

# STORIES FOR ADVOCACY

## Principal Becomes Technology Leader

As told by Shirley Crehan, Bucks County Schools Intermediate Unit, Doylestown, PA  
to Suzie Boss

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After more than 30 years in education, an administrator can be inclined to rely on old habits and resist new ideas. This is a story about Stan, a seasoned principal who decided to take a chance.

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When we arrived at Stan's school to conduct a technology training as part of a statewide initiative, he seemed reluctant about the whole idea. And no wonder. His school had not had a single technology initiative in more than a decade, since Access PA came to school libraries in 1993. And he had his hands full. Many of the students attending his school are growing up in poverty and face a host of challenges. His teachers receive limited professional development, and the impoverished district has few resources available to support administrators.

When the training session started, Stan was joking about why he was even there. Then we distributed a set of handhelds. Stan's attitude changed. He immediately connected a local building need with a personal one. He saw how this new tool could help him do his job more effectively. He was motivated to take part in the training so that he could maximize his use of this powerful tool to support his students and teachers.

Since then, Stan has become a technology leader not only at his own school, but also within the district. He's proud of what he has accomplished. Through this initiative, Stan and other principals have found new opportunities to come together for professional growth, to exchange ideas about common issues, and to provide peer support. The district still faces tough challenges, and principals continue to struggle with limited resources. But after 34 years in education, Stan says the PTLA (Principals' Technology Leadership Academy) training is the best thing that's ever happened to him professionally.

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