

2016 - 2019

Technology Plan

Gahanna Jefferson Local Schools

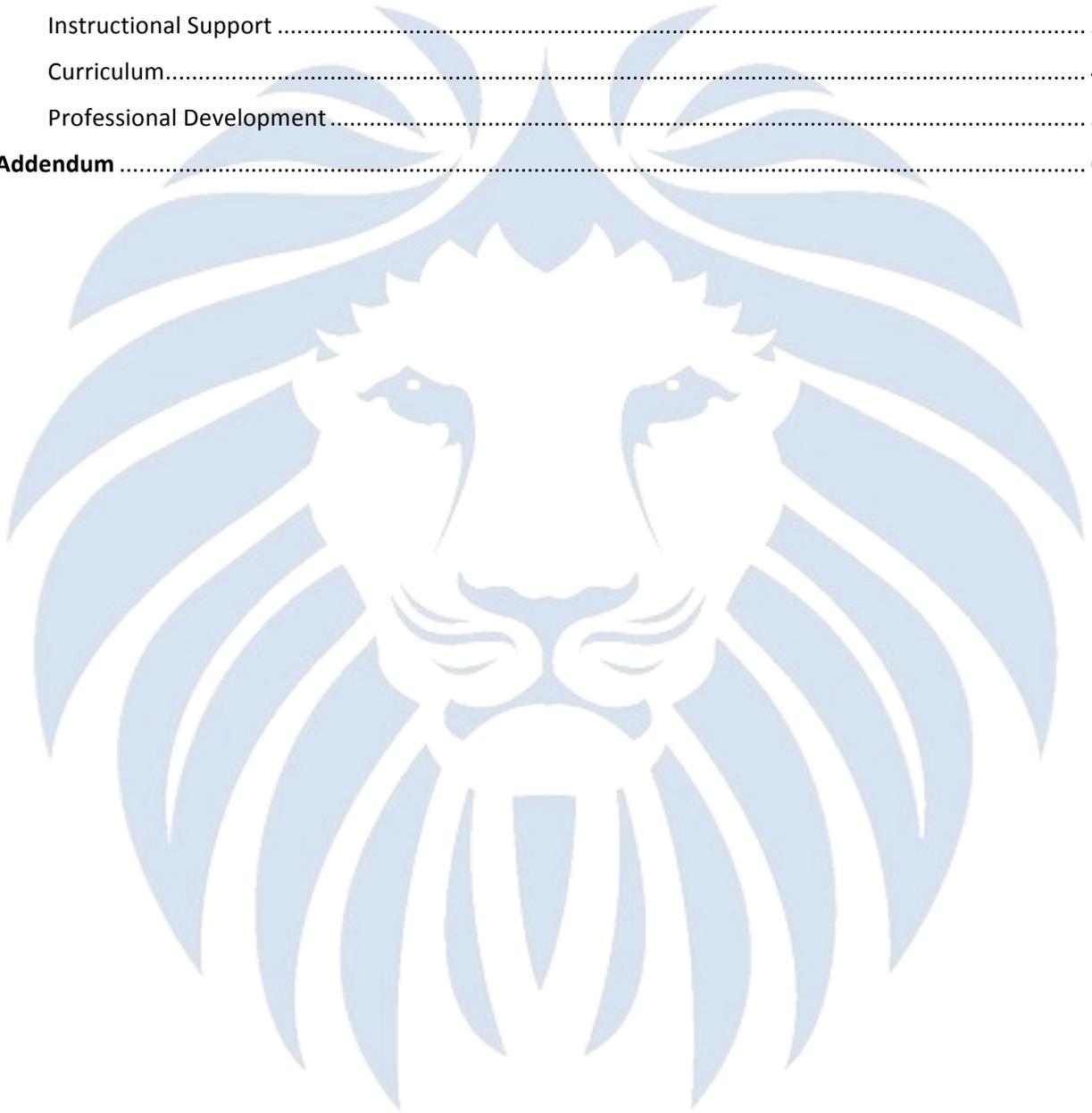


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Gahanna Jefferson Public Schools Technology Plan

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Executive Summary

The Gahanna Jefferson Public Schools Technology Plan was developed to guide district decision-making. The district had previously outsourced technology support. As we transitioned into an in-district technology department, the need for a clear technology plan became evident. The plan is an evolving living document that can be revised or adjusted as necessary. The plan will serve as a guide in decision-making and allocating resources, both human and financial, over the next three years. The plan was created by a dedicated committee of parents, community members, teachers, and administrators who were passionate about providing the best instructional technology program for each and every student.

A steering committee of parents, community members, teachers and administrators met over two months to develop the plan. They learned about each of the key areas (Instructional Support, Curriculum, and Professional Development). Each member provided key words to help create the definitions for each area. The committee reviewed draft goals and action steps and provided input. Based on this input, the draft was revised and shared with students, staff, and the community through a survey. Final adjustments were made based on these survey results.

The Technology plan is organized by the following key areas:

- **Instructional Support**
- **Curriculum**
- **Professional Development**

Committee Members

A steering committee was created to help develop the technology plan. The following parents, community members, teachers, and administrators served on the committee.

Committee Member	Role	Committee Member	Role
Luke Anderson	Teacher	Kari Hutson	Teacher
Brian Behary	Teacher	Debbie Kellogg	Parent
Nancy Brody	Parent	Kevin Leopold	Teacher
Matt Campbell	Board of Education	Kelly Long	Teacher
Jeff Collett	Director of Technology	Bryon Marusck	Parent
Beth Davis	Parent	Jim Miccula	Principal
Bobby Dodd	Principal	Scott Morrison	Parent
Michael Donaldson	Teacher	Robin Murdock	Principal
Leslie Family	Parent	Chad Ramsey	Parent
Chris Fry	Parent	Abbi Rivera	Parent
Amanda Furgison	Parent	Scott Schmidt	Superintendent
Melissa George	Teacher	Brittany Schwarck	Teacher
Abby Herzberg	Teacher	Bobby Swartzentruber	Teacher

Each of the following sections includes a definition of each key area, related goals, and initial action steps.

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Instructional Support

Technology provides students with multiple pathways to learning. Adequate research and stakeholder input is required to ensure the district purchases the appropriate technology tools (including devices and educational systems) to meet student needs and can be supported effectively. The district currently manages and supports over 8000 unique technology devices, many well past their useful life span. To manage these devices the district is investing in supports and systems to ensure the effective and appropriate use of these devices to ensure student success in the classroom and beyond.

As the number of technology tools and instructional use increases in the classrooms, there will be an increased need for these instructional supports. The technology must work appropriately for teachers to effectively utilize it in the classroom environment and to improve student learning.

The technology director and technology staff visits buildings and classrooms regularly to ensure that technology tools are working appropriately and issues are being addressed by the department. The district utilizes an online work request system to ensure timely monitoring of technology support issues and to track issues for analysis. The system monitors and documents the status of each work request.

Definition: The selection of devices, methods and learning environments in order to provide an optimum educational experience

Goals:

- The district will research and select multiple technology methods and options for student learning focused on delivering an integrated, individualized learning experience.

Initial Actions Steps:

- Review and select a learning management system (*a software application for the administration, documentation, tracking, reporting and delivery of electronic educational technology*).
- Identify current instructional technology practices and methods e.g. software use.
- The district will research and develop a plan for equitable distribution of current and future technology devices throughout the district.

Initial Actions Steps:

- Device inventory process.
- Review current policies (e.g. Bring Your Own Device).
- Survey staff and community (e.g. One Computer for Each Student).
- The district will develop and implement a plan to ensure the proper functioning of current and future technology devices.

Initial Actions Steps:

- Identify and review current repair process.
- Develop process and structures for reporting and repair of technology issues.

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Curriculum

A key reason for developing a technology plan is to identify ways to effectively integrate technology into the curriculum. The committee realized that simply adding technology to the classroom itself does not ensure that it will be integrated effectively. The committee members believe that technology should promote problem solving, critical thinking skills, collaboration, and creativity within and across all curricular areas. This plan will help improve the level of technology integration in classrooms for all students.

We want to see a measurable impact of technology on student learning with students becoming better readers, writers, and mathematicians with the support of technology integration in the classroom. For this to occur we have identified the initial actions steps listed below.

Definition: Provide content designed to ensure our students are informed digital citizens. Integrate learning standards from all contents areas through technology.

Goals:

- The district will clearly define the skills and outcomes expected at each level for digital citizenship (*a concept which helps teachers, technology leaders and parents to understand what students/children/technology users should know to use technology appropriately*).

Initial Actions Steps:

- Review current technology instruction.
- Develop a curriculum for Digital Citizenship.
- Implement an integrated Digital Citizenship curriculum.

- The district will support the integration of technology methods across the curriculum in order to provide an individualized student learning experience.

Initial Actions Steps:

- Identify current integration practices.
- Identify existing best practices.
- Develop a process for review and purchase of instructional curricular resources.

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Professional Development

For technology integration to be effective, it will require teachers having a level of comfort and competence in using technology to support student learning in the classroom. We want student learning to be assisted by their interaction with classroom technology. This will encourage teachers to use technology tools to assist in making targeted instructional decisions for their students. Therefore, training staff in the effective use of technology is critical for its successful integration into the curriculum.

The following goal will be our focus over the next three years to help ensure teachers are prepared to support the curricular needs of students. The district will research current professional development structures and best practices from across the state and nation. Training will address how teachers can integrate technology into their classroom instruction to improve student learning. As teachers become more comfortable with the effective use of technology tools they will become a regular part of how students and teachers work on learning. This focused adult learning will help improve the student learning experience with classroom technology.

Definition: Provide ongoing adult learning that is customized to meet individual needs and is directly linked to improving the student learning experience.

Goal:

- The district will identify and implement a wide variety of differentiated options for support and training.

Initial Actions Steps:

- Identify current professional development structures and practices from the district, state and nation.
- Survey staff about desired professional development options.
- Develop and implement plan and structures for professional development.
- Provide professional development opportunities for parents.