streaming (nearly \$1 million).

"We've more than doubled the number of computers in Oklahoma schools in just eight years," State Superintendent Sandy Garrett told her fellow Board members, "and, we're starting to see more and more districts investing in instructional software, professional development and video streaming to enhance classroom instruction.

She added: "Some consider such technology to be tools of the future but, in this global society we live in today, the future is now."

Other data presented to the Board from the annual survey included:

About half of the computers in use in Oklahoma schools are more than three years old;
Three-quarters of school districts have wireless connectivity; 64 percent of individual school sites do;

About one-third of classrooms have an interactive whiteboard, compared to 82 percent of school sites having at least one interactive whiteboard;

Nearly half of school sites are subscribing to digital streaming and one-quarter of districts are;
Districts employing a Technology Director has grown from 74 percent in 2006 to 86 percent in 2008;

Innovative technologies are being utilized in more classrooms, with 63 school districts using student blogs, 62 using PDAs, 45 podcasting and 38 using chat/instant messaging tools

"This information is very encouraging and I know many districts have shared they will be utilizing federal stimulus funds to purchase more technology," Garrett said. "Students of today are digital natives; they were born into a digital world. So, we need to employ the same tools they use outside the schoolhouse doors to make learning inside the schoolhouse more relevant to their 21st century needs. This survey shows more Oklahoma schools are doing just that."

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