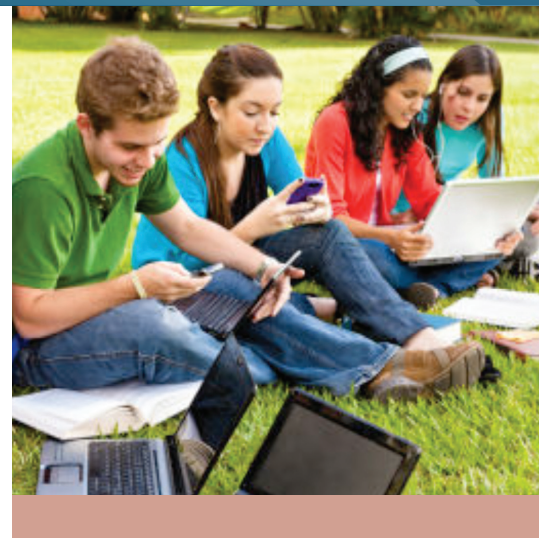# Center for Educational Leadership and Technology (CELT) Presents …

Small/Rural School District Information Technology Consortium

An Information Technology Consortium for Massachusetts' small and/or rural school districts focused on increasing student achievement, enhancing staff productivity, and connecting school, home, and community!

With Guidance and Support From:

CELT
Center for Educational
Leadership and Technology

MASCD
LEARN. TEACH. LEAD. CONNECT.

Why a Consortium Approach?

A disproportionate amount of information technology assistance and funding is traditionally reserved for the largest school districts in the state and country, while small/rural school district administrators are continually challenged to do more with less. However, if banded together via the proposed consortium, the small/rural school districts in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts would represent the seventh largest school district in the United States. More than 260,000 students throughout the Commonwealth attend 285 small/rural school districts. The time is now for those students, teachers, administrators, parents, and community members to realize the global learning opportunities afforded to large urban and economically advantaged school districts.

The Small/Rural School District Information Technology Consortium will focus on increasing instructional technology resources to small/rural school districts by brokering low-cost, affordable, and easy-to-use information technology solutions and services. Acting as a "digital" architect and curriculum/technology integrator, the Consortium can help the school districts and their municipal governments reduce network and communication costs while at the same time expanding access and use of digital learning resources at school, at home, and in the community. Through collaborative action, the consortium will provide a forum to exchange ideas, pool experiences, reduce IT costs, and advocate for equitable access to technology.

If the small/rural school districts in Massachusetts work together they can significantly increase their eligibility for the state, federal, and foundation resources that often elude them. By working together, the rural/small school districts would benefit from shared research and best practices in the area of curriculum/technology integration, technology enriched learning environments, and more.
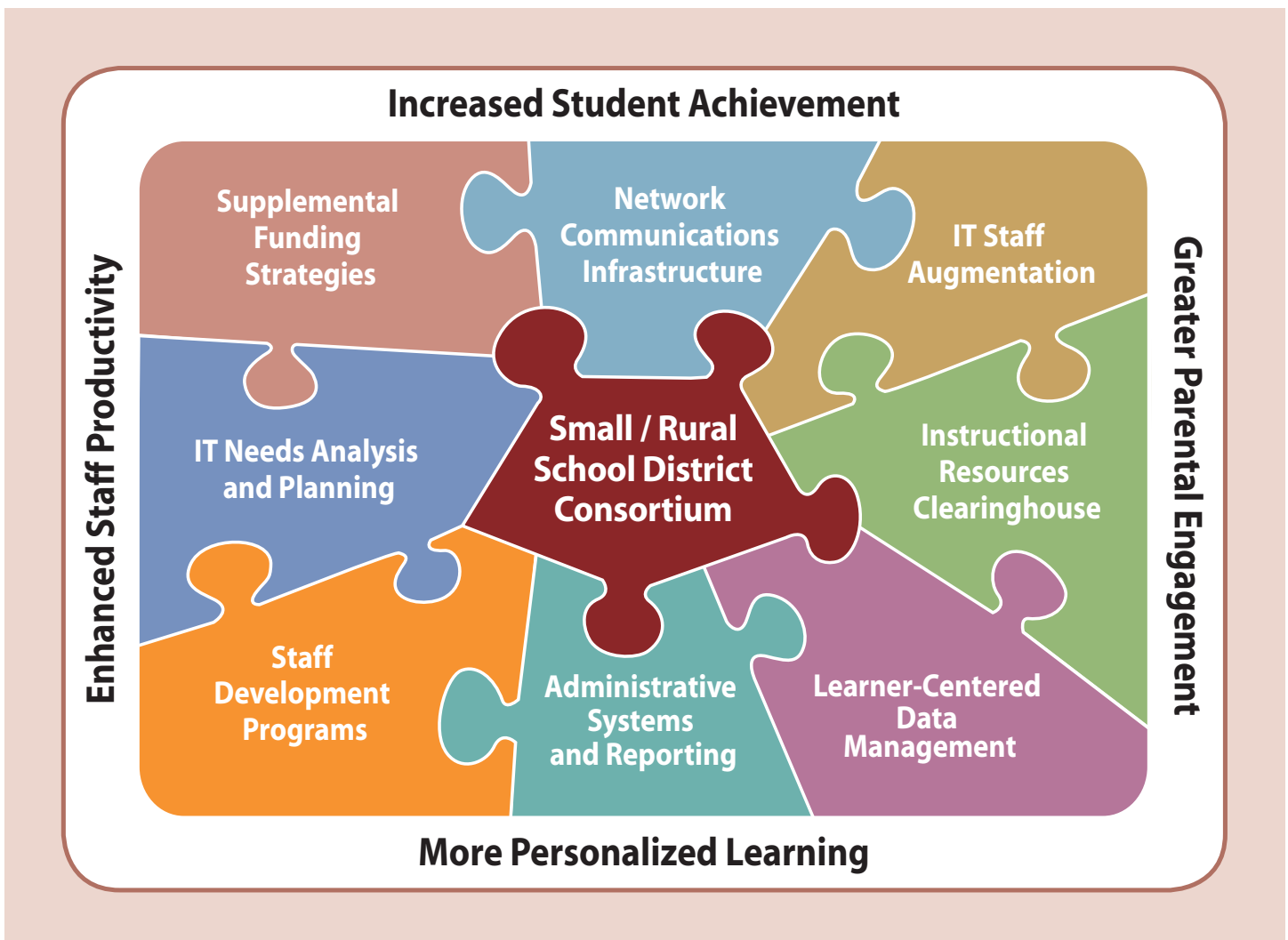
What Are Some of the Challenges Facing Small / Rural School Districts?

1. Do you want to increase the number of staff who differentiate classroom instruction for small groups and personalize learning, as well as augment your IT staff to support the required infrastructure?

2. Would you like to benefit from the research and best practices on the effective use of technology and personalized learning in small/rural school districts?

3. Do you need guidance on accessing and using learner-centered data to inform instruction and manage student progress?

4. Are you interested in collaborating to receive external funding from state/federal government and major education foundations?

5. Could you use expert guidance to address recommendations of the Task Force for 21st Century Skills and its impact on economic, workforce, and community development?

6. Could you use expert guidance eliminating the digital divide in your small/rural school district?

7. Could you use expert guidance to reduce the achievement gap via a web-based instructional technology clearing-house, as well as accessing adaptive/assistive technology?

8. Do you want to save money through cooperative purchasing and shared staff development?

9. Are your administrative systems, instructional applications and utilization of social media safe, secure, private, and monitored?

10. Do you want to explore ways to share the cost of a technology infrastructure with your town government and community?

… Once established, the members of the Consortium will identify additional challenges to address.

How Will the Small/Rural School District Information Technology Consortium Help Your Organization?
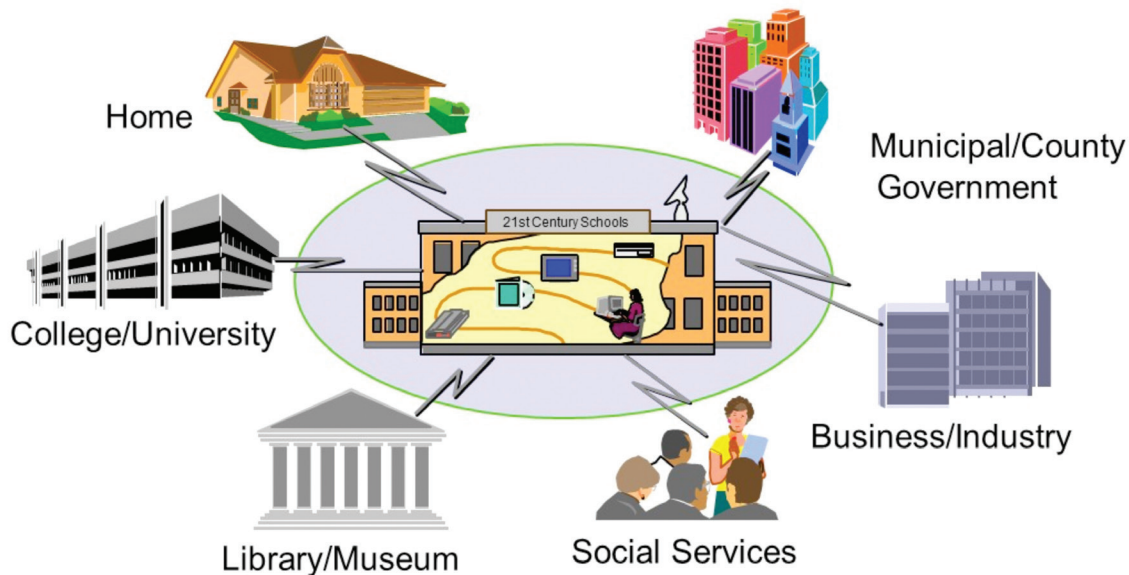
Unlike other consortia that currently exist to address one or more of the challenges facing school districts, the Small/Rural School District Information Technology Consortium will provide member school districts with a holistic and comprehensive approach to improving teaching, learning, and administrative processes. This consortium is meant to be supplemental to, and supportive of, existing educational collaborative's programs and services.

The graphic below illustrates the comprehensive approach of the Small/Rural School District Information Technology Consortium, as well as some of the programs and services it will offer:

Increased Student Achievement

Enhanced Staff Productivity

Greater Parental Engagement

Supplemental Funding Strategies

Network Communications Infrastructure

IT Staff Augmentation

IT Needs Analysis and Planning

Small / Rural School District Consortium

Instructional Resources Clearinghouse

Staff Development Programs

Administrative Systems and Reporting

Learner-Centered Data Management

More Personalized Learning

▶ **To learn more about these programs and services, please e-mail David Krongard at dkrongard@celt.org or visit www.celt.org.**

The Small/Rural School District Information Technology Consortium will go beyond traditional education reform efforts by helping to create an integrated Information Technology system in support of learning, as well as community, workforce, and economic development.

About MASCD

MASCD is the Massachusetts' state affiliate of the Association of Supervision and Curriculum Development. ASCD is the global leader (128 countries and 52 U.S. affiliates) in developing and delivering innovative and contemporary programs and services that empower educators to meet the unique needs of all learners. ASCD and MASCD provide expert and innovative programs in professional development, curriculum improvement planning, and capacity building.

MASCD consists of Massachusetts educators including superintendents, chief academic officers, curriculum coordinators, school principals, classroom teachers, college faculty, and advocates who promote quality teaching and learning.

About CELT

For more than a quarter-century, CELT has been viewed by education leaders throughout the United States and globally as a "thought leader" and "trusted advisor." CELT helps learning organizations align their use of information technology with education reform to improve student achievement and enhance staff productivity.

CELT's mission is to help learning organizations attain their vision, mission, and goals by integrating high-quality technology programs and services with the organization's people and processes in the most timely, efficient, and cost-effective way possible.

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