



TECHNOLOGY PLAN

2016-2018
Addendum

Wise County Public Schools

Mission Statement

Wise County Public Schools will continue to build capacity for excellence by improving access to technology for all our students, staff, and communities. The educational leadership team realizes that priorities can shift quickly in today's world and as a school system striving for excellence; we must be prepared to redirect our focus as necessitated by current appraisals.

Vision

To create a technology-infused learning environment where all students become motivated, self-directed learners who can work collaboratively through various technologies as evidenced by attendance and completion of meaningful academic performance and multimedia tasks that reflect higher-level thinking processes.

Philosophy

The Wise County School System recognizes the value of technological resources that are rapidly becoming available. The school system supports/models the use of these resources so teachers can offer students varied opportunities to develop the necessary higher-order thinking skills to function in the technology oriented society of the 21st century.

The wide-distribution of technology in the Wise County Schools has established an environment where technology is a seamless part of the educational experience, available whenever and wherever it is needed. We challenge students to use technology to be more adaptable problem solvers and life-long learners in pursuit of achievement and excellence. Integral to this competence is a critical awareness of the benefits of technology and the moral and ethical issues that relate to it. We believe in technology, not for its own sake, but for the role it plays in developing independent thinking and learning in the leaders of tomorrow.

Action Items Based on Needs Assessment

Action Items	Responsibility	Status
Evaluate staff technology proficiency and provide training when necessary	Director of Technology	On-Going
Explore the use of mobile devices	Director of Technology ITRTs Technicians	On-Going
Continue replacement cycles of computer lab computers	Director of Technology Technicians	On-Going
Improve the use of data-driven decision making	Director of Technology	On-Going
Maintain networks to ensure reliability	Director of Technology Technicians	On-Going
Explore options to increase connectivity	Director of Technology	On-Going
Evaluate new and emerging technologies and implement when necessary	Director of Technology ITRTs	On-Going
Ensure instructional staff have adequate support and training for the implementation of technology into classroom instruction	Director of Technology ITRTs	On-Going

Environment

Goal: Provide a safe, flexible, and effective learning environment for all students

Objectives:

1. Deliver appropriate and challenging curricula through face-to-face, blended, and virtual learning environments.
2. Provide the technical and human infrastructure necessary to support real, blended, and virtual learning environments.
3. Provide high-quality professional development to help educators create, maintain, and work in a variety of learner-centered environments.
4. Educate users on acceptable and safe Internet use practices

Strategies:

1. Promote professional development that is appropriate to enhance a teacher's use of readily available technology.
2. Provide the technical and human infrastructure necessary to support real, blended, and virtual learning environments.
3. Provide high-quality professional development to help educators create, maintain, and work in a variety of learner-centered environments.
4. Attend at least 1 state and/or national conference to learn best practices and models of technology utilization.
5. Continuously monitor our networks (LAN and Wireless) to ensure it is capable of handling the increased use of technology.
6. Evaluate emerging technologies and implement them when appropriate.
7. Utilize Instructional Technology Resource Teachers to aide colleagues in proper integration of readily available technology resources.
8. Maintain a list of useful websites and resources that teachers can reference.
9. Educate parents and community members of the potential dangers of the Internet and provide them with information that will aide them in keeping their children/grandchildren or loved ones safe.

Engagement

Goal: Engage students in meaningful curricular content through the purposeful and effective use of technology.

Objectives:

1. Support innovative professional development practices that promote strategic growth for all educators and collaboration with other educators, content experts, and students.
2. Actualize the ability of technology to individualize learning and provide equitable opportunities for all learners.
3. Facilitate the implementation of high-quality Internet safety programs in schools.
4. Make technologies that engage students more available to teachers.
5. Ensure all students have equal access to engaging technologies.
6. Educate students on appropriate use of technologies.
7. Provide appropriate adaptive technologies when applicable.
8. Afford students with opportunities to apply technology effectively to gain knowledge, develop skills, and create and distribute artifacts that reflect their understandings.

Strategies:

1. Partner with local colleges and universities, including the Center for Teaching Excellence, to provide workshops and classes concerning technology integration.
2. Explore the use of mobile devices and mobile apps and incorporate where appropriate.
3. Empower students with special needs by utilizing appropriate assistive technologies.
4. Provide teachers with various resources, outlets, and information to gain an understanding of how other teachers in the district, region, and the state are empowering students through the use of technology.

Application

Goal: Afford students with opportunities to apply technology effectively to gain knowledge, develop skills, and create and distribute artifacts that reflect their understandings.

Objectives:

1. Provide and support professional development that increases the capacity of teachers to design and facilitate meaningful learning experiences, thereby encouraging students to create, problem-solve, communicate, collaborate, and use real-world skills by applying technology purposefully.
2. Implement technology-based formative assessments that produce further growth in content knowledge and skills development.
3. Create opportunities to showcase student work to generate interest and promote participation in school projects.
4. Continue to replace traditional assessments with technology-based assessments.

Strategies:

1. Publicize training opportunities offered by area colleges, universities, and consortia groups.
2. Utilize ITRTs to assist instructional personnel with the integration and incorporation of technology into instruction where appropriate.
3. Evaluate the current literacy levels of all teachers, students, and administrators and provide professional development and instruction where needed.
4. Further the incorporation of assessment programs such as Interactive Achievement.
5. Ensure students and teachers are aware of emerging technologies.

Tools

Goal: Provide students with access to authentic and appropriate tools to gain knowledge, develop skills, extend capabilities, and create and disseminate artifacts that demonstrate their understandings.

Objectives:

1. Provide resources and support to ensure that every student has access to a personal computing device.
2. Provide technical and pedagogical support to ensure that students, teachers, and administrators can effectively access and use technology tools.
3. Identify and disseminate information and resources that assist educators in selecting authentic and appropriate tools for all grade levels and curricular areas.'
4. Utilize mobile devices and mobile apps when appropriate to allow all students the opportunity to solve problems utilizing technology.

Strategies:

1. Provide students with mobile devices, laptops, and response systems where appropriate to promote the use of these technologies to solve problems.
2. Identify areas within our curriculum where technology is not currently utilized and implement it where appropriate.
3. Offer professional development to ensure the technology skills of our teachers meets their needs and allows them to effectively incorporate it into instruction.
4. Continue systematic replacement of older, outdated computers. Maintain an up-to-date inventory for each school via web-based data collection.
5. Continue to improve performance of the WAN through scalable upgrades.

Results

Goal: Use technology to support a culture of data-driven decision making that relies upon data to evaluate and improve teaching and learning.

Objectives:

1. Use data to inform and adjust technical, pedagogical, and financial support.
2. Provide support to help teachers disaggregate, interpret, and use data to plan, improve, and differentiate instruction.
3. Promote the use of technology to inform the design and implementation of next generation standardized assessments.
4. Ensure all staff is proficient in the use of appropriate software for data management and reporting.
5. Ensure all staff is proficient in the use of appropriate software for data management and reporting.
6. Utilize our notification system, web pages, etc. to improve communication among all stakeholders.

Strategies:

1. Train teachers to utilize different assessment data such as SPBQs and benchmark assessments to determine the educational needs of students.
2. Communicate with all stakeholders through our web pages, notification systems, etc.
3. Train all staff in using appropriate technology programs to manage and report information.
4. Examine budgets to request additions where needed to ensure efficient operation.