MCCPTA PTA®

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2024-2025 Plan of Work

Committee/Subcommittee:	Technology Committee
Committee Chairperson:	Mickie Chandra
Co-Chair	Gail Ravnitzky Silberglied
Chairperson's MCCPTA email:	technology@mccpta.org
Committee listserv email:	Safe-tech@mccpta.groups.io
Chairperson's Phone	NA

MCCPTA Mission

To make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children.

Committee Activities

Activity	Details	Timeframe/Deadline
Share Resources	Share resources through listservs and email lists.	Ongoing
	Gather best practices from from 'Ed Tech' peer reviewed sources to share	

Meetings	Hold monthly committee meetings September - June, with ad hoc meetings as needed.	Ongoing
	Hold monthly meetings with MCPS leadership in charge of technology	Ongoing
Public programs	Hold events for parents on online safety or screen overuse	Ongoing
	Petition for cell phone free schools	Ongoing

Technology Committee work includes the following:

1. Cell Phone policy and enforcement- Cell phone and smartphone reform is needed to address concerns of attention and focus deficits, mental health, and bullying.
2. Student Privacy and Safety- We are concerned with keeping privacy and safety at the forefront when gathering, storing, and movement of student data across systems. We will request to be a part of reviewing MCPS vendor contracts through a lens of privacy and safety.
3. Synergy/ParentVue- Training the parent community has not and will not resolve the problems with the platform itself. Therefore, our focus and time will be spent on problem solving and how to fix and modernize this platform.
4. Digital Best Practices- How will MCPS incorporate Digital Best Practices into the training? The Best Practices are only a start, and the communication and reinforcement via training and monitoring should be ongoing.
5. Go Guardian Replacement, Lightspeed- We would like to be involved in reviewing the contract and evaluating Lightspeed as a solution for monitoring progress.
6. Artificial Intelligence- Address impact of AI technology and its use in the classroom.
7. BlockChain- Evaluating the possible uses of blockchain technology in MCPS.

Committee Strategy:

To promote these priorities, the Technology Committee aspires to:

- Work with the Office of Strategic Initiatives to identify and communicate technology needs of parents, students, and educators within MCPS.
- Coordinate with the Curriculum Committee to identify overlapping interests when pursuing the priorities established in the work plan.

- Use BOE testimonies, op-eds and outreach events to 1- advocate for engaging, evidence-based recommendations for changes to the current technology offered in the classroom for instruction and learning, 2- advocate for proper uses of technology MCPS applications within and outside of the classroom, and 3- establish clearly communicated evaluation metrics for new programs and programs under review.
- Use the MCCPTA network and periodic Zoom meetings to recruit members from across the county to facilitate feedback and dissemination from the broadest possible cross section of PTA members and empower PTA members to engage in advocacy. Engage with teachers and students as well as parents.
- Assign representatives to lead advocacy on specific issues and subjects and attend relevant meetings such as OSSI meetings, Assessments Workgroup, Curriculum Advisory Assembly, Curriculum Advisory Committees, curriculum focus groups, Board of Education meetings and hearings, and meetings with MCPS leadership. Report out to membership via the MCCPTA Board Reports, MCCPTA listserv and Facebook page, Zoom meetings.
- Draft letters, Op-Eds and provide Board of Education testimony on technology issues; submit MPIAs when necessary
- Provide opportunities for parent/family involvement and information dissemination by co-sponsoring Digital Awareness screenings with MCPS staff throughout the school year.

Deliverables:

• Monthly reports will demonstrate that monthly meetings and stakeholder meetings have been held along with progress on advocacy priorities.

Collaborations (Who you will work with to reach your goal – other committees, MCPS, etc.)

1. MCPS leadership — Strategic Initiatives, Curriculum, Technology Implementation, General Counsel
2. Other committees
3. External experts on technology effects on students
4. MCEA, MCAAP
5. Organizations at various levels to help inform and support committee initiatives

Committee Needs

Total Budget Needs $1,000. 8/25/24: M. Chandra amended to strike/remove the requested budget item (1).

(1) Grant for student interns for Synergy/ParentVue stakeholder requirements and design for a better system. $1,000. 8/25/204: M. Chandra amended to remove until further evaluation, recommended at the 8/20/24 MCCPTA BOD meeting, of alternative sources of funding including through MCPS.