In alliance with state school technology goals, the board is committed to establishing and supporting 21st century information and communications technology systems to foster globally competitive, healthy and responsible students. The board recognizes the benefits of digital and technology-enabled teaching and learning resources that provide the ability to easily customize curriculum, provide access to current information and enable access to quality materials at a lower cost than traditional materials. To that end, the board intends to move to classroom digital and technology-enabled teaching and learning resources that are aligned with the Common Core State and North Carolina Essential Standards as they become available. In addition, to the extent funding permits, the board will endeavor to ensure that all students have access to personal digital and technology-enabled teaching and learning devices to foster the 21st century skills necessary for future-ready learners.

The board expects that information and communications technologies will be integrated across the curriculum and used to support student achievement. Such technologies will also be used to support programs and activities that promote safe schools and healthy and responsible students. The curriculum committee should provide suggestions in the curriculum guides referenced in policy 3115, Curriculum and Instructional Guides, for integrating technological resources (as defined in Section A below) into the educational program. School administrators and teachers are encouraged to develop additional strategies for integrating technological resources across the curriculum and utilizing the power of technology to improve learning outcomes while making more efficient use of resources. The strategies should be included in the school improvement plan if they require the transfer of funds or otherwise relate to any mandatory or optional components of the school improvement plan.

The superintendent shall develop and submit to the board for approval a local school district technology plan that is aligned with state guidelines and applicable federal rules. The superintendent shall incorporate this plan into school district strategic planning efforts and include various stakeholders such as curriculum leaders, teachers, administrators and representatives from technology services, instructional technology, finance and other departments as required. Once the board has approved the plan, the superintendent shall ensure expenditures on school information and communications technologies are made in accordance with the technology plan.

The superintendent shall establish relationships with businesses and seek grants and other funding sources in an effort to acquire technological resources for the educational program.

A.   **SELECTION OF TECHNOLOGICAL RESOURCES**

Technological resources include, but are not limited to, the following: (1) hardware, including both fixed and mobile technologies and devices such as desktop computers, laptops, netbooks, tablets, e-readers, PDAs, smartphones and gaming devices; (2)

software; (3) network and telecommunications systems and services; (4) Internet access; (5) multimedia equipped classrooms; (6) computer classrooms and laboratories; and (7) other existing or emerging mobile communications systems. All technological resources must be purchased and used in a manner consistent with applicable law and board policy, including laws and policies related to copyright, public records, bidding and other purchase requirements, accessibility for students with disabilities, staff duties and standards for student behavior.

Technological resources must meet or exceed the following standards before they may be considered for implementation.

1. Technological resources must support the Common Core State and North Carolina Essential Standards or the programs of the school district.

2. Technological resources must support the current use of learning and instructional management technologies in the school.

3. Technological resources must be compatible with the condition of the network and other infrastructure resources. The technology director shall set minimum standards for technological resources that are purchased or donated. Upgrading, hardware conditions and similar requirements must be maintained to the highest standards.

4. There must be sufficient staff to operate and maintain the technological equipment, programs and systems.

5. There must be adequate funds budgeted to implement and support the technological resources and to train instructional staff to use the resources to improve educational outcomes.

B.   DEPLOYMENT OF TECHNOLOGY TO SCHOOLS

The superintendent shall oversee the development of the school district's technology deployment plan. The plan will be designed to ensure organized, effective and efficient means of deploying new information and communications technologies. The superintendent shall develop procedures that outline the strategy of the technology deployment plan.

C.   STAFF WEBSITES FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES
The board will provide numerous avenues through which teachers can facilitate their instructional programs via websites over the Internet. The board will provide each teacher with his/her own web space where instructional information should be posted. The board's use of a Learning Management System (LMS), "Angel," enables teachers to set up wikis and blogs to promote interaction with students. The board's LMS is the approved venue for hosting district-created online courses and supplemental content. All content posted on these sites remains the intellectual property of the board.

There are numerous outside web sites where employees can bookmark and compile information to support their instructional goals. These sites are not appropriate venues to serve as substitutes for the employees' use of the district-controlled websites and LMS servers. Information posted on outside sites becomes the property of the site and the employee no longer has ownership or control of content. For this reason, employees should not use these non-district-controlled sites to post information for students without prior written approval from the superintendent or designee and school principal (see policy 7335, Employee Use of Social Media, for more specific guidelines on employees' use of personal websites).

D.   BRING YOUR OWN TECHNOLOGY (BYOT) INITIATIVE

The superintendent is authorized to investigate and develop a plan to allow staff and students the option to use their personal electronic devices in place of or along with their school district assigned devices. The plan should address, at a minimum, the instructional use of personal devices, compatibility requirements, access limitations or requirements, content filtering, security and other issues as recommended by the technology director. The plan should assign personal responsibility to the user for repair and replacement of damaged or stolen devices and for any data or other charges arising from use of a personal device. The plan should require a written agreement for the use of personal technology devices from each student and staff member who wishes to participate in the BYOT initiative. The plan should ensure that students who are unable to bring in outside technology will be able to access and utilize school equipment so that no student is excluded from instruction due to lack of access to technology.

E.   ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION AND OTHER COLLABORATIVE TOOLS

The superintendent is authorized to permit instructional personnel to incorporate email, social networking sites, blogs, wikis, video sharing sites, podcasts, video conferencing, online collaborations, PDAs, IMing, texting, virtual learning environments and/or other forms of direct electronic communications or Web 2.0 applications for educational purposes to the extent the superintendent deems appropriate and in accordance with policy 7335, Employee Use of Social Media. The superintendent shall establish parameters and rules for use of these tools and shall require instruction for students in how to use such tools in a safe, effective and appropriate way. Instructional personnel shall make all reasonable attempts to monitor student online activity and shall otherwise comply with the requirements of policy 3225/4312/7320, Technology Responsible Use, when using these tools

F.   TECHNOLOGY-RELATED PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The superintendent shall plan a program of technology-enabled professional development that prepares the instructional staff for utilizing digital tools and resources. Professional development shall emphasize technology integration and continuous improvement, including the use of ongoing technology-integrated, online-learning activities throughout

the course of study. Professional development shall also address the ethical, legal and practical issues related to social networking and mobile devices in the classroom and other topics deemed necessary by the superintendent or technology director. School improvement teams should identify any staff development appropriations for technology-related professional development in their school improvement plans. The superintendent and technology director should assist schools in coordinating staff development needs as provided in policy 1610/7800, Professional and Staff Development.

Legal References: G.S. 115C--522; 147-33.111; State Board of Education Policy TCS-C-018

Other References: North Carolina State School Technology Plan (Division of Instructional Technology) (current version)

Cross References: Professional and Staff Development (policy 1610/7800), Curriculum and Instructional Guides (policy 3115), Technology Responsible Use (policy 3225/4312/7320), Internet Safety (policy 3226), Copyright Compliance (policy 3230/7330), School Improvement Plan (policy 3430), Integrity and Civility (policy 4310), Public Records – Retention, Release and Disposition (policy 5070/7350), Network Security (policy 6524), Staff Responsibilities (policy 7300), Employee Use of Social Media (policy 7335), Gifts and Bequests (policy 8220)

Adopted: _____, 2012