Factors to Consider for Ed Tech Implementation

The socioeconomic factors Cuban (2001) discusses are a stark contrast compared to Garland ISD. The Silicon Valley area is such a dynamic area in which people are eager and willing to work long hours each day to be at the epicenter of technology development in the US and abroad. This is not to say the parents and families in GISD are not willing to work long hours, it is a testament to the differentiation in the importance of spending time with family. There is not one dominant industry in the GISD boundaries as is evident of the tech industry of Silicon Valley. While not directly associated with our district's boundaries, many tech companies reside in and around neighboring communities with many production companies scattering the geography of the 12th largest district in the state of Texas.

Similarities of Sachse High School to the Santa Clara Valley are the diverse student populations and the estimated median income being significantly greater than that of the rest of the state. The population of the City of Sachse is primarily white at 62.5% ("Sachse, Texas profile," 2013) while GISD is primarily hispanic at 47% hispanic ("2012-2013 district profile," 2012). This diverse population at Sachse High School is a result of the district's and the nation's oldest choice school desegregation plan with many student's being bussed from across GISD. This desegregation proves to create an extreme economic gap between the student body of Sachse High School for those who live in the City of Sachse and those choosing to transfer to Sachse High School.

School reformers are constantly lobbying politicians in Austin to reform the current academic accountability to improve the state's education ratings. One interesting fact is how close the education rankings are for both California and Texas and how low the rankings are when compared across the country. Both states received C ratings for student chance for success from Education Week ("Quality counts 2013," 2013). Politicians in each are seeking initiatives to integrate technology into the classroom in hopes to revive education and increase test scores.

I believe the initiatives to transform schools into 21st century learning institutions will only help my technology grant proposal brief. With the push to promote STEM courses and to integrate technology more effectively into the classroom, I believe this can only benefit my proposed technology initiative. In addition to several military contractors and leading global tech companies in close proximity to Sachse High School, my proposal will help students to see a need for technology innovators with a focus in the STEM areas.

References:

2012-2013 district profile. (2012). Retrieved from http://
www.garlandisd.net/about/documents/District_profile.pdf

Cuban, L. (2001). *Oversold and underused: Computers in the classroom*.
Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press.

Quality counts 2013 - state report cars. (2013). Retrieved from http://
www.edweek.org/ew/qc/2013/state_report_cards.html

*Sachse, Texas profile. (2013). Retrieved from http://www.city-data.com/
city/Sachse-Texas.html*