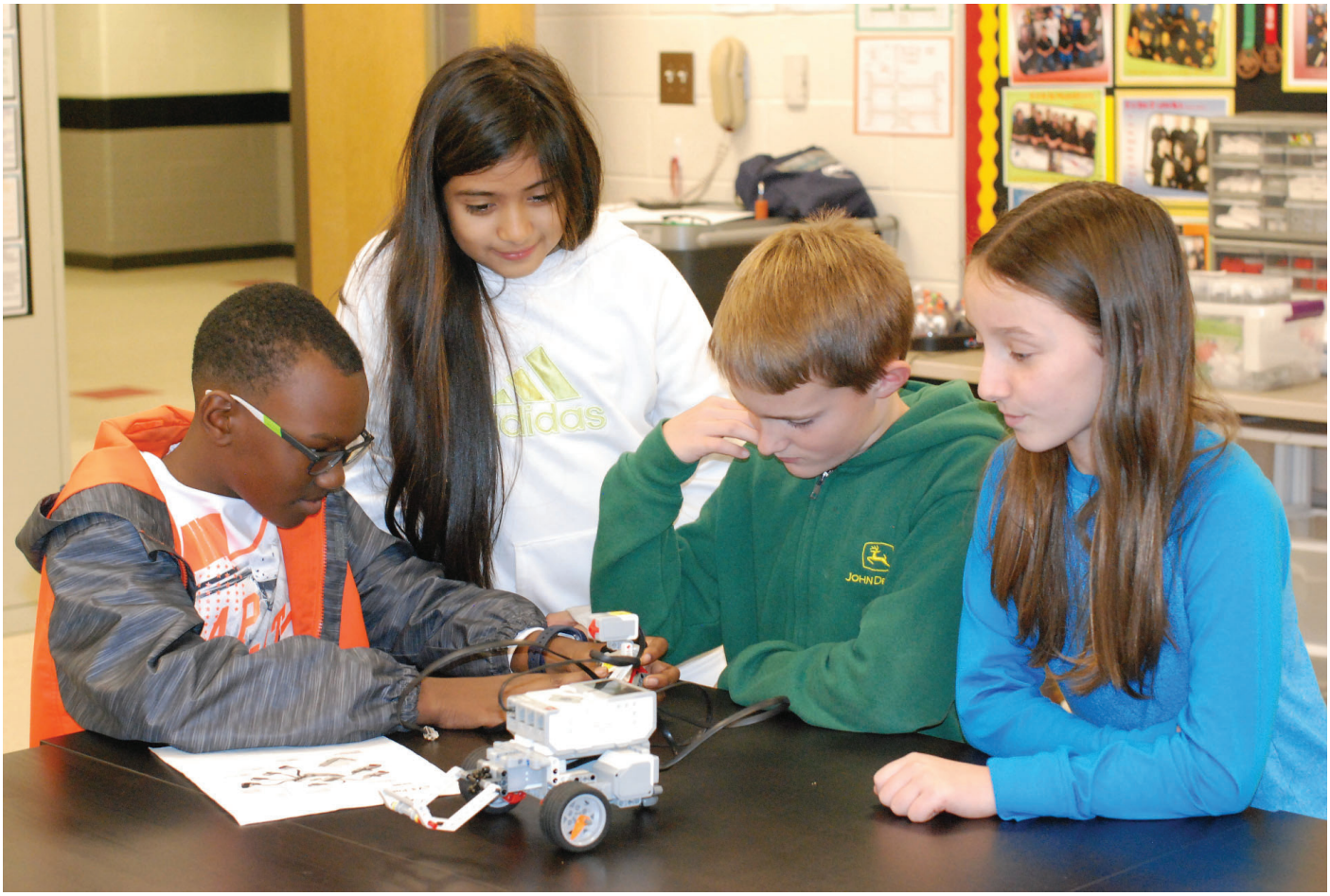
Cherokee County School District

A Future Ready Blueprint

for

Technology Use in the Cherokee County School District

Updated for the 2022-23 Academic Year



The Cherokee County School District Board of Education

Front row, from left Kelly Poole, Kyla Cromer - Chair, Patsy Jordan

Back row, from left, Clark Menard, John Harmon, Mike Chapman, Robert Reichsteiner - Vice Chair and
Superintendent, Dr. Brian V. Hightower

We deliver strategic and purposeful access to 21st century tools so students and staff can become invested in utilizing technology to collaborate, gather and use information to enhance teaching and learning.

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Section 1: Vision for Technology Use

At the very core of the CCSD's mission and purpose of educating the emerging generation is utilizing technology effectively. Our vision for technology use is to ensure access by students and staff to current and modern technological resources and to provide access to appropriate technologies for identified critical needs. By increasing the technology literacy and proficiency of the CCSD community, we envision enhanced student performance, staff productivity and efficiency throughout the organization.

Technology that supports personalized learning methods will elevate, rather than lessen the role of the teacher. Instructional approaches are shifting to a more feedback driven, coaching centered model. Technology advances are allowing teachers to spend less time on tedious classroom tasks and spend more time engaging and interacting with students. Our division seeks to provide technology that is tailored to meet the needs of CCSD students and teachers, so that instruction can be focused on building enduring understandings by providing personalized feedback to students.

Section 2: Current Reality

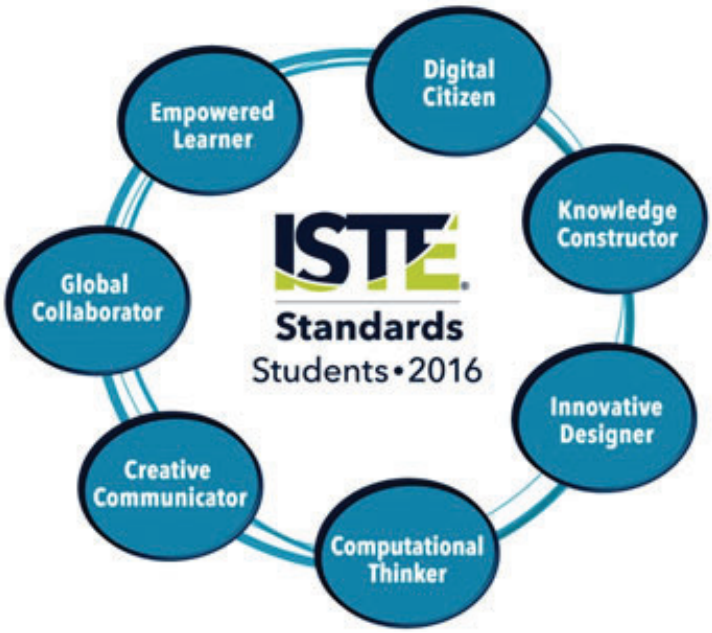
CCSD has invested heavily over the past 20+ years to build a solid technological foundation to provide students and educators with every opportunity to redefine what modern teaching and learning can be. Technology is such a pervasive part of the global economy. Research predicts unprecedented opportunities for the workforce of tomorrow, as automation could replace up to 50% of existing jobs in the US alone. New and emerging technologies can serve as a foundational learning tool in providing our students with the leverage to imagine, design, create and innovate for the future. Our students will be the creators of new industries and the solvers of existing and new problems.

The role of technology in the classroom has changed from being the spotlight to that of being one of many available resources to support the actual curriculum being delivered. Teachers use it daily to manage the classroom and as a conduit for lesson delivery. Students use it for access to content previously contained only in textbooks, for building projects, for collaborative activities in the learning space, and for finding and vetting information. School and District leaders can attain global strategic insight of their respective areas of responsibility using technology-based dashboards and report generators. These data dashboards offer district personnel the ability to visually analyze key/multiple school improvement metrics to ensure student success and allow for access to critical information in real time.

In addition to supporting the classroom, technology use has significant impact on the daily operations of managing a school district. Efficient, effective business practices are enabled through the use of technology. School districts have many of the same needs for professional management systems as private sector businesses including human resource management, support services for facilities, maintenance and new construction, transportation, food services, financial management; and, all of these services require complex management systems to ensure smooth and efficient operations.

International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE)

The International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) Standards for Students and the ISTE Standards for Educators serve as a guiding framework for the effective use of and integration of technology in the modern classroom. Our School Board officially adopted the ISTE standards and CCSD curriculum creators, teachers, media specialists, instructional lead strategists and instructional technologists incorporate these principles into lesson design and delivery daily.



The ISTE Standards for Students are designed to empower student voice and ensure that learning is a student-driven process.

https://www.iste.org/standards/iste-standards-for-students

The ISTE Standards for Educators serve as a road map to helping students become empowered learners. These standards are designed to deepen teacher practice, promote collaboration with peers, challenge teachers to rethink traditional approaches and prepare students to drive their own learning.

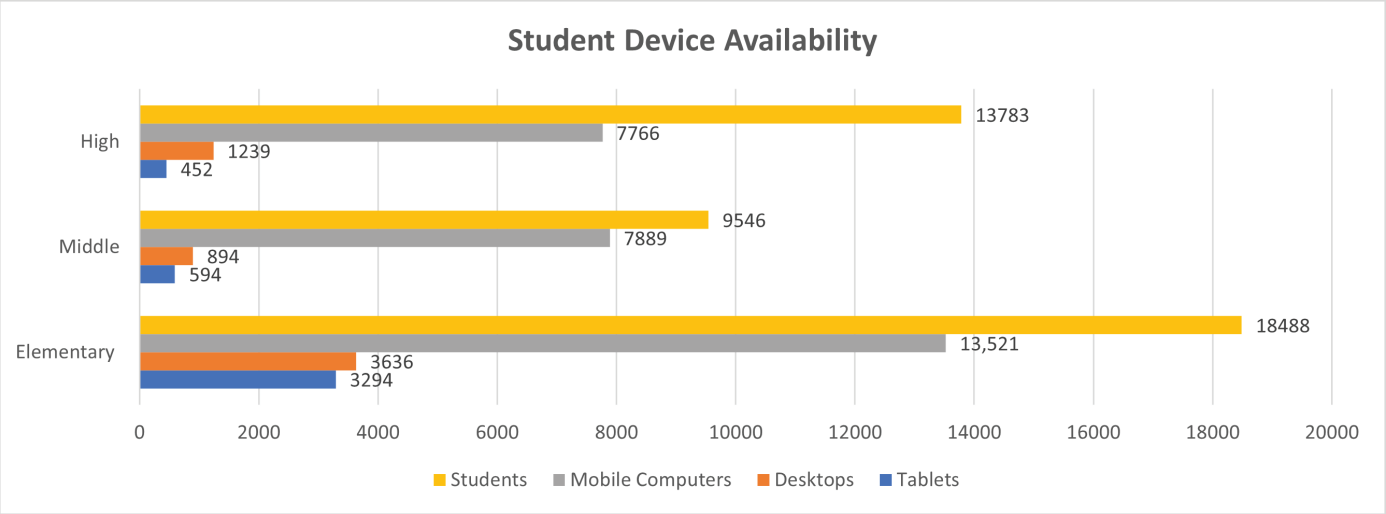
https://www.iste.org/standards/iste-standards-for-teachers

THE ISTE STANDARDS FOR STUDENTS AND STANDARDS FOR EDUCATORS WERE BOTH ADOPTED BY THE CCSD BOARD OF EDUCATION ON FEBRUARY 15, 2018

Access to Technology

CCSD adopted and standardized on the Microsoft Office 365 suite of productivity tools which is available to all CCSD students, their families and employees at no cost. A myriad of other software applications, including but not limited to the Adobe productivity suite, NearPod, BrainPop, Discovery Education, Autodesk, Solidworks,... all complement a vast repository of quality instructional tools and resources. By forming and implementing its educational technology vision around a set of shared digital and blended learning standards and practices, CCSD is on the path to meeting its strategic vision of preparing the emerging generation for success in the current and future workforce.

CCSD's fast-growing community currently serves over 41,000 students in 40 facilities. These students are able to access approximately 40,000 laptop, desktop and tablet computers to utilize the resources mentioned above. For students with unique needs, CCSD places significant effort to ensure they also have access. Learning is geared to be any time, any place, any path, any pace.



As costs for individual technology items continue to decline, the demand for more technology increases annually. The Bring Your Learning Device (BYLD) initiative, launched by CCSD in 2012, allows our students with their own mobile devices to bring them to class and use them, when the teachers allow. The BYLD program is helping to reduce the access gap. As many as 37 % of our students use the BYLD network daily on average. CCSD envisions a future where student access to content is individualized and personalized with access by way of a device dedicated to their use.

Technology availability is evident in all CCSD classrooms. Each classroom is equipped with an interactive electronic whiteboard with projector or LED panel that supports touch and includes software that allows teachers and students to redefine learning through interactive, creative and dynamic learning activities. There is intentional effort to move CCSD to as close to a completely mobile learning environment as financially and strategically possble; and, though many classrooms still have desktop computers, the number of mobile laptops available to students are increasing annually as replacements to those desktops. Laser printers, document cameras and classroom sound systems are all available to teachers and students to support daily instruction.

While creating and sustaining technology access in our schools is a challenge; the great potential for technology to improve teaching and learning makes our efforts for digital access essential to our BluePrint priority area. This imperative resonates to ensure gaps are eliminated to guarantee access for all students.

Future Forward/Life Ready

CCSD explores innovative and emerging technologies to help teachers get students invested in their learning. Innovative and emerging technologies such as the **Virtual Vortex** augmented 3-D virtual reality labs in all CCSD middle schools have introduced students to a more interactive, immersive, visual and dynamic format for learning and offers both large and small collaborative learning opportunities.

Efforts to update the traditional classroom have resulted in the creation of modern learning spaces such as the **Global Learning Theater** (GLT). This space is designed to foster local and global collaboration. Features include a high-quality video conferencing system, enhanced audio for two-way communication a video wall to facilitate virtual field trips, multiple interactive LED panels that use SMART Notebook software to facilitate group collaboration, 3-D projection to present augmented and virtual reality-based content and furniture that is mobile for an easy configuration to facilitate the lesson being delivered. While the GLT's exists in two of our CCSD schools, the concept can be scaled for our existing schools.

The district's **Learning Management System** (LMS) provides a unified instruction delivery platform accessible by our students, parents and guardians for any time, any place learning and monitoring throughout the year. This platform allows families to have visibility into what lessons are being taught, when assignments are due, when specific activities occur, as well as providing opportunities for communication with the teacher. It is available for all teachers to use at all grade levels.

Additionally, the LMS replaces the periodic "progress report" with a closer-to-real-time snapshot of how students are performing academically. Parents are encouraged to create accounts in order to receive announcements, notifications and alerts.

Grade	Technology Use Objectives for Students
K-5	• Computer use basics (i.e., keyboarding, mouse use, terminology) • Introduction to online Digital Citizenship • Coding/programming concepts • Using technology to create and communicate • Introduction to game-based learning
6-8	• Practice of Digital Citizenship • Coding projects using robotics • Game-based learning to identify problems and solutions • 3-D design and printing
9-12	• Demonstration of Digital Citizenship • Solving complex problems using all available technology • Effective communication and collaboration practices • Using and managing data • Game-based learning to master communication, collaboration, self-regulation and leadership • Preparing for college and career using technology resources

Technology Use Versus Blended Learning

In the delivery of instruction as it relates to the role technology will play, CCSD is making continuous effort to ensure educators understand and can distinguish technology use versus true blended learning. Many easily confuse technology use as true integration and this can result in simply substituting one medium for another (e.g., typing the paper instead of hand writing it).

Blended learning is about how technology tools enhance the teaching and learning experience. While it is important to understand how the technology tools work, caution must be taken to ensure the focus in not on just the use of the technology tool, but how to leverage that tool to empower learning, foster innovation and creative thinking, solve complex problems, encourage collaboration and build self-confidence, communication and social skills.

The chart below is used to help CCSD educators understand digital learning and blended learning.

Digital Learning/Rich Technology Use	Blended Learning
Use technology for efficiency	Incorporates online classroom presence
Uses "clickers" and polling devices to collect formative assessments	Provides repurposed instructional time
Supports teacher-to-student interaction	Supports student-to-student and teacher-to-student interaction
Creates documents and products	Requires strategic instructional lesson design
Uses an online environment for access to classwork directions, grades and to turn in work	Informs and is integrated into what is happening in the classroom
Promotes students working individually on online challenge opportunities	Connects seamlessly online and offline work
	Increases student collaboration through online discussion and feedback
	Increase student control of time, place, path and pace

Remote Learning

To address potential disruptions to the ability to attend school physically, CCSD began exploring options to implement "digital learning days" in 2019. Two models prevail, one designed for brief inclement weather situations or power/water outages where instruction can continue online but with eased expectations on work volume and participation time by students. Sessions are usually brief and are designed to ensure students are able to maintain pace with the subject content being delivered without the need to completely lose a day of instruction.

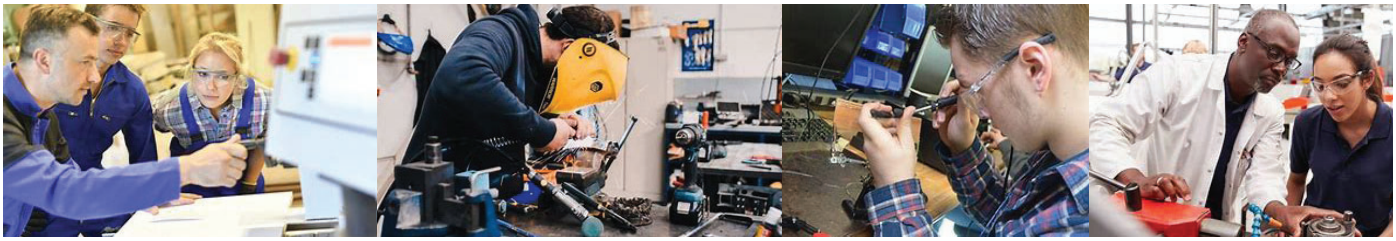
The second model is a full day of instruction where students are expected to attend and actively participate in all classes online. This model is appropriate for times when there are extenuating circumstances which impact the ability for a school (or district) to open for an extended period of time.

The learning management system platform combined with curricular content resources enable teachers and staff to instruct, inspire, monitor and engage students in remote learning activities.

Student Professional Certification Opportunities

Opportunities are available for CCSD students to attain industry certifications through participation in professional training programs while in school. Schools that are authorized testing centers can offer certification directly to the student; otherwise, students can attain certification by visiting certification centers throughout the Metro area. The following chart lists several of the technology-specific certification opportunities available in CCSD High Schools:

Sponsor	Certification	Locations Offered	Mastery/Certification
Adobe	Adobe Certification	River Ridge HS Woodstock HS	An Adobe Certified Associate (ACA) credential certifies that individuals have the entry-level skills to plan, design, build and maintain effective communications using different forms of digital media. This Adobe certification demonstrates entry-level skills with Adobe digital media software.
Autodesk	ACU- Autodesk Certified User	Authorized Autodesk testing Centers	The Autodesk Certified User (ACU) certifications verify that engineering, drafting and design students have the essential Autodesk/AutoCAD software skills and industry knowledge to start their career.
	ACP - Autodesk Certified Professional	Authorized Autodesk testing Centers	The Autodesk Certified Professional (ACP) is an advanced certification designed for professionals who possess expert-level knowledge of a tool and can solve complex challenges in workflow and design.
Facebook	Facebook Blueprint	River Ridge HS	Facebook awards credentials to individuals who demonstrate advanced-level proficiency in various aspects of digital marketing using Facebook products.

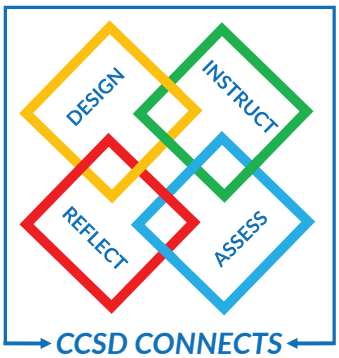


Sponsor	Certification	Locations Offered	Mastery/Certification
Microsoft	Microsoft Office Specialists	Cherokee HS River Ridge HS Woodstock HS	Students demonstrate the skills needed to get the most out of Office by earning a Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS) certification in a specific Office program. Holding a MOS certification can earn an entry-level business employee a significantly higher annual salary than uncertified peers.
Oracle	Java Certification	Cherokee HS	Oracle Certified Professional Java Programmer (OCPJP8) is a professional-level certification that validates students' knowledge and skills of Java code development in Java SE 8 version.
SOLIDWORKS	CWSA Academic Certified SOLIDWORKS Associate- Academic	Open to all students at authorized SOLIDWORKS Testing Centers	Certified SOLIDWORKS Associate - Academic (CSWA - Academic) certification is intended for an industry professional or student with a minimum of six to nine months of SOLIDWORKS.
	CSWP - Certified SOLIDWORKS Professional	Authorized SOLIDWORKS Testing Centers	Certified SOLIDWORKS Professional (CSWP) is an individual who successfully passes our advanced skills examination.
	CSDA - Certified Sustainable Design Associate	Authorized SOLIDWORKS Testing Centers	Certified Sustainable Design Associate (CSDA) demonstrates an understanding of the principles of environmental assessment and sustainable design.
	CSWSA – Certified SOLIDWORKS Simulations Associate	Authorized SOLIDWORKS Testing Centers	Certified SOLIDWORKS Simulation Associate - Finite Element Analysis (CSWSA - FEA) certification indicates a foundation in apprentice knowledge of demonstrating an understanding of the principles of stress analysis and the Finite Element Method (FEM).

Section 3: Challenges

Technology resources are always in high demand and funding for resources is available, but limited. The community's support of the Education Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (Ed-SPLOST) has provided and continues to allow for technology investments. Technology is ever-changing, and Ed-SPLOST funds have been used to sustain long-term investments such as the fiber and wireless infrastructure, the fileserver and data storage facilities and components.

Federal Erate discount programs currently provide a 50% discount (reimbursable) for Internet services and for qualifying hardware such as network devices, firewalls and content filters. The ability to refresh aging technology (e.g., student, teacher laptops, legacy printers, Interactive whiteboards) and provide additional product to meet demand is a constant challenge.



The overarching intent for technology use in classrooms is to support teaching and learning efforts. Using the Rigor/Relevance Framework along with our CCSD Instructional Framework enables both the Curriculum and the Technology Divisions to curate standards-aligned software, online resources and instructional strategies that are at the core of quality curriculum delivery. Finding quality, vetted, rigorous digital content is a constant demand for all academic areas in the quest to support evidence-based, high-impact instruction.

Ensuring high-quality instructional practices and evidence-based methods are key in leading students to build conceptional understandings in all subject areas. CCSD's efforts to explore the vast instructional offerings, initiate pilots to determine the impact and adopt rigorous and relevant programming with fidelity are rooted in our mission to provide strategic and purposeful access to modern and current tools. CCSD's technology team strives actively to collaborate with all divisions in building Future-Ready learning environments across our schools.

Access to the Internet to do schoolwork when off campus is problematic for many CCSD families who have no Internet access at home. Given the expectation is anytime, anyplace learning, dedicated devices at home and in school are needed for each student to ensure access and opportunity.

Attracting, hiring and retaining qualified technology professionals who possess the knowledge, skills and experience needed to help move the district forward continues to be a challenge. K-12 Education, like many industies, has to begin planning for a future wave of innovation and technological advancement. Artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, Internet of Things (IoT), data analytics, distance teaching and learning are now ready for integration into the K-12 ecosystem, and a future-ready workforce is needed to help prepare for the demand.

Because technology is ever-changing, ensuring faculty and staff maintain their professional technology skills and knowledge throughout each year is a significant challenge; mostly in finding adequate time for training sessions. To help educators be effective, impactful and use resources with fidelity, technology-based professional development must be continuous and pervasive.

Section 4: Goals, Strategies and Benchmarks for Continuious Improvement

There are five technology-related goals for continuous improvement outlined in the plan. Each are aligned with CCSD's Blueprint for strategic planning. Each goal includes strategies, success indicators, evaluation methods, funding sources and person(s) responsible for overseeing implementation.

Goal 1: ACCESS AND OPPORTUNITY – Ensure all CCSD students have access to the technical tools and resources needed to attain and sustain academic success.

Strategy	Success Indicator	Evaluation Method	Funding Source	Person(s) Responsible
Increase access to mobile devices for grades 6-12.	An increase in the number of District devices available to students	Annual Inventory of Technology Assets	Ed-SPLOST General Fund Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF)	Chief Information Officer
Ensure all students have access to digital resources needed for their academic success.	All academic areas have software/ resources access appropriate for the curricular area and all students have appropriate access	Annual Inventory of District Software titles, Audit of student access to resources	Ed-SPLOST General Fund Title Funding	Chief Academic Officer, Chief Information Officer, Executive Director of Special Education
Provide resources to individuals who require additional support.	Special needs gaps are identified and product/resources are acquired and distributed to address them	Annual Inventory of Technology Assets, Annual Inventory of District Software titles	Ed-SPLOST General Fund Title Funding	Chief Academic Officer, Chief Information Officer, Executive Director of Special Education

Goal 2: ORGANIZATIONAL AND OPERATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS – Promote effective and safe practices for teachers, administrators and leaders, in their use of technology to guide efficient and security-minded operations.

Strategy	Success Indicator	Evaluation Method	Funding Source	Person(s) Responsible
Decrease the reliance on manual workflows	Improved throughput, efficient and timely practices are realized	Replacement of manual process with efficient, electronic solutions, accompanying workflows and skilled operators	General Fund	Chief Information Officer Executive Directors of Student Information and Business Services
Increase awareness of safe computing on the district network	Fewer incidences of falling victim to cyber threats	Security audits and proactive threat analysis, staff training, staff education through email blasts and comunications	General Fund	Chief Information Officer, Chief of School Operations, Chief of School Police, Supervisor of Technology Support Services,

Goal 3: FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT – Ensure there are ample resources to keep families and community informed and engaged in technology-related activities.

Strategy	Success Indicator	Evaluation Method	Funding Source	Person(s) Responsible
Promote family participation in community events involving technology	Observed parent engagement activity	Attendance reports, Parent feedback from survey data	General Fund	Chief Communications Officer, Supervisor of Instructional Technology, District and School Leaders
Increase the use of Social Media to keep the community apprised of technology-related events, updates and activities.	An increase in the frequency (subscription, followers, etc.) of Social Media resources by stakeholders	Parent feedback from survey data, Monitoring Social Media subscription statistics	General Fund	Chief Communications Officer

Goal 4: POSITIVE CULTURE AND CLIMATE Promote well-being and confidence among staff and students using innovative teaching methods and tools.

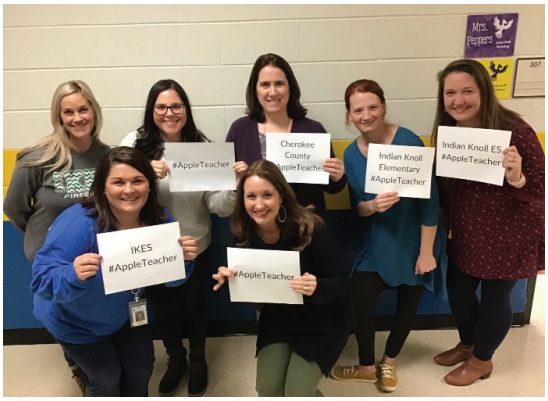
Strategy	Success Indicator	Evaluation Method	Funding Source	Person(s) Responsible
Increase game-based learning opportunities for students.	Increased traning participation and adoption by teachers of game-based instruction delivery- and increased student participation in classroom activities.	Adoption and implementation of Game-Based Curriculum and Gamified Classroom Activities; Lesson Plan reviews	General Fund	Chief Academic Officer, Chief Technology Officer, Supervisor of Instructional Technology, Supervisor of Digital Learning
Promote, highlight and celebrate the effective use of technology tools and resources in the classroom.	Increased communication of best practices (e.g., staff and public newsletters—CCSD Connections, Connection Points, District Delegate, Communicator)	ConnectED YOUniversity Professional development initiative	General Fund	Chief Academic Officer, Chief Information Officer, Executive Director of Special Education Supervisor of Instructional Technology, Supervisor of Professional Development
Leverage technology investments that contributes to students' investment in their learning success.	Students increase their level of participation and engagement in classroom activities	Student feedback, Parent feedback, Teacher feedback, (Survey data for all)	General Fund, Ed-SPLOST	Chief Academic Officer, Chief Technology Officer,

Goal 5: QUALITY WORKFORCE Enhance professional development opportunities for all CCSD staff.

Strategy	Success Indicator	Evaluation Method	Funding Source	Person(s) Responsible
Increase participation in teacher PD by 10% annually	Observed Improvement in instructional practices utilizing technology	Training attendance reports	Title IV Funds	Chief Information Officer, Chief Academic Officer, Chief School Operations Officer
Increase participation in Support Staff PD by 10% annually	Observed improvement in duties involving technology use	Training attendance reports	No Cost (Substitutes not required)	Chief Information Officer, Chief Academic Officer, Chief School Operations Officer
Increase participation in Leadership PD by 10% annually	Observed improvement in management oversite utilizing technology resources	Training attendance reports	No Cost (Substitutes not required)	Chief Information Officer, Chief Academic Officer, Chief School Operations Officer

CCSD has several business partners who support teacher professional development through continuing education initiatives. These PD programs help build teacher knowledge, skill, technical acuity and which, when combined with impactful, effective and relevant teaching practices, can translate into an enhanced learning experience for our students.

- The **Microsoft Innovative Educator** (MIE) and MIE- Expert programs, allows teachers to build their awareness, knowledge and skills of Microsoft Office365 through their use of the tools contained within the suite. CCSD has certified over 2,700 of its employees, teachers, support staff and a few students, as MIE, MSA or MIE-Experts over the past several years. Of the 95 MIE-Experts in Georgia, Cherokee County has 36 of them.
- **Nearpod**, an online curriculum suite, also offers teachers a Nearpod Certified Educator (NCE) certification for those educators who have demonstrated mastery through the use of the platform.



- **SMART** Technologies - allows opportunities for teachers to train and attain mastery for certification on their online teaching tools and use of their interactive whiteboards and panels.
- **Apple, Inc**. offers opportunity for teachers to delve into the resources available for K-12 institutions and become Apple Certified Educators.

Section 5: Infrastructure and Security

CCSD has a robust, high functioning and secured network. Both wired and wireless technologies are in place. Each School connects to the primary data center at 10Gb and has a wireless access cloud that allows connectivity from any wireless-ready device. The use of virtual-local area networks (vLANs) allows CCSD to segment portions of the network for optimized use, controlled traffic and improved security. CCSD uses modern technologies such as a high -performance Hyperconverged server system providing robust virtualization functionality to the District. The Bring Your Learning Device (BYLD) network allows students and guests to use their devices to access the Internet.

The District has an arsenal of tools and resources to secure the network. Firewalls block unwanted visitors and malicious attacks from entering our environment while content filters prevent students from accessing/viewing inappropriate and unsafe content. Threats sent via email or attachments are thwarted using a suite of anti-spam, anti-virus and anti-malware software. Pre-emptive technologies analyze patterns of behavior/use and quarantine or stop a threat before it reaches the network or the user.

Multi-Factored Authentication (MFA), refers to using several methods for validating identity when logging into a system. Examples include typing a password AND entering a PIN or scanning a finger and entering a code sent to your phone. It goes beyond having just one single security access method. MFA is quickly becoming the preferred and recommend "authentication" standard for virtually all systems and was implemented for all CCSD staff in 2020.

CCSD has implemented a software review process to make sure adopted curricular software:

- has educational value to our students
- is aligned with the proper Georgia Standards
- is modern, secure and compatible with CCSD's existing computing environment
- ensures the protection of student's Personally Identifiable Information (PII)
- does not duplicate functionality of existing software resources

Safety and Security Efforts Specific to Students

Login Security – Each CCSD student is provided with a unique login ID to the district network. These login ID's remain the same throughout the entirety of the students' matriculation through the district. Student passwords will expire for grades Kindergarten through 5 every 365 days and every 180 days for grades 6 through 12. Students are taught how to change those passwords. It is recommended students register for password self-service in the event they forget their password. Students are told by their teachers and it is a policy of CCSD's School Board to never to share passwords that allow access into the CCSD network with anyone.

Internet Access – Online safety courses are available to students. In homerooms, Media Centers and during Teacher-As-Advisor classes, students are exposed to opportunities that allow them to learn about being a good digital citizen

Digital Citizenship is a core concept of the ISTE standards for students and it reinforces and promotes good, safe and positive behavior while online.

Acceptable, Safe, and Responsible Use Policies – CCSD has three specific School Board policies that are in place to provide guidance and governance on the expectations of use by both students and staff for the technology resources provided by the School District.

https://www.cherokeek12.net/Content2/online-policy-manual

- IFABB – addresses Internet Safety
- IFBG – addresses acceptable and responsible uses of the resources provided
- IFBGA – addresses the purpose and intended outcomes for technology use

Section 6: Research and Grant Services

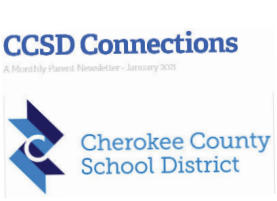
The Research Services Department provides open access to recent publications, articles, white papers and digitized research reports to assist district technology staff in promoting a future-focused paradigm for schools based on innovative research practice. Our district prioritizes areas of student achievement, organizational effectiveness, partnerships and engagement, positive culture and a quality, future-focused educational workforce. Specifically, we connect research to the policies and practices that will ensure all students have access to:

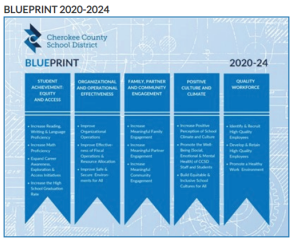
- Deep and intellectually challenging curricula
- Highly effective educators within all schools
- School models that meet students' needs by forging meaningful connections

By delivering the strongest evidence to district curriculum and technology staff, who set the course, the research department hopes to serve the practitioners who teach and lead children in CCSD classrooms every day through grant support, research data tools and a growing research repository that facilitates collaboration and the exchange of information. To make good on these commitments, the Research Department works to break down the silos that separate those in the classroom from the expertise and new research about our classrooms' most pressing challenges. We work to bring evidence of effective reforms to teachers in their language -- we try to rescue from obscurity, important findings of powerful educational interventions and share them with schools, district divisions and our community by creating a compendium of impactful research for discussion, review and the leveraging of innovative practice across the district.

Section 7: Award-Winning Communication and Marketing

CCSD utilizes several technology-based tools and platforms to connect with its stakeholders and community at-large. This is accomplished through intentional and purposeful utilization of its public website, intranet site, social media outlets (e.g., Twitter/Facebook/Instagram), School Messenger and Canvas. Additionally, CCSD engages both employees and the community through periodic newsletters (e.g., *Cardinal Directions*, *Connection Points*, *CCSD Connections*, *The District Delegate*, *Financial Facts* and *Budget Highlights*), and through major publications such as the *Annual Report of District Progress* and *Blueprint*.



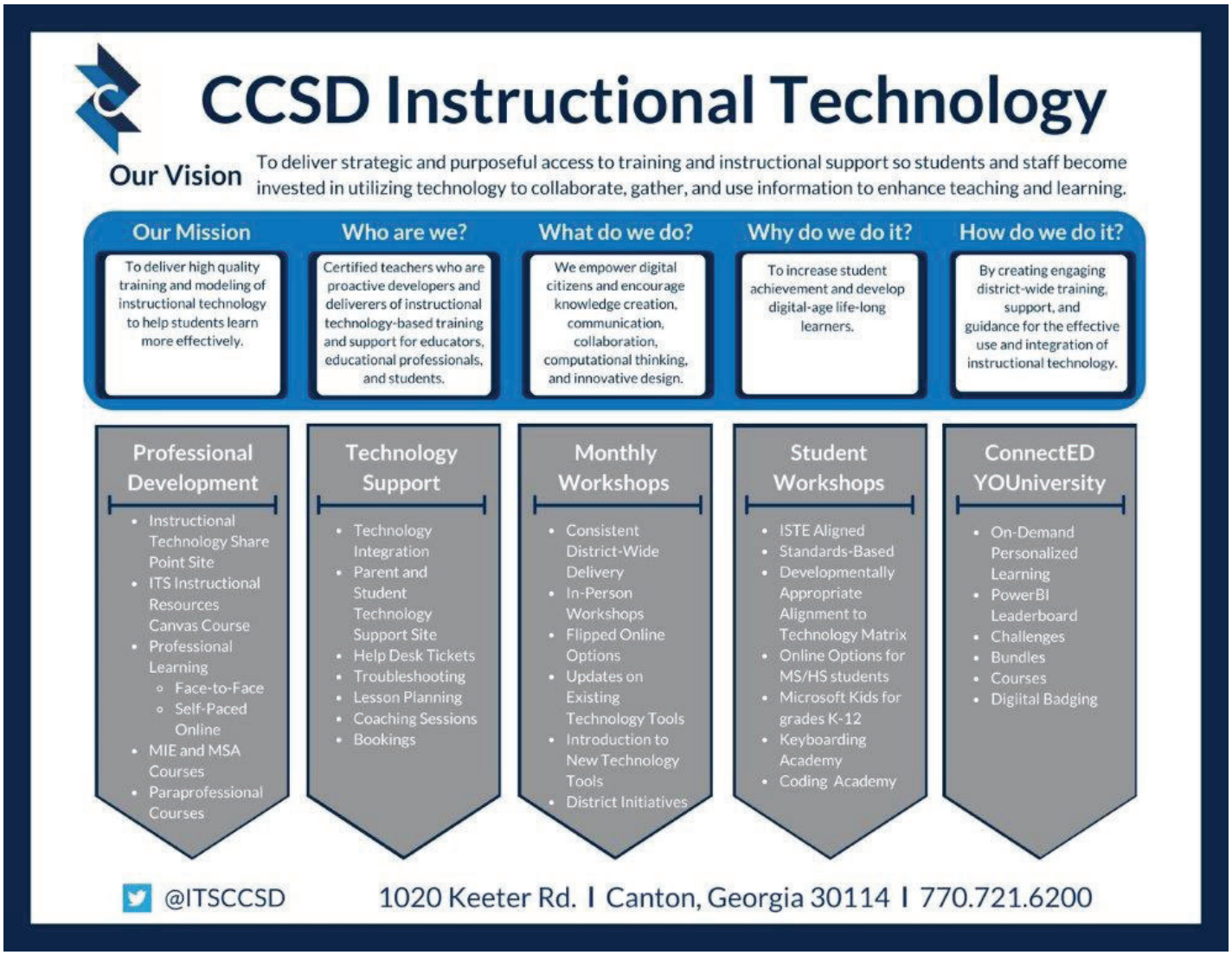


Section 8: Professional Development

Professional Development opportunities for teachers, support staff and administrators are based on identified needs with input from stakeholders. Most newly adopted and emerging technologies are accompanied with training opportunities. CCSD has a dedicated staff of Georgia certified educators who serve as field-based Instructional Technology Specialists (ITS), have earned a coaching endorsement and who provide technology-focused training throughout the academic year for classroom teachers, administrators, instructional support staff and other district employees. The ITS team supports the creation of lessons that deepen student understanding by utilizing innovative technologies such as augmented and virtual reality programs, game-based learning pedagogies, computer programming, STEM and STEAM efforts and other initiatives that have the potential to help teachers personalize learning in rigorous and relevant ways and ensure authentic learning experiences for students.

ITS work closely with school-based Instructional Lead Strategists (ILS) to help teachers understand opportunities where technology resources may or may not be needed in the delivery of instruction.

Keeping professional staff and teachers' technology skills honed is a necessary and constant challenge. Modern technology now allows employees to take online courses at their pace and when convenient for them. CCSD's **ConnectED YOUniversity** initiative provides teachers throughout the District with an engaging way to attain new technology skills with an undertone of friendly competition.



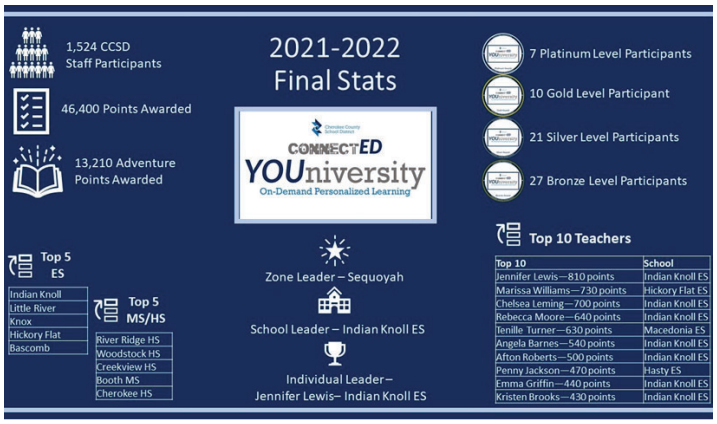
In Summary

CCSD continues to work hard to provide the components needed to achieve the goal of creating a personalized student-centered culture and recognizes the importance of technology in preparing our students for their role in sustaining and improving the global society. We, as educators and support professionals, must also be prepared to change and adapt as needed. Solid business practices, great leadership and a healthy relationship and partnership with parents, community and civic leaders, are key to helping inspire our students' investment in their own future. An indicator of success will be students taking active roles in forging a future filled with opportunity, prosperity and promise.

The graphic below identifies the core ecosystem used to foster instructional practices tailored to supporting the limitless learning potential and success of the emerging generation.

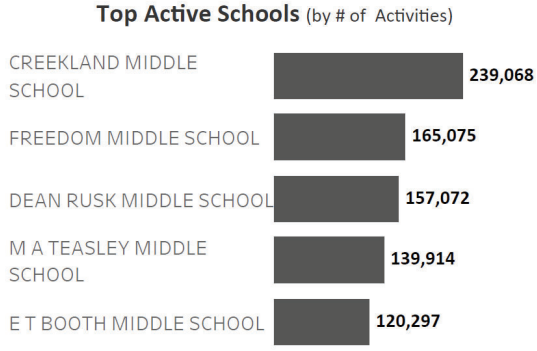
Staff and Student Skills Enhancment & Development

ConnectED YOUniversity



Student Investment

Nearpod Top Five Schools



Microsoft Innovative Educator

The Microsoft Innovative Educator (MIE) program is a global network of educators trained on using Microsoft Tools in the classrooms. The MIE—Experts are recognized by Microsoft as taking their use of resources to a new level of daily use and integration.

MIE in CCSD

The first step on the journey of digital transformation is becoming:

Microsoft selects an exclusive group of educators who are paving the way for their peers for better learning and student outcomes.

Microsoft CERTIFIED MIE

Microsoft MIE EXPERT

60% of CCSD Certified Staff

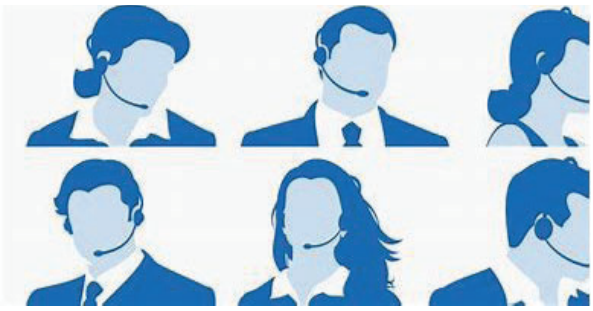
52% of CCSD Classified Staff

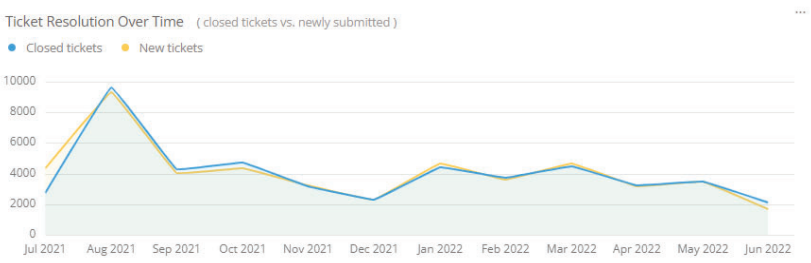
36 CCSD Staff Members hold this esteemed title.

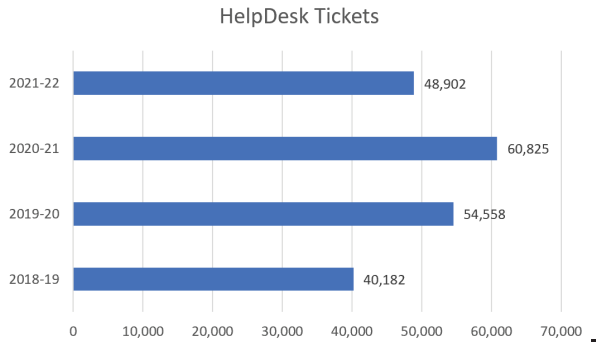
138 CCSD educators helped certify 5038 K-5 CCSD students through the Microsoft KIDS initiative which allows students to develop and demonstrate their mastery of Microsoft Office productivity tools and resources.

43 of CCSD's 6-12 Grade Students also completed the initiative with 1058 in progress!

Tech Support Services





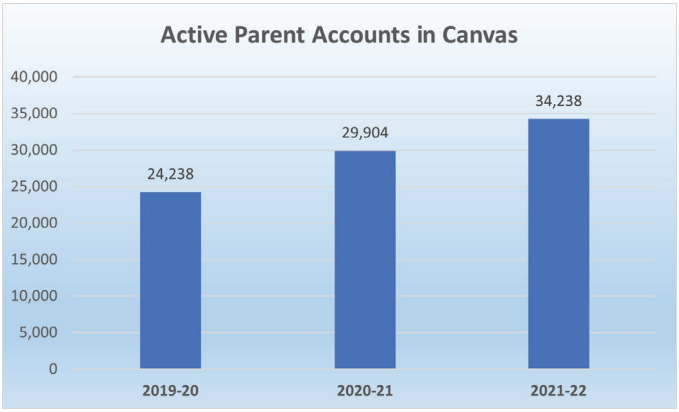


July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022

48,902

Help Desk Tickets Entered/Processed

Community Engagement



Cyber Security

Quick Stats

- **1.2** million threats blocked per day
- **500,000** approximate sign-ins processed per day
- **200+** security incidents resolved monthly
- **200,000+** spam emails blocked per day