

# **Childress ISD**

Senate Committee on Education

October 20th 2008

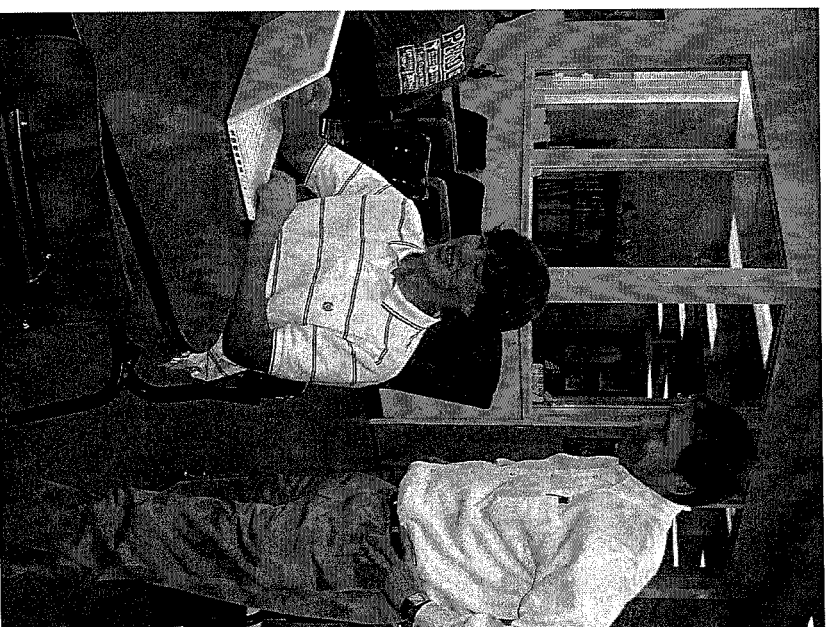
Testimony provided by Toby Tucker-Assistant Superintendent  
Childress ISD

# About Childress

- Small rural district located in the corner of the Panhandle
- Community of 6819 residents
- 1127 students
- 52.3% of our students are from low socio-economic homes

# Our Program

- Every student has their own Apple laptop computer in grades 6-12.
- Over 600 laptops in grades 6-12.
- All computers are loaded with available digital textbooks.
- This project was funded out of CISD fund balance.
- We made a decision as a district that we must make an investment in our future to put this technology in the hands of our students to allow them the ability to succeed.
- In 2008 State Senator Robert Duncan recognized Childress ISD as a national leader in technology.



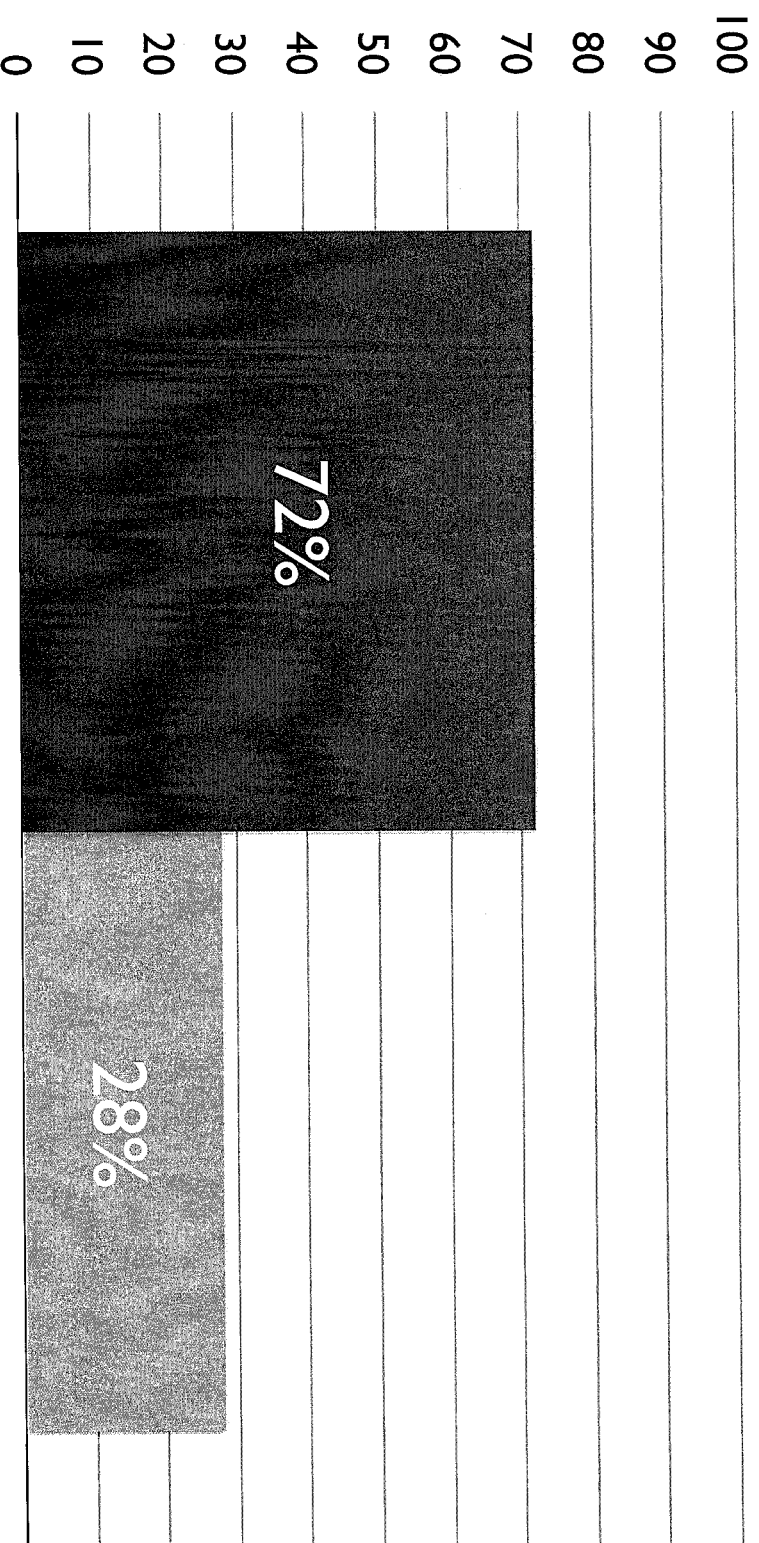
# Currently in Childress

- 79 sections in grades 6-12 being taught using digital textbooks.
- According to the interim statement of textbook charges, Childress ISD has \$493,853.00 in textbook inventory.
- \$98,537.21 was spent on textbooks that are rarely being used. (Due to the use of digital or online textbooks).
- We would like the opportunity during the adoption process to be able to choose our preferred method of textbook delivery and be rewarded for using a digital method.

# Currently in Childress

- In the recent math adoption cycle Childress High School alone had a textbook charge of \$21,479.27.
- If we had the opportunity to select a digital or online format and only purchase classroom sets, the cost would have been \$7,559.20, a difference of \$13,920.07.
- Although this is a small amount to some, when combined with other districts who are involved in 1-to-1 programs large amounts of tax payer dollars would be saved.
- The number of 1-to-1 districts are growing. In our area alone the following schools currently have or are moving towards 1-to-1. Childress, Floydada, Wellington, Wheeler, Amarillo Highland Park, Post, Lubbock Roosevelt, Trent, Roscoe, Quanah, Clarendon, Memphis, and Big Spring.

# What Our Students Say



Percent of students who prefer online  
or digital textbooks

# Pros of Online or Digital Textbooks

- Digital textbooks allow students the access to more resources than just the book.
- Example-Glencoe Geography- While students are reading about the Great Wall of China they are a click away from navigating through a virtual tour. This tour includes audio and video clips along with links that enhance learning. This is something that is impossible with a regular textbook.
- Example-Prentice Hall Biology-Students studying cells are a click away from a virtual tour and being able to look at cells from the inside out.
- Example-McDougal Littell Geometry-A student who is doing homework after school hours can simply click a link to get a virtual video tutorial on the current lesson from a teacher. This tool is wonderful in that students who need additional instruction are able to receive it long after the school bell has rang. Again, this tool is not possible with standard textbooks.
- Students and teachers are also able to access worksheets and other resources through the online or digital textbooks. In some cases we have eliminated the need for paper with students completing assignments, then dropping their work in teacher drop boxes on our server. In the long run we anticipate this technology growing and saving our district thousands of dollars in paper cost.
- Online and digital textbooks allow students to explore learning in a way that would be impossible with standard textbooks. Online text can become living document. In this format books are easier to be kept up to date.

# Cons of Digital or Online Textbooks

- Sometimes technology fails.
- Takes some time to get used to using books in this format.
- Expensive to have technology in place to utilize these resources.
- Some students will not have Internet access in their own home.
- Example of Childress Internet access for students after hours.



# Why We Believe In Advanced Technology

- It is their world.
- We believe that the current system is working, but needs to evolve to keep up with demands of a technological world.
- “The cost of education is expensive, so is the cost of ignorance.”
- We know that we have to produce technology competent individuals ready for the global market.
- Technology for all students levels the playing field.
- Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. You have an open invitation to see what we are doing in Childress.