

# DOTHAN CITY SCHOOLS

## District Technology Plan (2026–2027)

LEA Name: Dothan City Schools (System 130) | Approval Date: October 2026

Superintendent: Dr. Garrick Askew | Director of Technology Services: Jeremy Green

## 1) Executive Summary

### a) Description of the School District & Demographic Profile

Located in Southeast Alabama within Houston County, **Dothan City Schools** serves an official reconciled enrollment of **8,285 Pre-Kindergarten through 12th-grade students** across 19 total schools and specialized educational sites for the 2026–2027 academic year. The district operates as an essential educational and economic hub in the Wiregrass region, maintaining an active workforce of 1,148 personnel (664 certified educators and 484 support staff), positioning the school system as the second-largest employer in Houston County behind Southeast Health.

#### School Grade Configurations & Program Structure

The district's 19 instructional facilities are structured to foster engaging, meaningful, and age-appropriate learning environments across all developmental stages:

- **Early Childhood Education (2 Facilities):** Dothan City Early Education Center and Dothan City Head Start Center, serving 543 Pre-K students across 29 First Class Pre-K and Head Start classrooms.
- **Elementary Schools (11 Campuses):** Hidden Lake Primary (Grades K–2), Jerry Lee Faine Elementary (Pre-K–5), and nine elementary campuses serving K–5 (Girard, Heard, Highlands, Kelly Springs, Morris Slingluff, Selma Street, Beverlye Intermediate, and Carver School for Math, Science, and Technology). Carver MST operates as a special-admissions STEM academy serving Grades 3–6 based on academic criteria.
- **District 6th Grade Center (1 Campus):** Dothan 6th Grade Center, housing all 6th-grade students district-wide to support a smooth transition into secondary education.
- **Secondary Schools (3 Campuses):** Dothan Preparatory Academy (Grades 7–8), Carver 9th Grade Academy (Grade 9), and Dothan High School (Grades 10–12), offering robust Advanced Placement (AP), CTE, and college-preparatory pathways.
- **Virtual & Specialty Centers (3 Programs):** Dothan City Virtual School (Grades 7–12), an alternative education program site, and Dothan Tech, a state-of-the-art career-technical facility offering hands-on training in Health Sciences, Automotive Repair, Engineering, and Law Enforcement.

#### Updated Community Profile & Census Data (2024–2026)

According to updated U.S. Census Bureau estimates (2024 ACS) and local economic development projections for 2026, the City of Dothan has a population of **71,514 to 72,242 residents**, with the broader Dothan Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) encompassing 154,800 to 156,266 residents across 90 square miles. Key socioeconomic indicators include:

- **Economic & Household Figures:** Median household income is updated to \$55,792 (up from the \$55,052 baseline), with a city poverty rate of 19.3%. Median home values average between \$194,000 and \$232,500, with median monthly rent at \$958.

- **Racial & Cultural Demographics:** Dothan's population comprises 54.4% White, 35.7% Black or African American, 4.4% Hispanic or Latino, 2.5% Multiracial, and 1.58% Asian residents.
- **Educational Attainment:** 88.0% of adult residents aged 25+ hold a high school diploma or higher, and 27.3% hold a bachelor's degree or higher.
- **Special Student Populations:** 18.06% of enrolled students receive Special Education services under IDEA, and 5.31% are identified as English Language Learners (ELL). Average daily attendance district-wide remains strong at over 91%.

### Official School-by-School Free & Reduced Lunch Rates

The following table establishes the socioeconomic distribution across all 19 district facilities, serving as the official baseline for federal funding allocations and technology resource distribution:

| School / Facility Name                | Grades Served | Free & Reduced Lunch % | Title I Status           |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Dothan City Head Start / Pre-K Center | Pre-K         | 98.0%                  | Title I Eligible / Pre-K |
| Girard Elementary School              | K–5           | 97.0%                  | Title I Schoolwide       |
| Jerry Lee Faine Elementary School     | Pre-K–5       | 96.0%                  | Title I Schoolwide       |
| Beverlye Intermediate School          | K–5           | 93.0%                  | Title I Schoolwide       |
| Selma Street Elementary School        | K–5           | 91.0%                  | Title I Schoolwide       |
| Morris Slingluff Elementary School    | K–5           | 86.0%                  | Title I Schoolwide       |
| Dothan 6th Grade Center               | Grade 6       | 84.0%                  | Title I Schoolwide       |
| Hidden Lake Primary School            | K–2           | 84.0%                  | Title I Schoolwide       |
| Kelly Springs Elementary School       | K–5           | 80.0%                  | Title I Schoolwide       |
| Dothan Preparatory Academy            | Grades 7–8    | 78.0%                  | Title I Schoolwide       |
| Heard Elementary School               | K–5           | 77.0%                  | Title I Schoolwide       |
| Carver 9th Grade Academy              | Grade 9       | 73.0%                  | Title I Schoolwide       |
| Dothan City Virtual School            | Grades 7–12   | 70.0%                  | Non-Title I / District   |
| Dothan High School                    | Grades 10–12  | 67.0%                  | District Eligible        |

|                                          |            |       |                        |
|------------------------------------------|------------|-------|------------------------|
| Dothan City Early Education Center       | Pre-K      | 66.0% | First Class Pre-K      |
| Carver School for Math, Science, & Tech. | Grades 3–6 | 63.0% | Special Admission STEM |
| Highlands Elementary School              | K–5        | 45.0% | Non-Title I            |

## Major Priorities for the 2026–2027 Academic Year

Driven by state compliance mandates and local instructional goals, Dothan City Schools establishes five overarching technology priorities for 2026–2027:

- **Pillar 1 — Network Infrastructure & Security Upgrade:** Execute planned E-Rate upgrades for aging network switches, wireless access points (APs), and MDF/IDF battery backups approaching end-of-support. Initiate the Core Data Center upgrade on October 1, 2026, and integrate all network infrastructure into a unified management platform.
- **Pillar 2 — Curriculum Integration, AI Literacy & DLCS Standards:** Deploy structured professional learning through ATIM PLUs focusing on responsible K–12 Artificial Intelligence (AI) integration, digital citizenship, and full alignment with the 2025 Alabama Course of Study: Digital Literacy and Computer Science (DLCS) standards.
- **Pillar 3 — Device Lifecycle Refresh & Consolidated Asset Management:** Separate asset inventory tracking from the 5-year device refresh cycle. Deploy an automated reporting system to manage Chromebook and workstation replacement, and consolidate desktop/laptop inventories into a single database.
- **Pillar 4 — Software Governance & FOCUS Act Tracking:** Implement a formal 7-step Digital Tool Request and Approval Workflow, leverage 1EdTech TAMS for software management, and ensure 100% monitoring of the FOCUS Act course completion requirement in PowerSchool SIS.
- **Healthy Early Development & Screen Time Balance:** Establish clear screen-time guidelines for kindergarten and early childhood programs in compliance with the Healthy Early Development and Screen Time Act, using CoSN screen time continuum frameworks.

## b) District Vision & Mission Statement

- **Mission Statement:** C.A.R.E.S. — Communicate, Achieve, Relate, Engage, Succeed
- **Vision Statement:** EMPOWER EVERYONE EVERYDAY

## c) Additional Information: Integrated Student Support & Mental Health

Dothan City Schools Health Services and Mental Health community leaders operate a comprehensive school-based mental health program in partnership with the Alabama Department of Mental Health and the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE). This program provides on-site preventative care, crisis intervention, and social-emotional support across all campuses. All services are conducted in private, confidential campus spaces at no cost to families, ensuring that mental health barriers do not hinder academic or digital learning success.

## 2) Stakeholder Involvement & ACIP Alignment

District technology planning directly informs school-level implementation but **does NOT replace each school's required Comprehensive Needs Assessment (CNA), Title I Schoolwide Plan, ACIP, or CSI/TSI stakeholder process**. Each school maintains autonomy over its specific academic interventions, stakeholder engagement, budgets, and evaluation metrics. District technology leadership collaborates with principals and school technology committees to ensure district infrastructure aligns with school-level continuous improvement goals.

### Technology Planning Committee Roster & Departmental Representation

| Committee Member Name | District Email Address           | Position / Department                             |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| Alyssa Dyre           | adyre@dothan.k12.al.us           | Director of Exceptional Student Services          |
| Blair Peterman        | bpeterman@dothan.k12.al.us       | Director of Health Services                       |
| Brian Riviere         | briviere@dothan.k12.al.us        | Principal Dothan High School                      |
| Cade McCardle         | cade.mccardle@dothan.k12.al.us   | Technology Integration Specialists                |
| Charles Corbitt       | charles.corbitt@dothan.k12.al.us | Director of Student Services                      |
| Jeremy Green          | jgreen@dothan.k12.al.us          | Director of Technology Services                   |
| Jason Thweatt         | jthweatt@dothan.k12.al.us        | Network Administrator                             |
| Kacia Thompson        | kacia.thompson@dothan.k12.al.us  | Assistant Superintendent / Instructional Services |
| Lee Jacobs            | ljacobs@dothan.k12.al.us         | Assistant Superintendent / Federal Programs       |
| Lori Shaughnessy      | loshaughnessy@dothan.k12.al.us   | Secondary Coordinator                             |
| Patrick Mallory       | pmallory@dothan.k12.al.us        | Chief Operations Officer / HR Director            |
| Ryan Richards         | rrichards@dothan.k12.al.us       | Career & Technical Education Director             |
| Sherry Corbitt        | scorbitt@dothan.k12.al.us        | Elementary Coordinator                            |
| Sarahann Odom         | sodom@dothan.k12.al.us           | English Language Learners Coordinator             |

### 3) Data Sources & Funding Guardrails

#### a) Comprehensive Data Sources

Technology priorities are established through multi-faceted data analysis, incorporating: (1) School CNAs and ACIP Priority Summaries, (2) ACAP Summative and Benchmark Assessment Data, (3) ACT WorkKeys and College Readiness Metrics, (4) Attendance and Discipline Reports, (5) Alabama Educator Technology Survey results, (6) 1EdTech TAMS Software Utilization Audits, and (7) Network & Security Audits conducted by the Alabama Supercomputer Authority (ASA).

#### b) Funding Sources & Mandatory Federal Compliance Guardrails

Dothan City Schools utilizes a multi-stream funding approach including General Fund, Capital Improvement Fund, E-Rate (USAC), Title I Part A, Title II Part A, Title III Part A, Title IV Part A, IDEA Part B, and Carl D. Perkins CTE funds.

##### **MANDATORY FEDERAL GRANT COMPLIANCE GUARDRAIL:**

Grant funds may support technology only when a proposed cost meets the specific program purpose and award conditions; is necessary, reasonable, allocable, and properly documented; addresses an identified academic need in an approved ACIP; complies with applicable supplement-not-supplant rules; and appears in an approved grant application and budget. **Listing a funding source in this plan does NOT authorize a purchase.** District infrastructure replacements, routine hardware refreshes, and general network maintenance cannot be automatically charged to federal grants (Title I, Title III, IDEA, Perkins) without program-specific justifications, documented allocation bases, and explicit approval from the Division of Accountability and Federal Programs.

### 4) Comprehensive Needs Assessment (Four EdTech Pillars)

#### Pillar 1: Network Infrastructure

**Objective:** Plan for and implement reliable, resilient, and future-ready network infrastructure that supports digital learning, secures sensitive data, and ensures effective operations.

- **Current Infrastructure Strengths:** 2.5 Gbps direct fiber link to the Alabama Supercomputer Authority (ASA) ISP and Security Operations Center (SOC); 10 Gbps core backbone trunk; 1.5 Gbps WAN fiber connection to high-density secondary campuses (Carver 9th, DPA, Dothan High) and 1 Gbps fiber link to all other sites; enterprise Next-Gen Firewalls at all campuses; Sophos Intercept X EDR on all endpoints; Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) on email and admin accounts; and 3-2-1-1-0 off-site disaster recovery replication.
- **Identified Areas of Improvement & Needs:** Upgrade aging network switches, wireless access points, and MDF/IDF battery backups reaching end-of-support status across campuses via E-Rate. Initiate the Core Data Center upgrade on October 1, 2026, and integrate all network hardware into a centralized management platform for automated firmware patching and fault monitoring.

#### Pillar 2: Professional Learning & Technology Integration

**Objective:** Integrate technology effectively into teaching, learning, administrative, and operational practices with ongoing professional learning opportunities for key stakeholders.

- **Current Integration Strengths:** Interactive flat panels installed in 100% of district classrooms; enterprise Google Workspace collaboration tools; established train-the-trainer model; and technology alignment with College and Career Readiness Standards (CCRS).
- **Identified Areas of Improvement & Needs:** Provide structured professional learning on guided, responsible K–12 Artificial Intelligence (AI) integration (leveraging ATIM PLUs); align instruction with the 2025 Alabama Course of Study: Digital Literacy and Computer Science (DLCS) standards; implement screen-time balance guidelines under the Healthy Early Development and Screen Time Act; and define the coaching role of the Technology Integration Specialist in partnering with Curriculum & Instruction.

### Pillar 3: Equipment & Devices

**Objective:** Provide students and staff with access to sufficient hardware that supports instruction, learning, and school operations.

- **Current Device Strengths:** Fleet of 10,000+ Chromebooks serving 8,285 students; 1:1 dedicated deployment for Dothan City Virtual School; classroom charging cart model for Pre-K–12; 100% student Chromebook refresh completed within the last year; and centralized device management via Microsoft SCCM and Google Admin Console.
- **Identified Areas of Improvement & Needs:** Separate fixed-asset inventory tracking from device refresh management. Deploy an automated reporting system to manage the district's 5-year student and staff device refresh lifecycle. Consolidate desktop, laptop, and network hardware inventories into a single centralized technology database.

### Pillar 4: Digital Tools & Compliance

**Objective:** Implement a system for procuring, evaluating, deploying, and managing digital tools and software applications to ensure safe, secure, and effective use.

- **Current Tool & Governance Strengths:** Widespread adoption of high-quality applications (Imagine Learning, Pearson, Edgenuity, ACCESS Virtual Learning, Renaissance Place, Book Systems Atrium); adoption of 1EdTech TAMS as an approved tool management strength; and active annual review of Data Governance Policy, Data Governance Procedures, and Acceptable Use Policy.
- **Identified Areas of Improvement & Needs:** Establish a formal 7-step Digital Tool Request and Approval Workflow (Submission → Instructional Review → Accessibility/FERPA Review → Cybersecurity Review → Cost/Grant Review → Decision Communication → Turnaround Tracking). Monitor and report student completion of the FOCUS Act course requirement in PowerSchool SIS.

## 5) Comprehensive Professional Learning Program

Dothan City Schools transitions from generic technical training to a structured, outcome-driven professional learning matrix aligned with state standards and district priorities:

| Target Audience      | Focus Topic & Standards Alignment                            | Delivery Method & Provider                  | Frequency & Duration                | Completion Target & Evidence                       |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| All K–12 Teachers    | 2025 Alabama DLCS Course of Study Standards Integration      | ATIM Professional Learning / PSPL Workshops | Bi-Monthly PLCs / 6 Hours Annually  | 100% Participation; DLCS-aligned lesson plans      |
| Secondary Teachers   | Responsible AI Integration & Ethical Literacy (PLUACLD 1185) | Alabama Technology in Motion (ATIM)         | Quarterly Workshops / 3 Hours       | AI classroom integration artifacts / rubric        |
| Pre-K & Kindergarten | Healthy Screen Time & CoSN Balance Continuum                 | District Early Childhood Specialists        | Fall Orientation / 2 Hours          | Classroom screen time audits & schedules           |
| Administrators       | Google Workspace, Data Evaluation & Software Approval        | Central Office Technology Team              | Quarterly Leadership Sessions       | Completed digital tool evaluation records          |
| All Staff            | Data Privacy, FERPA, Cybersecurity & Phishing Prevention     | Online Security Portal / Sophos             | Annual Required / Monthly Reminders | 100% Completion certificates & phishing simulation |

## 6) Data Compliance & Policy Certifications

The district certifies annual review, board approval, and active implementation of the following attached compliance documents:

- **Attachment 1:** District Technology Inventory 2026–2027 (Certified Submitted to ALSDE)
- **Attachment 2:** Dothan City Schools Data Governance Policy (FERPA, COPPA, CIPA, HIPAA Compliant)
- **Attachment 3:** Dothan City Schools Acceptable Use Policy (AUP for Students & Employees)
- **Attachment 4:** Dothan City Schools Data Governance Procedures & Non-Disclosure Agreements (NDAs)
- **Attachment 5:** Educational Technology Goal Planning Document 2026–2030