

Wireless grant should help Coventry schools

Classes to have wireless capability

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COVENTRY — The Coventry School District is taking more steps to spread technology throughout the classrooms by way of a wireless classroom initiative.

According to Coventry School Superintendent Michael Almeida, the purpose of a \$326,301 grant the district received from the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) is to connect all classrooms with wireless capabilities.

“It’s a great opportunity for the

Coventry School District in pursuit of integrating technology into our schools,” he said. “It will meet the need for increased technology capacity in RI districts and schools, work under the Wireless Classroom Initiative will include making improvements to school and classroom infrastructures.”

According to a letter from RIDE to the school districts’ superintendents, the Wireless Classroom Initiative provides funds to bring wireless access to every public school classroom in the state.

Qualifying classrooms are defined

Wireless soon

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as those that meet the definition of an instructional classroom under the School Construction Regulations.

Schools are required to remain operational and operated as a public school for public educational purposes by RIDE for a minimum of five years after the work has been completed.

If the school does not stay operational, for whatever reason, the district must reimburse the state.

Almeida explained that the classrooms will be connected first then other areas, such as the cafeteria, will follow.

The district does have some of the equipment, and Almeida said connecting the wireless has been done in a peace meal way but at the end of the day, it hasn't been done in as structured a way as it will be through the grant.

The superintendent explained the first step in the process was completed last Tuesday night when the school committee accepted the grant award. The next step will be to draw up a contract with a vendor.

"Work can begin as early as February vacation and be completed no later than August," Almeida said.

The grant funds will be broken down the following way; \$139,905 for Coventry High School, \$63,682 for the middle school, \$39,194 for Washington Oak, \$21,439 for Western Coventry Elementary, \$21,199 for Tiogue, \$20,399 for Hopkins Hill, and \$20,479 for Blackrock.