



**November 2006**

## **The Five Benefits of Outsourcing Your School's Technology**

As a Superintendent or Business Administrator the challenges of running a school district can be quite daunting; the many responsibilities that comprise your day continue to increase. One new, large responsibility that has arisen over the past ten years is the management of the technology infrastructure in your district.

The renowned American investor, businessman and philanthropist, Warren Buffet, often talks about investors as well as businesses staying within their "circle of competence" to ensure that they succeed. If the business of a school is to educate its students, then why expend time, energy and money managing your own technology infrastructure. We at Crawley & Associates have seen a significant shift with many of our corporate customers who have also realized that managing their own technology infrastructures is not only cost prohibitive, but also a distraction from their core business.

In the education and corporate world much of what drives your decisions in technology advancements boil down to dollars. Here are five benefits to consider when outsourcing your district's technology:

- 1. Outsourcing reduces your administrative cap as it applies to S1701.**  
Computer and network support personnel fall under the NJDOE Administrative Cap.
- 2. Pay only for the IT needs your district requires – no more, no less.**
- 3. Access specialized expertise for your district's technology.**  
Technology companies often have personnel with very strong skill sets dedicated to specific areas of technology (Voice Over IP, Storage, Security, etc).
- 4. Develop more accurate technology budgets.**  
Including experienced eyes in the development of your district's IT budget can often save thousands while greatly reducing many of the monthly surprises that are so common to an IT budget.
- 5. Work with a team of technology experts.**  
You may want to outsource to several companies with different skill sets (Web Site Design, Infrastructure Management, etc).

These are five important benefits to consider when determining if outsourcing makes sense for your school or district. As always when you are selecting a company be certain to check their history, performance and the experience that they possess in the education market.

Enjoy the fall,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the name 'Paul' written in a cursive style.

Paul