



WICHITA
PUBLIC SCHOOLS®

CREATION OVER CONSUMPTION

Technology With Purpose in Wichita Public Schools



Kansas State Board of Education
July 15, 2026



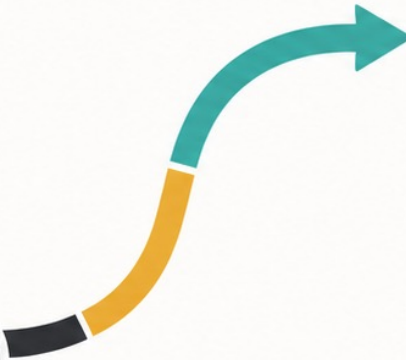
Kelly Bielefeld, Superintendent
Dyane Smokorowski, Coordinator of Digital Literacy
Katelyn Schoenhofer, AI Specialist



The Story We Do Not Always Hear

Most conversations about technology begin with **concern**.

Today, we will also look at **possibility**.



Access
Learning



Share
Thinking



Connect with
Real People
and Places



Create
Something
Meaningful

The device is not the story. The student is the story.



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Future Ready with Purposeful Technology

In Wichita, technology helps students access, connect, create, and share their learning.



**Make
Learning
Visible**



**Remove
Barriers**



**Connect to
Real People
and Places**



**Create,
Not Just
Consume**



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Remove Barriers

Access is not lowering expectations.
Access helps students reach the expectation.



**Language
Access**



**Reading
Support**



**Visual
Directions**



Independence



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Language Access With Immersive Reader

Technology can provide a way into the content.



Dense Classroom Text



Accessible Reading View



Hear Text
Read Aloud



Translate Key
Information



Adjust Text
Display



Revisit Content
Independently



Participate With
Greater Confidence



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Text Students See Before Immersive Reader

Classroom content
is often dense,
lengthy, and hard
to process.

Many students
struggle to access
the meaning.

Five workshops. You are still showing up. That says everything.

Most people stop at three. You didn't. And today's reflection is going to ask you to do something that sounds simple and turns out to be surprisingly hard – explain what you learned in plain language to someone who wasn't in the room.

No jargon. No slide deck. No edu-speak. Just you and 60 seconds and the real test of whether something actually landed.

Spoiler: the stumbling is the point. Let's go find it.

Here's what you'll do:

Open the reflection document below and work through four sections:

-  **Part 1 – The 60-Second Version:** Write what you learned today exactly like you'd explain it at a backyard cookout. Backyard cookout clear. No edu-speak allowed.
-  **Part 2 – The Gap:** What did you think you understood before you tried to explain it – and where did it get fuzzier than expected? That gap is the most valuable thing you found today.
-  **Part 3 – The Firefly Question:** What question is glowing brightest in your thinking right now – the one you did not have before today? Catch it before it disappears.
-  **Part 4 – Who Needs to Hear It:** Name the person. Write your opening two sentences. Then go actually say it out loud this week.



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Text Students See WITH Immersive Reader

Immersive Reader makes text easier to read and understand.



Clearer text
Easier to read



Language support
Helps build understanding



Reader tools
Adjust text to your needs



Independence
Learn with confidence

This flexible learning pathway is designed to help you explore innovative classroom practices while connecting with other educators across Wichita Public Schools. After attending each workshop, you will complete a short Canvas module focused on professional thinking,



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Text Students See WITH Immersive Reader

Immersive Reader translates text into multiple languages and has a built-in picture dictionary for challenging words.



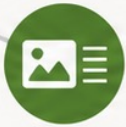
TRANSLATE

Read in the language that makes sense.



LISTEN

Hear the text read aloud to support fluency.



PICTURE DICTIONARY

Click words to see helpful pictures and definitions.

The screenshot shows the Immersive Reader interface with the following elements:

- Top bar: "Página principal" on the left, "Original | Spanish" in the center, and "AA" (font settings), a list icon, and a window icon on the right.
- Main text area: "¡Mensaje de bienvenida!" followed by "¡Bienvenidos a EdTech Summer Pick 3! Nos emociona que nos acompañes para un verano de ideas frescas, estrategias prácticas y aprendizaje profesional significativo. Esta vía de aprendizaje flexible está diseñada".
- Word dictionary pop-up for "acompañes":
 - English translation: "join"
 - Illustration: Two stick figures walking together towards the right.
- Bottom bar: A play button icon and a speaker icon.

**ONE WORD.
MULTIPLE
SUPPORTS.
MORE ACCESS.
MORE
CONFIDENCE.**



**Helping every
student access
meaning and
participate
fully.**



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MAKE LEARNING VISIBLE

*Technology helps families see the learning journey,
not just the final product.*



STUDENT VOICE

Students share their thinking
and reflect on their growth.



PHOTOS AND VIDEOS

Capture moments that
show learning in action.



FAMILY CONNECTION

Strengthen partnerships and
celebrate progress together.



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LITTLE
EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER

Seesaw as a Window Into Learning

Photos, videos, captions, and student work
help families see learning in real time.



Student Voice



Family Connection



Growth Over Time

*When families can see learning,
they can celebrate learning.*



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CREATIVE MINDS 

SEESAW MAKES LEARNING VISIBLE

Students explain their learning
to families through digital
and hands on examples.



DIGITAL WORK

Sharing learning
created on devices.



HANDS ON WORK

Celebrating learning
through play and
exploration.



STUDENT VOICE

Students reflect on
their thinking and
share their learning.



FAMILY CONNECTION

Building stronger
partnerships through
visible learning.

EXAMPLES OF LEARNING IN ACTION



In response to: My Kindness Story: Writing a Personal Essay

3/9

STEP 1: Remember Your Story

Think about a time when you felt sad, mad, or upset... and someone helped you feel better.

- | | |
|---|--|
| • - What happened that made you upset? | I was bad at bumping and setting at volley ball. |
| • - Who helped you feel better? | My dad. |
| • - What did they say or do? | He encouraged me and practiced with me to help me be better. |
| • - How did you feel after they helped you? | I felt like i belonged and better again. |

Seen by: Aaron, Lisa W

Oct 24, 2025 8:28 AM



When students can explain their learning,
families can see the thinking.



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VISIBLE LEARNING BUILDS TRUST

When learning is visible, families can:



Celebrate progress



Extend conversations at home



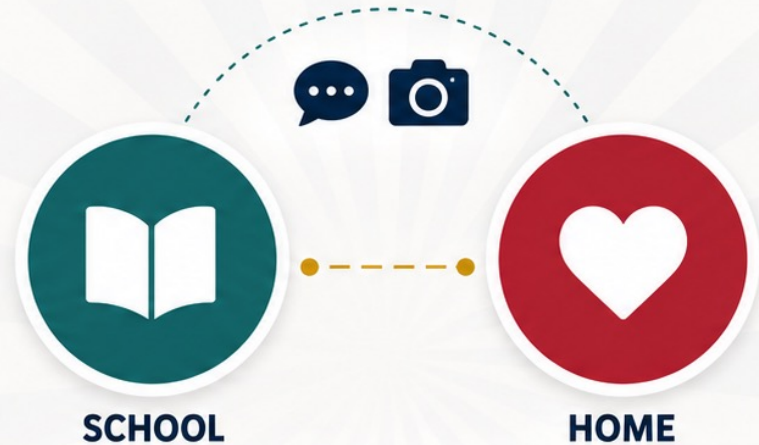
Understand classroom goals



See their child as a capable learner

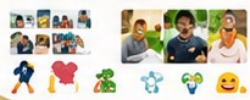


Build trust with the school



Together, we support every learner.
SEE IT. CELEBRATE IT. GROW TOGETHER.

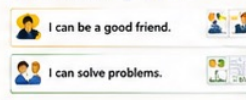
In the Makerspace



Exploring and Creating



Our Learning Goals



Math in Action



Building Together



Look What We Learned!



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Connect Students to Real People and Places

Technology expands the walls of the classroom.



Experts



Careers



Historic Places



National Parks



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Kansas Day Edventure Annual Statewide Event

A virtual learning experience
connecting students to Kansas
people, places, and stories.



**Live
Sessions**



**On Demand
Access**



**Grade Level
Supports**



**Statewide
Connections**



**Learning Beyond
One Classroom**



**WICHITA
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Kansas Day Edventure Annual Statewide Event

A virtual learning experience
connecting students to Kansas
people, places, and stories.



K-3 **Kansas State Amphibian** The Barred Tiger Salamander

Presented by Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks



Students meet Kansas' state amphibian and explore its life cycle, habitat, and the important role salamanders play in our environment.

3-8 **Dole-ing Out the Facts:** **Trivia on Kansas'** **Legendary Senator Bob Dole**

Presented by The Dole Institute of Politics



An interactive trivia challenge where students learn about Senator Bob Dole's life, service, and leadership in Kansas and in our nation.

6-8 **Kansas Unsung Heroes of Courage** **and Care: William D. Matthews &** **Mother Mary Bickerdyke**

Presented by The Lowell Milken Center for Unsung Heroes



Students discover how two Kansans showed courage and compassion during times of war and change, and how their legacies live on today.



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EXPLORE. CHOOSE. CONNECT.

Multiple live sessions each round.
Students choose what interests them most!

GRADES
3–5

SESSION REFLECTION

Use this scaffold to think, reflect, and remember.



SESSION NAME:



WHAT MADE YOU SAY “WHOA!” OR “THAT’S COOL!” DURING THIS SESSION?
Choose ONE thing that really caught your attention.



QUICK CAPTURE: WRITE 2–3 THINGS YOU WANT TO REMEMBER FROM THIS SESSION.



3–5 SESSIONS

CHOOSE WHAT INTERESTS YOU MOST!

9:30 – 10:00 AM

SESSION 1

- A School Day in 1872
- Dole-ing Out the Facts: Trivias on Kansas' Legendary Senator

10:30 – 11:00 AM

SESSION 2

- Kansas Symbols in Nature: Wildlife in the Sunflower State
- Famous Kansans with the Kansas Historical Society

2:00 – 2:30 PM

SESSION 3

- Ike: A Barefoot Boy in Abilene



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Virtual Career Days

Virtual Career Days help students see what is possible.

**FUTURE
READY**
May Your Future Be With You

MAY 4
STATEWIDE

 | Students connect with real professionals.  | Explore careers.  | Discover what's possible.



DISNEY IMAGINEERS

Creative problem solvers who design magical experiences.



NFL PLAYERS

Teamwork, discipline, and leadership on and off the field.



ARTISTS

Inspiring creativity and bringing ideas to life.



RESTAURATEURS

Building businesses and creating memorable experiences.



ENTREPRENEURS

Turning ideas into solutions that make a difference.



COMMUNITY LEADERS

Making strong communities even stronger.



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Virtual Field Trips Build Background Knowledge

Students can explore places textbooks alone cannot fully bring to life.



AMERICAN REVOLUTION VIRTUAL FIELD TRIPS

GRADES 5 & 8



- ✓ Walk through historic sites and battlefields
- ✓ Meet historians and costumed interpreters
- ✓ Connect events to today's world



NATIONAL PARK EDUCATION VIRTUAL FIELD TRIPS

GRADES 3-5



- ✓ Explore regions of the United States
- ✓ Discover animal habitats and ecosystems
- ✓ Inspire curiosity through nature and science



EXPERT VIDEO CALLS & GUEST EXPERTS

GRADES K-12



- ✓ Connect with real-world professionals
- ✓ Learn about careers and community impact
- ✓ Bring curriculum to life through live conversations



REAL PLACES.
REAL PEOPLE.



REAL CONNECTIONS.
REAL LEARNING.



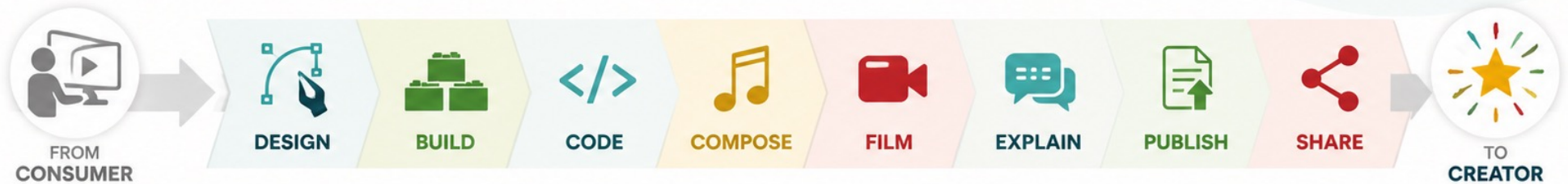
BUILD KNOWLEDGE.
EXPAND POSSIBILITIES.



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Create, Not Just Consume

Students should use technology to design, build, code, compose, film, explain, publish, and share.



Agency



Problem Solving



Collaboration



Confidence



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Creative Minds

A Kansas made model for helping students move from consumption to creation.



**TELL
STORIES**



**DESIGN
MEDIA**



COLLABORATE



**SHARE
IDEAS**



**BUILD
CONFIDENCE**



**CREATE FOR
AN AUDIENCE**



wichitacreativeminds.org



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Wildlife Wanderers in Action



Students shared learning through:

-  Podcasts
-  Books
-  Dioramas
-  Art
-  Games
-  Presentations
-  Community conversations



The room became a **museum of student voice.**



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Student Agency Looks Like This

Students make decisions, solve problems, communicate ideas, and contribute something meaningful.



TEACHER DESIGN

Intentional. Supported.
Purposeful.



We choose
CREATION
over
CONSUMPTION.

STUDENT AGENCY

Confident. Creative.
Connected. Contributing.



Powerful learning does not happen because tools exist.
It happens because teachers are supported to design it.



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Spaght Elementary

Code To The Future

Code To The Future is the Leader for
Computer Science Immersion.

Having been highlighted by the White House for
helping start America's first elementary
Computer Science Magnet Schools,
Code To The Future provides the premier
solution for Districts and Families.



1:1 Computer Experience



Computer Science in
Every Classroom



Intertwined with Core Studies



Opening Doors for Every Student

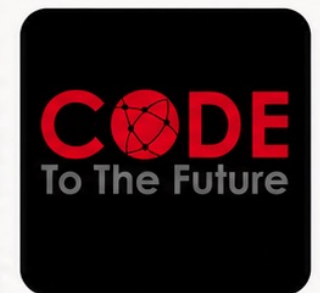


Empowering students in
the lowest SES zip code
in the state with
future-ready skills.



SPAGHT

SCIENCE AND COMMUNICATIONS
MAGNET ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Highlighted by the
White House for
helping start America's
first elementary
Computer Science
Magnet Schools.



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SPAGHT ELEMENTARY
SCIENCE AND COMMUNICATIONS
MAGNET ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

PUBLIC EXHIBITION OF LEARNING

Every student. Every grade. Every voice.



EVERY STUDENT SHOWED WHAT
THEY LEARNED THROUGH CODING.



LOCAL CIOs FROM TEXTRON,
BANKS, AND COMMUNITY LEADERS
CAME TO SEE OUR STUDENTS SHINE.



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INVESTMENT BEHIND CODE TO THE FUTURE

The Code to the Future work at Spaght Elementary is funded through **DOCK 2.0**, the **Digital Opportunities to Connect Kansans 2.0** program, administered by the Kansas Department of Commerce.



KANSAS
DEPARTMENT OF
COMMERCE



DOCK 2.0
GRANT



USD 259 /
WICHITA PUBLIC
SCHOOLS



SPAGHT
CODE TO
THE FUTURE



GRANT PROJECT:
*"Building a Pipeline of
Digitally Literate
Future Ready Students"*



Launched at
Spaght Elementary
during the
2025–2026
school year

THIS STRATEGIC STATE INVESTMENT MADE POSSIBLE:



1:1 ACCESS
Every student,
every day



DAILY CODING INSTRUCTION
Built into learning



EVERY SPAGHT STUDENT
Future ready



DEVICES ARE THE INFRASTRUCTURE.
What matters is what students are doing with them.



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A Hopeful and Realistic View

Wichita is not ignoring concerns about technology.
We are **guiding technology** toward meaningful learning.



TOWARD VISIBLE LEARNING

Learning you can see,
understand, and build on.



TOWARD ACCESS

Access to opportunity,
every student, every day.



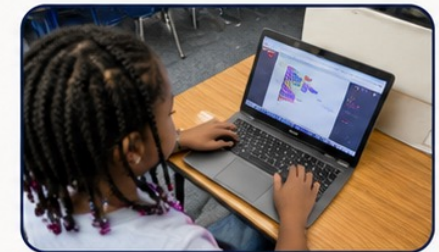
TOWARD CONNECTION

Connecting learning
to the world around us.



TOWARD CREATIVITY

Empowering students
to imagine and create.



A hopeful view is not the same as an unrealistic view.

Hopeful means we are choosing to design toward what is possible.



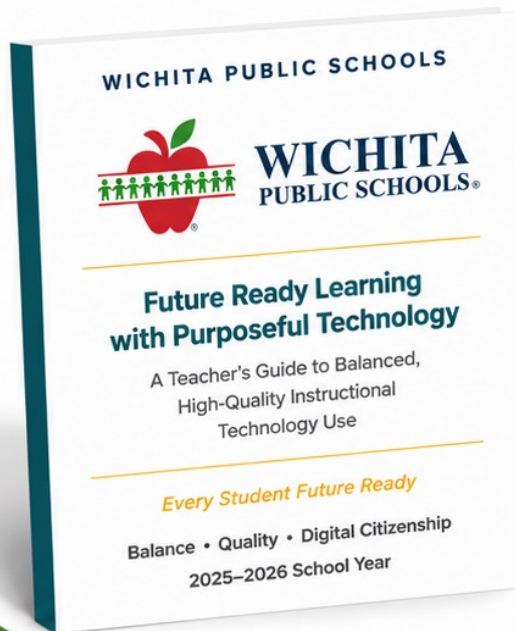
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GUIDED BY OUR TECHNOLOGY USE GUIDELINES

A clear guide that helps teachers use technology with purpose and balance.



Our teachers have a clear guide so students get the best of technology—not too little and not too much.



GRADE-BAND GUIDELINES

Clear expectations for appropriate technology use at every level.



WHAT QUALITY LOOKS LIKE

Examples of high-quality, purposeful technology use that drives student learning.



UNACCEPTABLE USES

A clear list of practices we avoid so students stay focused on what matters.



DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP

Talking points and strategies to help students be safe, respectful, and responsible online.



MAKING IT WORK

Practical, doable steps teachers can take right away in their classrooms.



PARENT SUPPORT

Tools to help respond to questions and build trust with families.



Our guidelines support confident teachers and engaged students.
Purposeful technology. Powerful learning. Future ready.



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OUR GUIDELINES AT A GLANCE



**Purposeful
technology.**

**Powerful
learning.**

Future ready.



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 GRADE BAND	 DEVICES	 DAILY SCREEN TIME	 KEY PRINCIPLE
K Kindergarten	 None assigned	 Minimal to none (5–10 min teacher-led)	 Learning is physical, social, and sensory
1–2 Grades 1–2	 Shared iPads	 30–45 min max (10–15 min sessions)	 Tech is one option among many
3–5 Grades 3–5	 Shared iPads	 45–90 min max (15–25 min sessions)	 From consumers to creators
6–8 Grades 6–8	 1:1 Laptops (stay at school)	 Varies by lesson; not every lesson	 Structure and self-regulation
9–12 Grades 9–12	 1:1 Laptops (go home)	 Fluid; balance across the week	 Self-directed, responsible use



Guidelines that support great teaching and every learner.
Right tool. Right time. Right purpose.



THE DEVICE IS NOT THE STORY.

THE STUDENT IS THE STORY.



MORE ACCESS

Every student.
Every opportunity.



MORE CONNECTION

Stronger relationships.
Broader perspectives.



MORE VISIBLE LEARNING

Thinking seen.
Growth shown.



MORE CREATION

From consumers
to creators.



MORE AGENCY

Students leading
their learning.



We design experiences that empower students
to learn, grow, create, and lead.



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QUESTIONS AND CONVERSATION

What would you like to know more about?



VISIBLE LEARNING & FAMILIES

Strengthening learning
together.



ACCESS & BARRIERS

Removing obstacles.
Expanding opportunities.



VIRTUAL EXPERTS & FIELD TRIPS

Connecting students
to the world.



STUDENT CREATION

Empowering students
as creators.



PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

Growing together
as educators.



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