

Strategic Plan | Specific Result Report

Goal 4 Action Plan Year 3 Priorities – 2019-2020

Goal 4:

Katy ISD will create and sustain best-in-class infrastructure to securely accommodate the current and next generation of digital content and tools for all stakeholders.

Specific Result:

4.2 Prepare all stakeholders to effectively utilize digital resources.

Summary Report:

The number of training sessions available to teachers and staff were increased throughout the year to more effectively utilize digital resources using Canvas. Live and in-person iCamp training sessions were planned this summer, however, with the COVID-19 interruption, this work will continue through a Virtual iCamp. Virtual “live” sessions and eCourses will also be offered to continue to highlight the effective use of digital online resources inside and outside of the classroom.

The continuing focus on the effective use of digital resources has enabled Katy ISD to deploy, in a very short period, possibly one of the largest and most comprehensive online learning platforms in the country in response to the COVID-19 interruption of in-person instruction. District teachers and students were ready to use existing and familiar tools and resources in Canvas and the MyKaty Cloud to facilitate online teaching and learning in less than a week.

The core of our online platform includes MyKaty Cloud, Canvas, online textbooks, and the online Parent Help Desk. This platform played a significant role in the success of our online learning environment during the COVID-19 crisis. It allowed the district to launch a successful full scale online learning environment for the regular school year, as well as the summer semester, in a very short period of time. However, in the future, the district must have the ability to switch between in-person and online learning even faster. The objective is to increasingly blur the line between in-person and online. Therefore, as online learning initiatives progress, the district will place greater emphasis on:

- Providing Online Instructor Certification Training
- Providing more training on delivering instruction via Zoom, Microsoft TEAMS, and Adobe Connect
- Leveraging Canvas for all upper elementary and secondary teachers
- Expanding the Connected Learner Initiative for teachers

In order to provide a one-stop-shop for all services and resources required by parents and guardians, the design and testing of a new parent portal, similar to the MyKaty Cloud utilized by students, was completed. The integration of the resources needed to be accessed by parents is about 80% complete. The next step will be a thorough testing and piloting of the portal.

The evaluation of an artificial intelligent (AI) system to provide technology self-support for District users was completed this school year. Several products were reviewed, but it was determined that none of the existing products are specifically tailored for K-12 customer self-support functions. The existing systems on the market would need to be significantly modified or customized to meet the District's needs in this area. The Technology Department will continue to explore new and emerging tools in this area for future implementation.