Lee County School System

THREE-YEAR TECHNOLOGY PLAN

JULY 1, 2022 – JUNE 30, 2025

Superintendent

Dr. Jason B. Miller

Assistant Superintendent Curriculum and Instruction

Susan Manry

Technology Director

Blair Johnston

Vision for Technology Use

The vision for technology use within the Lee County School System was developed through the collaborative efforts of our district educators and community stakeholders and approved by the Lee County School System.

Our vision is to:

- Maintain a student to device ratio of 1 to 1 so students will have immediate access to technology to increase the quality and inventory of technology related peripherals to enhance student performance products;
- Foster a collegial dialogue between building level administrators and teachers to develop meaningful, purposeful, and engaging work embracing the Georgia Standards of Excellence (GSE) and employing technology as a tool to support teacher and student efforts;
- Provide assistive technologies and equal access for students with special needs and disadvantaged sub groups;
- Provide standardized 21st Century equipment and resources in all academic classrooms;
- Engage in continual evaluation of instruction and technology integration to monitor student and teacher technology literacy
- Extend the availability of school technology resources to the community.

Teachers will be able to engage in instruction that enables student development of meaningful demonstrations of their learning using several technology-enhanced methods. Students will collaborate on group projects, completing individual components that when combined make up the whole, enabled by the use of the modern technology and instruction provided to them. Learning will extend far beyond the classroom as assignments are published on the Internet and shared with our global community of learners. The teacher's classroom role will continue to evolve toward classroom mentor and guide. Teachers will participate in ongoing staff development activities to ensure that emerging technologies are continually introduced into the classroom and used by the students. Administrators will input valuable information into well-designed, web-based software so that stakeholders can make data-driven decisions. Software programs will be integrated and will work seamlessly together. State of the art technology will support all Lee County School Systems' educational and administrative activities.

In summary, Lee County School System's vision focuses on training, access, support, and evaluation as these are the essential elements of successful instructional technology integration. This approach is designed to foster an environment where students will move seamlessly between text resources, software, and online resources to complete assignments in a safe and secure environment. Our students will be making many of the decisions about how to complete an assignment or master a standard. The computer workstations, multimedia

appliances, and classroom touch panels will provide the teacher lesson presentation choices that will then facilitate achieving desired student learning outcomes.

Current Reality

Access to Technology

The following data sources are used by Lee County School System to collect valuable data for informed technology planning decisions.

Annual school system budget that identifies:
- Capital purchases, training, and support expenditures.
- New and alternative funding sources.

Annual School Technology Inventory Survey submitted to State Department of Education that includes:
- Definition of "modern computer specifications" which leads to replacement of dated equipment.
- Ratio of students to computers to ensure adequate technology access in all school settings.

Annual technology literacy assessment to evaluate students.

The annual needs assessment is used to determine the quantity and content of technology professional development. The Lee County School System's technology team measures findings from the annual needs assessment and walk through observation data on current technology use. Data is then analyzed for comparison with our vision for instructional, administrative, and parent/community uses of technology to support student learning.

Technology Use

Administrative Technology Use
Administrative applications are installed and supported at the district level. These applications are available to all schools and include student information management, food services, personnel applications, district finances, and purchasing.

All teachers and administrators access web-based data using a high-speed fiber connection between the Central Office Data Center and all schools. Personnel are provided email accounts to promote better communication between the schools, staff, students, and parents. Teachers and administrators participate in training on general purpose productivity tools and peripherals to support personal productivity – grading, classroom observations and student data/web sites. The goal is for each building administrator to use a device to evaluate teachers, therefore reducing time spent on paperwork, while increasing availability to parents, students and staff.

Administrators, auxiliary faculty, and contributing professionals have at least one computer each.

Instructional Use
Lee County is currently using Infinite Campus Student Information System. Special education teachers use GO IEP to manage data on students and electronically generate and document required paperwork, such as Individual Education Plans (IEP) and parent contacts.

The Lee County School System has approximately 1,614 Windows based computers, 9,418 Chromebooks and 623 printers that are networked on the school system's local area network (LAN). The system also maintains a server cluster composed of 26 virtual servers and 22 physical servers. These servers host shared computer applications and store user data. The network speed between the network switch, located at the central office, and each school is 10Gbps. Additionally, the network speed within each school from the school's main data closet to each classroom is 1Gbps. A local area network (LAN) connects all classrooms and the administration at the school level. A wide area network (WAN) connects all schools to the system servers and then out to the internet via two Metro E Circuits for a total of 2.6Gbps.

Chromebook carts are available for whole class technology activities. These activities include using computer programs, Internet usage, research, writing reports, skills practice, creating spreadsheets, and designing and creating materials that display understanding and mastery of subject matter.

Available software programs include but are not limited to:
Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Publisher, G Suite for Education, USA Test prep, Write Score, Illuminate and Fastbridge, and a variety of other educational programs. In addition, students participate in end of pathway assessments in all high school pathways earning an industry credential at graduation for successful pathway completion.

Special education classrooms utilize assistive technology such as touch screens, text to speech software, word processors, augmentative communication devices and various other devices used for students with disabilities. English Language Learners have access to many of these same programs. Students, faculty and staff have Internet access in the classrooms, media center, and lab. Faculty and staff have access to email on their computers. Classrooms in all schools have a wall-mounted touch panel through which video is distributed via SnapStream, an IPTV solution which allows for cable and local programming to be accessed. Each media center offers the use of physical/digital media and Chromebooks to make distinctive presentations and to incorporate innovative technology into the classrooms. Additionally, each media center is fully automated with a web-based database that students and teachers can log in to.

The county provides on-going training and support through an Instructional Technologist to enhance instruction with the use of technology based on the needs of the faculty.

Lee County is a progressive system who works to ensure that all students have access to learning through multiple modalities. Presently, we use Apex, Gradpoint, GA Credit Recovery, and many other on-line curricular programs for acceleration, course repair and remediation as well as to help those students who are homebound and need to keep up with their studies. Several advanced placement courses are offered at our high school. For those students who would like additional rigor in their curriculum, Lee County participates in the Georgia Virtual School Program for courses not taught currently. These self-motivated, independent learners can enroll and take on-line courses through dual enrollment opportunities as well.

Parent/Community Uses of Technology

The Lee County School System utilizes email, websites, and electronic newsletters to promote better communication between schools, staff, parents and community members. Student attendance, demographic information, and grades are available through Infinite Campus – Parent Portal. Using a secure password, parents and guardians can access the information on their children. The school system assists parents with limited English skills by providing documents in preferred language. An automated phone calling system allows schools and district administrators to relay school event notices and emergency information to our stakeholders.

Google Workspace accounts are set up for kindergarten through twelfth grade students to promote the use of technology in doing research and designing presentations to meet the Georgia Standards of Excellence.

Communication and Marketing

The Lee County School System disseminates information to community stakeholders in a variety of ways. In August prior to the beginning of school, an insert is published in the Lee County Ledger giving parents and students current information about the new school year. An open house is held on each campus, welcoming students and parents, while giving them an opportunity to meet their teachers and tour the school. Press releases and parent newsletters all combine to keep the community informed about school activities and progress. System, schools, and teacher websites are also used extensively to communicate with parents and the community. Our schools' pride is keeping parents up-to-date on happenings through Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, Parent Square, and Parent Portal.

Parent Square is new for the 2022-23 school year. Parent Square is a robust communication system that will allow administrators and teachers to communicate with parents and students via email, text, voice call, and Parent Square application communication. This all-encompassing platform will be Lee County's primary communication tool. This system can also be used to alert parents of emergencies, announcements, changes of schedule, or other important information when needed. Communications are sent in the family's preferred language.

Parent Portal allows parents and guardians to view the academic account, discipline incidents, and attendance of their student. The school system is also able to utilize the Infinite Campus Messenger that keeps parents current on classroom and school events, if need be.

Pertinent news articles, school activities, and announcements are published in the Lee County Ledger as well as the front page of our system's and school's website.

Regular and consistent technology planning occurs through collaboration between the Lee County School Systems' technology department and system-level staff development, curriculum, media, Title I, special education, and ESOL personnel. Periodic meetings allow stakeholders to develop successful strategies to ensure that all stakeholders have input into a System-level plan. The Lee County School System also communicates regularly with other area district personnel to share ideas and best practices through consortia meetings and email.

Professional Development

The Lee County School System operates the Professional Learning program as a system and site-based program. Professional learning activities are prioritized by greatest need. Description of activities, needs, objectives, evaluation and budget information are included in the planning and implementation process. Professional Learning funds available include State Professional Learning, Federal funds through Title I, Title IIA, and Title II D, Title IV, CTAE education, and Special Education funds. The coordination of all funding sources maximizes the comprehensive system improvement efforts. Results for the annual needs assessment and surveys provide the basis for the professional learning activities and the procurement of instructional materials.

Technology Literacy

Software that supports the acquisitions of the skills and concepts identified by the Georgia Standards of Excellence (GSE) will be closely previewed by using the process we have in place to select primary learning resources. Careful consideration will be given to software that supports diagnostic and prescriptive teaching, is designed to increase student achievement, problem solving and higher order thinking, science, social studies, writing, and reading, and is directly linked to the tested curriculum.

Technology will be viewed as a tool, which can be applied to all learning situations to assist the learner with research, data organization/ manipulation, problem solving, and communication. It will not replace existing methods of instruction but rather fully integrate into the sound teacher practices currently being used within the schools.

Technology is seen as an extension of the instruction that takes place in a classroom. Technology will be used to provide remediation as well as acceleration of student learning. Teachers will use it as an organizational tool to maintain student grades/information while students and teachers will use appropriate programs to create multimedia products and share information. The evaluation of technology integration will be through processes and products such as lesson plans, grades posted electronically, evaluation of students' reading achievement, student-generated presentations, and walk-throughs to view integration of technology. The use of electronic text offers students choices in selecting resources to tailor assignments to their individual interests while meeting project standards.

TECHNOLOGY (COMPUTERS & INTERNET)

The Lee County School System provides students and staff access to a computer network known as the Wide Area Network (WAN). The WAN serves all the schools and Central Staff facilities within the school system. It includes computers, servers, cabling and switches, software and other peripheral devices necessary for the proper functioning of the WAN. Internet access is an integral part of the services offered on the WAN. Student and staff access to the WAN and its resources is a privilege and not a right. The WAN is designed to provide resources in support of instructional goals and objectives as well as school system administration. These resources are provided as a non-public forum. Computer technology facilitates communication, innovation, resource sharing, and access to information. Students using school system computers must adhere to the administrative procedures regarding computer use. Our system is currently maintaining a One to One Initiative as well as a BYOT (Bring Your Own Technology) program. Teachers assign projects and monitor the use of the devices in the classroom. Instructional access to the WAN shall be under the direction of staff and shall have a defined educational purpose. Student browsing should also have an academic purpose and not violate any of the prohibited uses. The school system reserves the right to monitor all computer activity by students. Violating the established policies and administrative procedures shall be subject to revocation of privileges and potential disciplinary and/or appropriate legal action. Students will also adhere to the following prohibitions in the interest of personal safety:

- Students will not post personal information about themselves or others. Personal contact information includes images, telephone numbers, email addresses, or home address.
- Students will not agree to meet with someone they have met on-line without their parent's approval and participation.
- Students will not share passwords with others.

Interoperability and Redeployment Procedures

Procedures for Ensuring Interoperability and for Deploying of Older Equipment

The Lee County School System practices standardization of system hardware every five years. Hardware specifications are developed and re-evaluated every year. An attempt is made to purchase economical equipment because technology changes and advances so quickly. Once specifications are developed, they are submitted to approved vendors for price quotes. Quotes are evaluated in regard to price but more importantly warranty, return procedures and shipping charges.

Software purchases are also standardized. Major purchases are selected through a committee of interested parties. The software applications or web-based subscriptions are viewed, evaluated, and compared to other applications. The Microsoft line of Office applications has been used for more than twenty years. All schools use Follett Destiny for media automation and Infinite Campus for student information. Individual schools select smaller, more specific applications.

The technical staff keeps equipment in working order through routine maintenance and repair. Parts are salvaged for rebuilding older equipment when possible. Due to warranties of five years on computers, three years on monitors, and lifetime on switches, Lee County currently has an agreement with a vendor to pick up and discard all computer related equipment that is no longer in use. This method is environmentally friendly and Lee County does not find selling old equipment to the community to be a responsible act.

BOARD POLICY   Descriptive Code: IFBG

Internet Acceptable Use Policy   Last Reviewed: 4/9/2018

It is the belief of the Lee County School System that the use of telecommunications, including the Internet, in instructional programs is an educational strategy which facilitates communication, innovation, resource sharing, and access to information. Use of the Internet must be in support of education and research and consistent with the educational mission, goals, and objectives of the school system.

It shall be the policy of the Lee County Board of Education that the school system shall have in continuous operation, with respect to any computers belonging to the school having access to the Internet:

1. A qualifying "technology protection measure," as that term is defined in Section 1703(b)(1) of the Children's Internet Protection Act of 2000; and
2. Procedures or guidelines developed by the superintendent, administrators and/or other appropriate personnel which provide for monitoring the online activities of users and the use of the chosen technology protection measure to protect against access through such computers to visual depictions that are (i) obscene, (ii) child pornography, or (iii) harmful to minors, as those terms are defined in Section 1703(b)(1) and (2) of the Children's Internet Protection Act of 2000. Such procedures or guidelines shall be designed to:

i. Provide for monitoring the online activities of users to prevent, to the extent practicable, access by students to inappropriate matter on the Internet and the World Wide Web;

ii. Promote the safety and security of students when using electronic mail, chat rooms, and other forms of direct electronic communications;

iii. Prevent unauthorized access, including so-called "hacking," and other unauthorized activities by students online;

iv. Prevent the unauthorized disclosure, use and dissemination of personal identification information regarding students; and

v. Restrict students' access to materials "harmful to students," as that term is defined in Section 1703(b)(2) of the Children's Internet Protection Act of 2000.

vi. Provide education to students about appropriate on-line behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms and cyber bullying awareness and response.