



TECH PLAN

2021 - 2024



Message

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



“There is a proud tradition of excellence in our Marietta City Schools - we are a community dedicated to the learning of every child and the success of every school. I am honored to have this opportunity to share our district’s Technology Plan, and look forward to working together to make our schools and community all that our children deserve. Our vision is for all students to learn to their fullest.”

OVERVIEW

The technology improvement process is driven by three areas: infrastructure, access/experience, and support. Infrastructure includes the hardware and software needed to meet the technology goals of the district. Access and experience include expanding opportunities for students, parents, and school personnel to interact with technology in meaningful ways. Support includes the support systems required to facilitate high levels of access by administrators, teachers, and students. While infrastructure, access and experience, and support are separated in this plan for organizational and monitoring purposes, the intent is to develop processes that are complementary.

Having a robust, solid, and secure technology infrastructure is vital in today’s learning environment and it is enriched by

providing teachers and students the ability to work and learn uninhibited by technical constraints. Providing students with a technology-rich learning experience is critical for them to obtain the skills necessary for global competitiveness. To this end, the thoughtful use and instructional integration of technology provides staff, students, and families with the tools needed to maximize the learning environment. This technology plan serves as a guide for the implementation and support of technology throughout all schools in the district. The purpose of the plan is to assist district and school leadership with the evaluation of the current technology reality across schools and to develop a strategic plan to extend infrastructure, access, and support that enhances the successful integration of technology in instruction and learning.

Infrastructure

BELIEF STATEMENT

We believe a reliable and efficient infrastructure is necessary to support an effective and innovative learning environment. This allows for purposeful and strategic decision making regarding access, experience, and support.

GOALS:

- Continue to leverage state and federal e-rate funding offerings.
- Continue to expand wired and wireless infrastructure through upgrades as new equipment and standards are released.
- Continue to provide fast internet.
- Investigate improving cell phone reception in buildings.
- Provide a simpler solution for broadcasting morning announcements.
- Research building structure and staff needs to expand the rollout of shared printers in buildings.
- Expand training opportunities on hardware devices from the Office of Technology and Information Systems.
- Continue to investigate new technologies used by students for learning.
- Investigate solutions for bridging the homework gap and increase equity and access for at home learning.
- Investigate software beyond the LMS to assist with training students, parents, and staff on technology hardware.
- Consider expectations for Accessible Education Materials (AEM) Pilot with the Georgia Department of Education when developing processes for the acquisition of new technology.



Access/Experience

BELIEF STATEMENT

We believe equitable access to current, relevant technology for students and staff helps to provide an engaging learning experience for students and timely communication to parents.

GOALS:

- Complete a full technology audit of what schools have, what they are using, and how they are using it.
- Continue the refresh of student and teacher devices (define and publish refresh cycle info/remove old devices when inventory is refreshed).
- Continue to investigate ways to enhance SIS and LMS integration through grade passback.
- Continue to develop processes to engage more teachers in use of the Schoology assessment platform.
- Communicate how to access and use common bookmarks and extensions to staff and students.
- Investigate improvements needed to online test security including resolving hardware issues, increasing staff education, and writing a possible Administrative Guideline (AG).
- Investigate student help desks and best practices for schools to support the 1:1 Chromebook initiative. Provide guidance to schools for best practices in Chromebook rollout including tech support.
- Develop expanded training experiences for new students, families, and staff on technology hardware and software programs.
- Consider expectations for the Accessible Education Materials (AEM) Pilot with the Georgia Department of Education when developing processes for the acquisition and utilization of new resources.

Support



We believe providing reliable and consistent technology support and learning opportunities for staff, students, and families is necessary to develop our students into responsible digital citizens with the ability to use technology for lifelong learning.

BELIEF STATEMENT

GOALS:

- Investigate the possibility of expanding instructional technology support positions in the Office of Academic Achievement to provide more job-embedded professional learning for teachers and staff.
- Investigate the need to implement paid technology enhanced positions at each school.
- Clearly identify roles and responsibilities of School Techs and the District Instructional Technology and Innovation Coordinator.
- Evaluate IT support model and modify if necessary to maximize effectiveness and efficiency in the schools.
- Gather feedback on implementation of Schoology Expert Teams to identify what is working well and what needs to be improved.
- Leverage the LMS to provide training and professional learning for all major MCS technological resources including the SIS, LMS, and other applications.
- Define what teachers and staff should be able to do using technology to guide training and professional learning.
- Continue to redefine the role of Media Specialists and how they support instructional technology by gathering qualitative feedback on their roles to develop recommendations with future implications-potentially provide guidance on the work media specialists do with school staff and students.
- Build and maintain a centralized list of MCS supported applications that meet expectations as quality resources for teaching and learning.
- Increase technology education for students including Common Sense Media tools for digital citizenship.
- Increase awareness of social media and digital devices for parents and families (family digital citizenship).
- Investigate the possibility of student help desks in schools to support the 1:1 Chromebook initiative ensuring staffing is appropriate. Provide guidance to schools for best practices in Chrome book rollout including tech support.
- Consider expectations for the Accessible Education Materials (AEM) Pilot with the Georgia Department of Education when developing support processes for new resource rollout.

District Leader Committee Members

Dr. Jennifer Hernandez	Executive Director, Office of Academic Achievement
Torey Bradley	Director, Technology and Information Systems
Luke Burch	Technology and Innovation Coordinator, OAA
Chelsea Bargallo	6-12 ELA Coordinator, Office of Academic Achievement
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Dr. Dayton Hibbs	Principal, Marietta Middle School
Alex Soto	Assistant Principal, Park Street Elementary
Jason Meade	Associate Principal, Marietta High School
Carrie Madden	K-5 ESOL Coordinator, Office of Academic Programs
Yyanisha Bass	District Administrator for Special Services
Eden Hardbarger	District Administrator for Special Services
Bhavesh Mehta	Parent, Marietta Center for Advanced Academics
Matt Kelly	Technical Support Specialist III

Teacher Leader Committee Members

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Katie Gaudette	Instructional Coach, AL Burruss Elementary
Lauren Thornton	Instructional Coach, MSGA & MMS
Al McDaniel	Media Specialist, MCAA
Alicia Freeman	Teacher, Dunleith Elementary
Melanie Wilson	Teacher, Hickory Hills Elementary
Amanda Cobb	Teacher, Park Street Elementary
Erica Beck	Teacher, West Side Elementary
Tanya Bradley	Teacher, Sawyer Road Elementary
Lance Stewart	Teacher, Marietta Middle School
Wendy Locke	Teacher, Marietta High School
Valerie Trotter	Teacher, Marietta High School
Jessica Vaughn	Teacher, Marietta High School
Dennis Davis	Technology Specialist, Sawyer Road Elementary



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