# LAFAYETTE DISTRICT SCHOOLS

# TECHNOLOGY PLAN

# 2023-2028

Our mission is to create and sustain an environment that integrates technology as a part of the educational experience and provides all learners with skills and opportunities to access knowledge that will build a foundation for their future. We will accomplish this vision by creating and sustaining a technological environment that allows all learners equal access to interact and collaborate successfully. We believe that the use of technology as a part of the curriculum should focus on supporting higher-level learning, problem-solving, critical thinking skills, and collaboration.

Lafayette County School District believes that an ongoing commitment to current technology is an integral component of an educational process designed to:

- Prepare students to become competent lifelong learners
- Improve student critical thinking, problem-solving and decision-making skills
- Help students work ethically, independently, and collaboratively within a global environment
- Enhance the learning environment to meet curricular needs across all subjects and grade levels
- Improve equity of access to information, learning tools, and communications for all members of the learning community
- Improve instructional strategies to increase student achievement regardless of ethnicity, socioeconomic status, learning styles, or abilities
- Accurately and efficiently assess, monitor, and communicate student progress
- Improve communications among parents, students, teachers, and the community
- Provide teachers with consistent and high-quality professional development opportunities that will allow them to become highly skilled at integrating technology into their curriculum

Our vision of technology is guided by the following mission statements and articulates Lafayette County School District's purpose and function as related to technology:

- Make technology a part of learning activities: Technology is most effective when integrated as one component into learning environments and used as a tool for the active construction of knowledge and skills by students. It should promote higher levels of critical and creative thinking and problem-solving. In addition, computer devices need to be in classrooms and other locations where students and teachers have easy access throughout the day.
- Technology will serve as a bridge between home and school allowing instruction to continue despite the circumstance. Refer to Lafayette County's Instructional Continuity Plan for more detailed information regarding this issue.
- Provide ongoing staff and curriculum development: Intensive staff and curriculum development are critical to realizing the potential of new learning technologies. An ongoing update of technology plans and staff skills will be needed.

- Promote the accessibility and use of information to solve problems: Effective use of and improved access to technology are factors in the rapid expansion of knowledge today. Therefore, the ability to access and use information to find meaningful solutions to problems is an essential outcome of education for today and tomorrow. Technology will enable schools, teachers, parents, and citizens to change toward helping people "learn how to learn" on a life-long basis.
- Accommodate individual learning styles for all students: Restructuring information into interactive multimedia provides assistance to learn with individual styles and paces customized to individual needs. It allows us to present and understand information using accessibility features to overcome traditional learning difficulties.
- Facilitate communication and teamwork: Computer networks can facilitate student, teacher, and family communication and promote teamwork through voicemail, electronic mail, electronic bulletin board systems, file-sharing, and database sharing.

To achieve our vision for technology, we will focus on several projects:

1. Student computing – We will ensure that every student has access to a computing device when they need it with devices and policies differentiated by level and learner needs, to ensure access to information, increased collaboration, and multiple forms of student expression of learning.
2. Staff computing – We will provide all staff with the appropriate technology needed for high-quality planning, instruction, and data use, as well as collaborative learning, including mobile computing for teachers and school administrators.
3. Security - We will provide a safe and secure online environment for our students, staff, and their data.
4. School learning spaces – We will create learning spaces that work for individual, small-group, and large-group instruction, and equip them with the right technology for collaborative projects and creative problem-solving.
5. Networks and servers – We will monitor infrastructure access to ascertain that students and staff can access web-based resources when and where they need them.
6. Student information systems – We will improve our student data systems to integrate with the operational data store so that students and staff can tailor learning based on visualizations of students' strengths and needs.
7. Professional learning for staff – We will implement ongoing, relevant, and collaborative professional learning for staff with a focus on instructional technology.
8. Support for all – We will provide students, staff, and families with high-quality technical support and strategies for authentic engagement.

The plan includes deliberate preparation, implementation, and monitoring phases to ensure each project's success. By phasing in projects, we can learn from each other and from emerging best practices, build upon our successes, spread out up-front costs, and address key challenges that arise. We will also track implementation metrics to know how the plan is serving our students, staff, and families. Thoughtful and innovative use of technology is a key tool for our district as we stay focused on providing the very best instruction to every student.

**TECHNOLOGY PLAN - OVERVIEW**

*District Team Profile*

Lafayette County is a small rural county located in North Florida. According to 2020 census data, Lafayette County has a population of 8,226 residents. The county has one elementary and one high school. Many of our students live on family-owned farms. Other than agriculture, the three largest employers are a state prison, the county government, and the local school district. The percentage of persons living in poverty in Lafayette County is 17.9%. (US Census Bureau, 2020) The median household income in Lafayette County was $53,625. (US Census Bureau, 2020) The percentage of white, black, and Hispanic residents was 77%, 13%, and 11%, respectively. (US Census Bureau, 2020). Eighty-two percent of households have a computer (2015-2019) and 77.7% of households have a broadband internet subscription (US Census Bureau, 2015-2019).

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Planning Process

The district digital learning committee established guidelines for the development, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of the Lafayette County School District 2023-2028 Technology Plan. The committee will also assist in the implementation of the activities described in the objectives. The plan consists of a comprehensive program that effectively uses technology to help students meet or exceed the state academic content standards in all core content areas including Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies along with the English Language Development standards.

The plan also provides a clear focus to enhance the district's curricular program and improve school community technology skills needed to effectively implement the use of technology in the classroom, computer labs, library media centers, and off-campus. The School Advisory Council at each school is comprised of parents, community members, and business leaders. This Council provides ongoing input directly to the Principals at the Council's scheduled monthly meetings.

Lafayette County School District is committed to reaching all learners, regardless of their abilities. Students with disabilities require accommodations and modifications, and our staff is devoted to utilizing flexible ways to present information such as digital books, text-to-speech applications, and specialized software. Our staff also provides students with various ways to express themselves in order to increase active engagement in different settings and situations. In addition, assistive technology devices are available for students with disabilities to participate, communicate, and learn more effectively in the classroom. An assistive technology device is any item, piece of equipment, or product system, whether acquired commercially off the shelf, modified, or customized, that is used to increase, maintain, or improve the functional capabilities of a child with a disability. The district employs a variety of assistive technology devices to augment, supplement and complement the educational process for students with special needs. Child Study Teams identify assistive technology needs on a case-by-case basis, and teachers have access to a laptop or desktop computer in the classroom. All computers have the ability to activate the "Accessibility Options" built into the Microsoft, Mac, and Chrome operating systems. Students have access to a collaborative global community of learners, using tools such as online learning platforms, podcasts, social networking, online meeting access, etc.

Through participation in the North East Florida Education Consortium, district administrators and school personnel participate in programs with other small and rural districts. These programs are designed to allow teachers and school leaders to have access to the professional learning and coaching support they need to promote student success. These programs provide teachers and school leaders opportunities to work together beyond their district boundaries and share best practices.

Assistive Technology is provided through the Assistive Technology and Universal Design for Learning Loan Library through Florida's MTSS Projects.

Technology Integration Resource

Lafayette County School District uses Marzano as an observation resource. This resource allows administrators to measure the integration of technology by teachers into the classroom curriculum. The results of Marzano observations are used to direct professional learning goals and professional development opportunities at the school level, grade level, and subject area.

The district continues to work to identify trends for recognizing the quality integration of digital processes in the classroom. Lafayette County's Professional Development Survey revealed that technology-focused professional learning was a priority for educators.

Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) - Lafayette County uses Skyward as our Student Information System, Human Resources and Finance System, Educator Access, Parent Access, and Student Access system. Skyward has a Multi-Tiered System of Supports embedded into the application that is integrated into the core application. Districts, as well as teachers, can view relevant data (based on security roles) and then collaborate with administrators or fellow teachers. The system also includes a gradual release of responsibility strategies to accelerate independent student use of digital learning resources. Teachers can also broadcast communications to parents and students using Skyward or communicate one-on-one with parents/students using Skyward tools.

The district's commitment to the implementation of a Response to Instruction/Intervention (RtI) framework to integrate/align efforts to improve educational outcomes and meet the academic/behavioral needs of all students is reflected in the Student Progression Plan located on the district website: https://www.lafayette.k12.fl.us/SchoolBoardPlansandProcedures. The district will provide high-quality instruction/intervention matched to student needs and use learning rate and level of performance to inform instructional decisions—including decisions regarding promotion, acceleration, retention, and remediation. Response to Instruction/Intervention (RtI) is a "data-based decision-making" process applied to education. A four-step problem-solving method and the systematic use of assessment data—at the District, school, grade, class, and individual level—will guide decisions about the allocation of resources and intensity of instruction/interventions needed to improve learning and/or behavior.

**District Policy**

| **Type of Policy** | **Brief Summary of Policy** | **Web Address** | **Date of Adoption** |
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| Student data safety, security, and privacy | Identifies confidential information and restrictions on transmission and storage of student and personnel data. | https://www.lafayette.k12.fl.us/SchoolBoardPolicies | 2012<br>(revised & adopted as needed) |
| District teacher evaluation components relating to technology (if applicable) | The district uses Marzano as a means of evaluating teacher performance. | N/A | N/A |
| Personal Technology & Social Media | Provides expectations of personal technology and social media use. | https://www.lafayette.k12.fl.us/SchoolBoardPolicies<br><br>Section 8.35 | 06/17/2004 |
| Acceptable/Responsible Use policy (student, teachers, admin) | Outlines appropriate and inappropriate use of technology. | N/A (Appears on Active Directory Log-In Screen) | 2013<br>(revised & adopted as needed) |

**Needs Analysis:**

One of the primary reasons for developing a technology plan is to find ways to effectively integrate technology into the curriculum. We believe that technology should promote higher-level learning, problem-solving, critical thinking skills, and collaboration across all curricular areas and support data-driven instructional decisions. Technology provides timely access to data for all stakeholders. FAST progress monitoring and Florida Civic Literacy Exam assessment results are available almost instantly to 3rd-12th grade teachers through the Florida Reporting System. Results from progress monitoring for Pre-K-2nd grade are instantly accessible for teachers in the Renaissance platform for PreK-2nd grade. The Florida Assessment Family Portal is accessible to students and parents through Skyward. Lafayette County School District is continuing to refine the use of the Online Assessment Reporting System and reports available through Performance Matters as an online repository of classroom, district, and state assessments.

We will continue to raise the level of technology integration in the learning experience for all students. Teachers should be comfortable using technology to support student learning in the classroom. We want to see a measurable impact of technology on student achievement. Students should become better readers, writers, and mathematicians because of their interaction with classroom technology. Teachers should be using technology tools to assist them in making data-based instructional decisions for their students. The district technology plan will address how the district's technology effort will continue to support the curricular needs of students over the next five years – encompassing the 2022-2023 school year through the 2027-2028 school year.

Planning for high-performance learning begins by focusing on student learning. As we continue the process of using standards-based instruction and aligning technology standards, the district will be better prepared to plan for staff development and infrastructure management.

Our curriculum goals are divided into four areas:

1. Integrate technology tools/equipment to support student learning and aid teachers in the delivery of the core curriculum
2. Use assessment data to guide student learning activities and lesson plan development for all classrooms
3. Identify appropriate software and courseware to support the instructional program of the entire district
4. Continue to increase student achievement in all content areas as well as English Language Development.

Lafayette County School District teachers use student academic performance data to make informed instructional decisions in their classrooms. Student performance data is collected several times over the course of the school year. Many teachers use Edgenuity, IReady, Skyward Online Assignments, Unify test item banks, Google tools, and various other technological resources to generate classroom-developed assessments to further monitor students' progress. State progress monitoring is conducted three times per school year, and teachers and administrators have access to student results through the Florida Reporting System. All schools have access to the Florida Reporting System, Performance Matters/Unify, and Skyward. In addition to the software titles listed, every school has a myriad of digital resources that are part of the instructional materials adoptions that have taken place over the past several years.

**Skilled Workforce and Economic Development**

Professional Learning Communities have been designed to provide entry-level training to integrate technology by accessing data through the Student Information System to help target specific areas of interest.

Lafayette County School District supports the classroom teachers by providing a district technology coach who is able to assist with the integration of technology in the classroom.

Professional Learning opportunities include:

- *Edgenuity*: An online and blended learning solution offering data-driven differentiated instruction and rigorous, research-based content that supports college and career readiness.
- *Google Classroom*: A blended learning platform to simplify creating, distributing, organizing, and grading assignments online.
- *Google Drive*: Online file storage and sharing creating a seamless browser-based interface between files and applications.
- *Google Meet*: Online real-time meetings and collaboration through Google
- *IReady* (Implemented 2017-2018): A single K–12 adaptive Diagnostic for reading and mathematics pinpoints student needs down to the sub-skill level, and ongoing progress monitoring shows whether students are on track to achieve end-of-year targets.
- *Performance Matters/Unify*: A platform that links student and educator data, driving decisions made by teachers, administrators, board members, and parents to improve student learning and educator performance.
- *Skyward*: Student Information System, Human Resources and Finance System, Educator Access, Parent Access, and Student Access system.
- *Smart Projectors*: Projectors installed with Smart Software to enhance the learning experience.
- *Study Island*: Standards-based practice and assessment to drive grade-level proficiency
- *Vocabulary.com*: A scientific way to improve vocabulary in an online platform.
- *Web 2.0*: Accessible online tools to improve student achievement, behavior, and parent/teacher communication.

Technology is constantly advancing. As new curricula and programs emerge and evolve, applicable professional development will be provided. The success of Professional Learning will be measured based on participant evaluations and the observation of technology integration.

**BUDGET**

Lafayette County School Board will finance technology by achieving a stable technology budget and maximizing revenues through grant applications. Funding for the technology program will rely on state allocations.

**Goal:** Prepare an ongoing analysis of financial information and adjusted balances based on projected technology purchases.

**Goal:** Establish a minimum of general revenue resources to be allocated for technology funding.

**Goal:** Ensure proper distribution of funds based on the school district's established priorities.

**Goal:** Research the availability of grants for technology purposes.

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