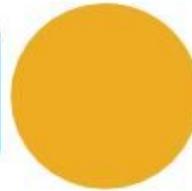


Desert Sands Unified School District BLUEPRINT FOR TOMORROW

2018-2019 through 2020-2021 school years



Desert Sands Unified School District
47-950 Dune Palms Road, La Quinta, CA 92253

Board Of Education, May 2018

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Superintendent's Message

Educators are becoming increasingly aware that technology plays an influential role in preparing students for an evolving definition of college, career, and life readiness. The ever-changing career-scape is requiring higher degrees of collaboration, communication, critical thinking, and creativity and innovation. The Desert Sands Unified School District has been very thoughtful in its deployment of technology and infrastructure, but fully recognizes that technology alone will not yield 21st century outcomes. As author George Couros states, "Technology will never replace great teachers, but technology in the hands of a great teacher can be transformational." The *Blueprint for Tomorrow* serves to guide the hands of our great teachers as they use technology to transform teaching and learning in today's classrooms. The *Blueprint for Tomorrow* is also multidimensional, as it will be used across the district to ensure efficiency, security, and effective communication. This multidimensional approach ensures that all systems are engaged to provide a high quality experience for the entire Desert Sands educational community.

Introduction

During the planning stages of Desert Sands' *Blueprint for Tomorrow*, stakeholders from around the district met as a District Technology Advisory Committee to discuss the integration of technology throughout the district. The committee worked to ensure that the *Blueprint* was aligned with the district's Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) priorities and the Technology Department's mission statement. During these discussions, several themes emerged:

- World Class Teaching and Learning
- Workplace Efficiencies
- Safety and Security
- Communication
- Network, Hardware, and Systems

Our LCAP Priorities

- All students will demonstrate growth as measured by state, federal, and district assessments.
- All students will graduate and be prepared to make a successful transition to further education and/or career opportunities.
- All students will develop and consistently demonstrate responsible, respectful, and ethical behavior in a safe, clean, and orderly learning environment.

Our Mission

The Desert Sands Technology Department believes in building for the future by keeping up with current trends through training, adaptability, and risk-taking. We commit to clear and concise communication and working in a proactive, forward-thinking manner that strives to include the voice of all stakeholders. As a team, we will work to deliver a reliable infrastructure and devices, a safe environment for students and their identifiable information, and meaningful training for all DSUSD staff. Our efforts are student-centered and focused on helping to utilize technology to promote the finest educational opportunities for all students.

Our Focus Areas

GOAL 1: World Class Teaching and Learning



[Goal 1: World Class Teaching and Learning](#)

Instructional Technology

Using Technology as a Tool for Learning

As a district, we continue to evaluate and expand our use of technology in teaching. The district has overcome the initial challenges of technology integration (student devices, infrastructure and support, and teacher buy-in). *Blueprint for Tomorrow* directs our steps to ensure that technology use by our students and teachers is truly enhancing learning and facilitating new experiences.

Transformational Technology Use

Our first step is to evaluate the current quantity and quality of technology use in DSUSD. By using the SAMR transformational model (Substitution, Augmentation, Modification, and Redefinition), and International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) standards in classroom observations, teacher surveys, and student classroom evaluations, we can get a picture of how technology is currently being used in our classes. This can help us find exemplars of technology integration that are creating transformative learning experiences, as well as areas in which we can support increased technology use. As always, we maintain that technology is best used when it can enhance the learning experience and is the right tool for the job. Once we have a sense of our current technology use we can find places to help teachers use technology as a tool to allow students to engage in activities that enhance their opportunity for creativity and innovation, collaboration, critical thinking, and communication.

Key Actions:

1. Employ an analytics program to evaluate current technology use across the district.
2. Develop a method for assessing/observing the use of instructional technology at all levels.
3. Annually provide professional development for all transformational technology.
4. Develop and launch a “Learning Channel” for DSUSD where model lessons are housed and accessible for professional development and personal growth opportunities.

Exploring New Technology Tools

In addition to ensuring a broad use of technology to support student learning, the district also has an interest in supporting cutting-edge, innovative uses of technology. While these sorts of technology uses won't see broad adoption right away, they represent exciting examples of the possibilities technology creates for education. Our teachers can learn from cutting-edge uses in place at other schools and experiment with techniques and technologies such as gamification, use of MakerSpaces, virtual reality, augmented reality, and others. These projects may be one-time experiments or they may grow to wider use, but they will be valuable experiences to help shape the vision of effective technology use in learning.

Key Actions:

1. Using the CoSN Horizon Report current trends in educational technology will be monitored and explored to ensure that our ecosystem is current and relevant.
2. Attend trainings relevant to educational technology.

Connect Initiative

DSUSD understands that learning today is not limited to the school day. The one-to-world *Connect* initiative levels the playing field for all students by providing equity through access. *Connect* by Desert Sands opens up the world to all students.

In order to meet the demands of the 21st century, *Connect* extends the classroom experience and fosters creativity and innovation, collaboration, critical thinking, and communication by ensuring that all students have access to devices every day. For second through twelfth grade students this access extends to the student's home by providing a Chromebook to be issued to every student.

The *Connect* initiative further enhances the DSUSD commitment to support students on their journey toward college, career, and life readiness.

Key Actions:

1. DSUSD will secure a method to provide home wifi to students who do not have access.
2. Board policy and site level policies and procedures will be updated to address Chromebooks being checked out to students.
3. Develop a professional development plan and metrics to measure and ensure that pedagogy changes along with the initiative.
4. Host "Growing Up Digital" parent nights throughout the school year for the next three years.
5. Develop filtering and digital citizenship plans to ensure that students have the same level of safe online experience that they have during the school day.
6. Develop a parent and student resource webpage to help families navigate using Chromebooks at home and understand the elements of the *Connect* initiative.

Learner Centered Environments

DSUSD is committed to ensuring that all students have access to a learner-centered environment with ample opportunities for personalized and blended learning. These opportunities will be afforded through digital learning and interactive curriculum that allows for anytime and anywhere access.

Key Actions:

1. Develop, implement, and expand a digital platform for curriculum and delivery.
2. Expand opportunities for e-learning, virtual learning, and blended learning opportunities.

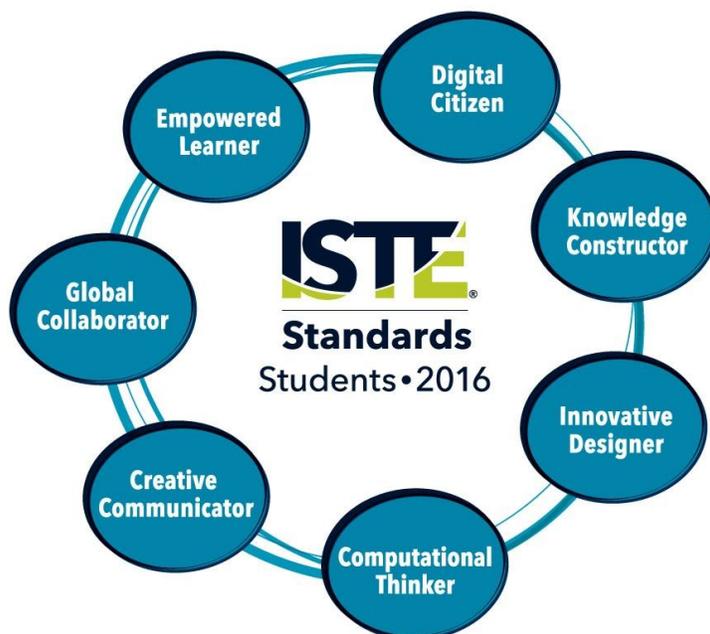
Assessments

In anticipation of online testing, DSUSD staff and students will be given sufficient opportunities to become fluent with the individual technology skills necessary to navigate an online testing environment. As a result, student assessment experiences will have value in and of themselves beyond test preparation. Teachers will become familiar with interim assessments in order to measure student progress, re-teach, and train students to use the online test-taking environment. Administrators, teachers, and counselors will need ready access to student assessment results, both formative and summative. The district will expand and improve its assessment management systems beyond IO Assessment (formerly EADMS, an assessment tool used by DSUSD) to include other systems that make student assessment information accessible and easy to comprehend including Synergy Assessments and assessments built into the district adopted curriculum.

Key Actions:

1. Load Inspect item bank and other assessment item banks into Synergy Assessment.
2. Import content standards into Synergy Assessment for standards based assessment opportunities.
3. Make assessment results available to administrators and counselors.
4. Streamline programs and resources to facilitate ease of access and to minimize having to move from one program to another to access resources.

ISTE Standards Implementation



Students today must be prepared to thrive in a world where technology is ever-changing. These changes directly impact how, what, and why behind how individuals learn and work. The district's technology standards are based upon the six standards created by the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE). [These standards](#) are being adopted to ensure that DSUSD learning environments are student-driven.

1. **Empowered Learner** - Students leverage technology to take an active role in choosing, achieving, and demonstrating competency in their learning goals, informed by the learning sciences.
2. **Digital Citizen** - Students recognize the rights, responsibilities, and opportunities of living, learning and working in an interconnected digital world, and they act and model in ways that are safe, legal, and ethical.
3. **Knowledge Constructor** - Students critically curate a variety of resources using digital tools to construct knowledge, produce creative artifacts, and make meaningful learning experiences for themselves and others.
4. **Innovative Designer** - Students use a variety of technologies within a design process to identify and solve problems by creating new, useful, or imaginative solutions.
5. **Computational Thinker** - Students develop and employ strategies for understanding and solving problems in ways that leverage the power of technological methods to develop and test solutions.
6. **Creative Communicator** - Students communicate clearly and express themselves creatively for a variety of purposes using the platforms, tools, styles, formats, and digital media appropriate to their goals.
7. **Global Collaborator** - Students use digital tools to broaden their perspectives and enrich their learning by collaborating with others and working effectively in teams locally and globally.¹

¹ ISTE Standards · Students

ISTE Standards for Students, ©2016, ISTE (International Society for Technology in Education), iste.org. All rights reserved.

Key Actions:

1. Integrate ISTE Standards for Students into lesson design during the ELA adoption for all middle and high schools.
2. Integrate ISTE Standards for Students into professional development opportunities for ELA teachers during the adoption for all middle and high schools.
3. Integrate ISTE Standards for Students into lesson design and professional development opportunities for elementary teachers.
4. Integrate ISTE Standards for Students into lesson design for all content areas in elementary, middle, and high school.
5. Integrate ISTE Standards for Students into professional development opportunities for all content areas in elementary, middle, and high school.

Commitment to Provide Data

A key use of technology will be to assist in assessing student learning and providing valuable feedback to teachers. Over the next three years, we will support effective use of formative assessments and data to help teachers and Professional Learning Communities (PLC) adapt to their learners' needs. Technology will also be an important support in gathering data about our strengths and needs as a system.

Key Actions:

1. Provide end user trainings in Synergy and Synergy Assessment.
2. Find and employ an analytics program that makes data mining for PLC and other collaborative environments easy and efficient.

GOAL 2: Workplace Efficiencies



Goal 2: Workplace Efficiencies

Organizational Performance Standards and Accountability

Technology has the potential to increase organizational effectiveness. Technology can result in quicker production, fewer mistakes, and easy access to data and information. In order to realize these potential results, efforts will be made to evaluate current practices so that DSUSD can create efficiencies throughout the organization.

Key Actions:

1. Establish and publish district-wide technology standards.
2. Establish a district-wide Learning Management System (LMS).
3. Develop and implement a technology program evaluation cycle that includes procedures and a timeline for programs to be evaluated and results to be communicated.

Professional Development

Technology changes how we do business. As these changes occur, professional development opportunities are key to ensuring that employees continue to be competent in their profession.

Key Actions:

1. Develop a training calendar to train new hires and those in need of additional training in the functions of G-Suite for Education.
2. Develop a year two and beyond training calendar for all Synergy users.

Tools for District Management

As we continue to see emerging technology breakthroughs in the Fourth Industrial Revolution, it is imperative that we identify new tools that can be used to improve efficiency and effectiveness throughout the district..

Key Actions:

1. Develop and employ a system for annually evaluating how technology could be used in departments and school sites to improve organizational effectiveness.
2. Develop a platform to collaborate with technology industry leaders in an effort to learn what technologies are used for workplace efficiency.

GOAL 3: Safety and Security



Goal 3: Safety And Security

Safe and Secure Teaching, Learning, and Working Environments

DSUSD is committed to ensuring safe and secure working and learning environments. Our goal is to utilize technology to promote positive and respectful behavior and to educate on safe and ethical practices while interacting in the digital world.

Digital Citizenship

Students have almost ubiquitous access to information and digital communication. The skills for navigating the sea of information and social posts are paramount for their success. In accordance with LCAP district priority #3, “*all students will develop and consistently demonstrate responsible, respectful, and ethical behavior in a safe, clean, and orderly learning environment,*” Digital citizenship is a key component of the *Blueprint for Tomorrow*.

In order to provide guidance in digital citizenship and information literacy, the district needs to first ensure all staff are prepared to guide students. Because the Internet is constantly changing, digital citizenship needs to be a focus of district professional learning. The district plans to leverage *Common Sense Media*'s standards and lessons as the foundation of our professional learning and student learning.

Key Actions:

1. Host *Growing Up Digital* parent events annually.
2. Create a district wide Digital Citizenship implementation calendar.
3. Develop and deliver an employee Digital Citizenship training module.

Data Privacy and Security

Desert Sands Unified School District believes that technology can be used to enrich the learning experience for every student. Students are growing up in a digital age. That means that they also live in a digitally-enhanced world in their learning spaces. Information today is accessible 24/7. Students are accustomed to instant access to people, ideas, and information possible with digital technologies.

With the advent of individualized learning and learning management systems, sharing data with third-party vendors is happening more than ever before. Establishing policies that govern student data and privacy is a critical part of creating a safe and secure environment.

Key Actions:

1. Develop a district Data Governance Committee.
2. Develop an annual training platform for all DSUSD staff covering: The Children's Online Privacy Protection Act, The Children's Internet Protection Act, Data Privacy Requirements for Contracts with Technology Providers, Sample contract language for LEA Technology Services Agreements, Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act ("FERPA"), Email Retention, Data Breach Protocol.
3. Develop a security incident event management protocol for the technology department.
4. Set up and deploy the Synergy emergency app for administrators.
5. Work with the district Director of Security to improve safety and security on campuses.
6. Investigate and develop a disaster backup process that includes both onsite and cloud based repositories.
7. Develop a platform to consistently educate and train staff on topics such as phishing and data privacy practices.

GOAL 4: Communication



Goal 4: Communication

Building Community Through Communication

Desert Sands Unified School District values our stakeholders and strives to provide communication that is clear, timely, transparent, and widely available. As we build a culture and community striving to ensure that all students have the best learning environment possible, we recognize that communication is a valuable tool and a great responsibility. Working in partnership with the public information officer, the webmaster, and the entire communications team we assist in the creation of new ideas, developing innovative electronic communications, and serving as a support to share the messaging of the district.

Key Actions:

1. Continue to support initiatives such as the *Not-So-Undercover Sup* series in partnership with community partners and Career Technical Education (CTE) pathway students to enhance overall employee recognition and provide students opportunities for job embedded learning.
2. Utilize technology resources in the continued success of the Goldfish Bowl (and like projects) including review of submitted projects, assisting students and school sites in project creation, and providing assistance at the bi-annual presentations.
3. Assist in the development of the DSUSD mobile app and create infographics that more easily communicate with stakeholders.
4. Participate in the revision of the district website to ensure accessibility compliance for people with disabilities. Review and recommend changes to all school-site and department websites with the same goal in mind.
5. Continue to provide ongoing electronic communication to the DSUSD community via such tools as SchoolMessenger and Peachjar.
6. Continue communication efforts such as Front and Center that introduces DSUSD board members to the innovative learning taking place in all schools.
7. Update policies within manuals on such topics as social media and staff use of technology.

8. Look to the future for new and innovative ideas to incorporate technology within the communication efforts. Technology is an ever-evolving part of the communications world. While it is not possible to predict the future, it is a guarantee that the communications team and the technology team will continue to work hand-in-hand to lead the way in sharing information with the community.

GOAL 5: Network, Hardware, and Systems



Goal 5: Network, Hardware, And Systems

Network and Hardware

DSUSD understands that we will continue to see exponential growth in the use of network-based technology and that we must stay ahead of the demand. Over the next three years we will upgrade our network from the current 10 Gbps. This upgrade includes WAN, LAN, data center, and security considerations. Cost effective measures like E-Rate funding will continue to be employed by the district.

Key Actions:

1. Explore options to develop ring-topology for those schools where it doesn't currently exist.
2. Develop a five year network infrastructure refresh plan that will allow funding to be planned years in advance.
3. Design improvements to node power: the district designed and operates a four-node approach to providing services to the district's network. These are aggregated connection points for outside telephone services and for locations where district servers, backup systems, and future internet connections reside.
4. Design and implement a plan to upgrade the district office network infrastructure.
5. Create five year refresh plan for all desktop computers.

Student Information System (SIS)

Our Student Information System is a key component of DSUSD's ecosystem. Students, parents, and staff rely on the structured information exchange available due to our SIS. Our SIS facilitates the supervision of student-related activities such as academic record keeping and attendance. It also allows for a simplified work process, data integrity and privacy, supports interfaces and integration with applications, and supports new learning and teaching opportunities.

DSUSD is currently finishing the first year with a new SIS, Synergy. Considerations must be made to ensure that capacity is built in end-users; customizations are developed to meet data needs of sites and departments; and metrics are employed to determine if we are using the system to its full capacity in order to maximize the impact on student achievement.

Key Actions:

1. Develop an on demand video training catalog.
2. Develop a monthly training schedule to increase user capacity.
3. Develop a full day training module to build capacity.
4. Improve procedures and efficiency related to customized reports.
5. Develop a district-wide protocol for ensuring that all third party vendors have AB 1584 data sharing and privacy language on file.
6. Ensure secure procedures for assigning and removing user accounts.
7. Evaluate the use of Synergy district-wide to determine the return on investment.

Special Thanks

Technology Master Plan Development Committee

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