

Weslaco Independent School District
Technology Department



2018 - 2019 Technology Plan

DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT:

As the right choice, Weslaco ISD delivers a complete educational experience grounded in creativity, synergy, problem-solving, and critical thinking that develops lifelong learners, confident leaders, and engaged citizens.

DISTRICT VISION:

Weslaco ISD inspires and empowers all students to reach their full, unique potential so that each thrives in and contributes to our global community.

DISTRICT TECHNOLOGY GOALS:

Goal 1: Establish and maintain a robust computer network infrastructure that will support the learning process.

Goal 2: Provide adequate leadership, administrative and instructional support to ensure that technology has maximum impact on student success.

Goal 3: Ensure that all educators have access to high quality professional development and appropriate tools to model and implement blended/personalized learning.

Goal 4: Students will be engaged in their own learning and use a variety of technology tools to enhance and enrich their learning experiences.

Needs Assessment

2018 - 2019

Data Sources:

Student Achievement Data
Staff Development Records
Brightbytes Technology and Learning data collections
The National Educational Technology Plan and Texas Long Range Plan for Technology
The 2017 K12 Horizon Report
ISTE NETS standards for teachers, administrators, and students
NetDay Student Survey Results
Surveys of teachers, students, and administrators

Areas of Strengths:**Instructional Technology**

Teachers and students have access to a wide variety of technology hardware, software, and online resources.
We have an established instructional framework in place to guide the use of technology for teaching and learning.
There is a number of teachers using Google Classroom for online learning.

Administrative Technology

Access to data for all stakeholders is available through the Eduphoria system and our District Reporting System.

Infrastructure

We have a very robust wired and wireless network infrastructure.
We are staying on the cutting edge by virtualization of our server systems.
We have exceeded the 1:1 ratio of students to: chromebook/computers

Areas of Weaknesses:

Increased opportunity for students to use computers/devices on a daily basis is needed.
Use of the 4 Cs (Critical thinking, Creativity, Collaboration, and Communication) by teachers and students.
Increased professional development opportunities related to blended learning is needed.
Many educators do not meet the NETS-T Standards.

High Priority Areas for 2018- 2019

- Continue to provide training to all teachers in the district target areas of: Blended/Personalized Learning, Data driven instruction, G-Suite for education.
- Continue to implement the Google Apps for Education program to increase collaborative learning opportunities
- Increase opportunities for students to use technology for creative projects
- Increase Teacher capacity in the area of integrating technology to increase student engagement and learning
- Continue to develop the District Reporting System
- Continue to implement and support the district Server Virtualization Project
- Network infrastructure upgrades

Continuing Initiatives (District Wide)

- Maintain a State-of-the-Art network infrastructure including redundancy of critical systems.
- After school robotics program
- Classroom chromebook management system to help teachers manage use of classroom technology
- District e-learning environment for teachers and students via Google Classroom
- Cellular phones for key staff
- Internet safety education for all staff and students
- Continue to use the Eduphoria Suite of products for managing T-TESS, T-PESS, staff development, curriculum development and benchmark assessments
- Web content management system for campus and district websites
- District-Wide innovative teaching day workshops for all instructional staff
- District-Wide time clock system
- Support for District-Wide security camera system

New Initiatives (District Wide)

- Implementation of new products to support blended learning: Nearpod, Edpuzzle, Screencast-o-matic.
- Implementation of new online learning system (Schoology) for professional development.
- Identification and development of model blended learning classrooms.
- Expanded data reporting related to chromebook usage
- Purchase and installation of Uninterruptible Power Supplies to support and protect district and campus network equipment
- Upgrade campus networking equipment to increase data throughput
- Implementation of a new backup and recovery system
- Implementation of a new internet content filter

Goal 1: Establish and maintain a robust computer network infrastructure that will support the learning process.

Objective 1.1: Provide high speed direct Internet and network access to each classroom.

- **Strategy 1.1.1:** Campuses will be linked to district data network using routers, switches and related data transport equipment necessary to provide at least 100 megabit services to the end user computers.
- **Strategy 1.1.2:** Update/replace cabling, network hardware, and equipment as needed to maintain a reliable network.
- **Strategy 1.1.3:** Maintain adequate internet bandwidth (currently 4 Gbps) to support access to online learning.
- **Strategy 1.1.4:** Upgrade each campus network edge router to increase data throughput
- **Strategy 1.1.5:** Replace critical Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS) systems to ensure network equipment is protected during outages.

Objective 1.2: Provide complete wireless access from all locations within each campus.

- **Strategy 1.2.1:** 802.11 wireless access points (WAPS) and management tools will be budgeted, purchased, maintained, to maintain high quality wireless connections throughout the district. We currently have 1 wireless access point in every classroom.

Objective 1.3: All campuses will be equipped with at least a 10 gigabit LAN backbone connected to a 10 gigabit MAN.

- **Strategy 1.3.1:** Continue to use Indefeasible Right of Use Swap with a local telecommunications provider to provide fiber connectivity to the 4 campuses that are not connected to district fiber.
- **Strategy 1.3.2:** Maintain the network equipment that supports 10 gigabit connections.

Objective 1.4: Maintain all critical infrastructure components to ensure all equipment remains operational

- **Strategy 1.4.1:** Budget for hardware, telecommunication, and network equipment repairs.
- **Strategy 1.4.2:** Budget for maintenance/repair of network fiber optic cabling.

Objective 1.5: Maintain a state-of-the art telecommunications network to provide communications to and between district and campus stakeholders.

- **Strategy 1.5.1:** Maintain telecommunications services, systems, and circuits (including POTS and long distance) to ensure high quality voice communications.
- **Strategy 1.5.2:** Provide cell phones to essential district staff to ensure the capability for instant communication.

- **Strategy 1.5.3:** Maintain a subscription to School Messenger Notification system to maintain regular communications with parents.
- **Strategy 1.5.4:** Implement and maintain Red Sky E-911 system to ensure emergency responders have accurate location information in the event of an emergency

Objective 1.6: Continue to implement the new web content management system for the purpose of publishing district, campus, and department web pages to inform all stakeholders.

- **Strategy 1.6.1:** Provide training for all district, campus, and department staff that are responsible for maintaining web pages.

Objective 1.7: Protect critical server data to ensure availability to all stakeholders as needed.

- **Strategy 1.7.1:** Continue to implement server virtualization system for critical servers.
- **Strategy 1.7.2:** Implement new backup System.

Objective 1.8: Provide classroom technology devices and services to enhance the learning process.

- **Strategy 1.8.1:** Purchase new and/or replacement computers and chromebooks to achieve a 1:1 student to device ratio throughout the district
- **Strategy 1.8.2:** Upgrade Active Directory (AD) servers to Window Server 2016 to take full advantages of the features it offers for managing our PC computers.

Goal 2: Provide adequate leadership, administrative, and instructional support to ensure that technology has maximum impact on student success.

Objective 2.1: Comply with local, State, and Federal guidelines related to educational technology settings.

- **Strategy 2.1.1:** Require all district technology users to read and sign a district acceptable use policy.
- **Strategy 2.1.2:** Implement a new Internet content filter (Content Keeper) and apply appropriate filtering strategies to protect our students from inappropriate material and comply with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA).
- **Strategy 2.1.3:** 100% of Weslaco ISD students and staff will complete Internet Safety training.

Objective 2.2: Maintain systems that provide stakeholders with essential data.

- **Strategy 2.2.1:** Continue to update and maintain the eSchool/Powerschool student information system to ensure that students, parents, and staff have access to the information they need.

- **Strategy 2.2.2:** Upgrade network cameras at all campuses for recording video and ensuring safety of all staff and students. Increasing the number of cameras and adding storage to improve the video quality.
- **Strategy 2.2.3:** Continue to update/maintain the Alio financial management system.
- **Strategy 2.2.4:** Continue to develop a district student reporting system that brings student data into 1 repository system to provide a secure method of viewing and analyzing student academic data. The reporting system is accessible at the district and campus level.
- **Strategy 2.2.5:** Employ a team of programmers that develop in-house programs and provide end-user support for PEIMS and other district data.

Objective 2.3: Provide both campus-based and centrally-deployed staff to support technology.

- **Strategy 2.3.1:** Provide at least one technical support staff per 1250 computers/devices.
 - Comments: The technology department provides the following technical support specialists: Ten (10) full time technicians, One (1) computer network specialists, One (1) help desk specialist, One (1) computer maintenance supervisor, One (1) network security specialist, One (1) telecommunications specialist, One (1) communications technician. Each high school also has a full time technician.
- **Strategy 2.3.2:** Ensure that each campus has a dedicated Campus Technology Coordinator to assist in technology integration and instructional support. CTC's will spend 85% of their time supporting classroom instructional technology integration.
- **Strategy 2.3.3:** Provide a full-time technology administrative staff. The district technology administrative staff is comprised of the following administrators: Executive Director of Technology, Director of Information Systems/PEIMS, Internet Systems Manager, Director of Instructional Technology, Telecommunications Specialist.

Objective 2.4: Utilize automated system for data collection of classroom observations, walk-throughs, teacher professional development tracking, benchmarking, and curriculum development/management.

- **Strategy 2.4.1:** Maintain subscription to Eduphoria Strive product which allows administrators to complete evaluations for staff members.
- **Strategy 2.4.2:** Maintain subscription to Eduphoria Workshop application. This tool manages professional development and allows administrators to access professional development data related to their campus staff.
- **Strategy 2.4.3:** Maintain district-wide access to Eduphoria Forethought for curriculum management.
- **Strategy 2.4.4:** Maintain access to Eduphoria Aware for administering and analyzing district benchmarks.

Objective 2.5: Collect relevant data from staff, students, and parents to help guide and maximize the impact of instructional use of technology.

- **Strategy 2.5.1:** 100% of teachers and at least 80% of students will complete the Project Tomorrow Speak Up survey.
- **Strategy 2.5.2:** 100% of staff, 80% of students will complete the BrightBytes Technology and Learning data collection.
 - **Comments:** The collected data is related to the following 4 categories : CLASSROOM Explore how teachers and students use technology for learning ACCESS Understand the availability of devices and Internet access in school and at home SKILLS Measure the levels of teacher and student foundational, online, and multimedia skills ENVIRONMENT Support policies, procedures, culture, and professional development and technology needs across the district
- **Strategy 2.5.3:** Renew and support the DyKnow system for middle and high school campuses. This system provides teachers a way to manage student use of chromebooks through real-time monitoring and instant assessment features.

Goal 3: Ensure that all educators have access to high quality professional development and appropriate tools to model and implement blended/personalized learning.

Objective 3.1: Continue to offer district-wide staff development days dedicated to preparing teachers to utilize technology tools to implement blended learning and personalized instruction.

- **Strategy 3.1.1:** Host annual Innovative Teaching Days in August and October.
- **Strategy 3.1.2:** Offer follow-up training/mentoring sessions on innovative teacher day topics throughout the year.

Objective 3.2: Provide teacher staff development in a variety of formats to make sure all teachers have the opportunity to grow and develop in their abilities to teach innovatively with technology.

- **Strategy 3.2.1:** Create a technology development framework that establishes expectations, assesses technology proficiency, and provides a pathway to educator growth. The purpose of the framework is to ensure all teachers can demonstrate mastery of the new National Educational Technology (NETS-T) standards.
- **Strategy 3.2.2:** Create a guide that breaks teacher professional development down into clear stages of development and is aligned to ISTE NETS-T standards and the iNACOL Blended Learning Teacher Competency Framework.
- **Strategy 3.2.3:** Get at least 1 person per campus and 4 central office staff G-Suite Educator Level 2 certified.
- **Strategy 3.2.4:** Get at least 4 district/campus staff certified as a G-Suite for Education Certified Trainer.
- **Strategy 3.2.5:** Provide district level monthly instructional technology training sessions.
- **Strategy 3.2.6:** Renew and continue to develop content on the Schoology platform for ongoing online staff development for instructional staff.

Goal 4: Students will be engaged in their own learning and use a variety of technology tools to enhance and enrich their learning experiences.

Objective 4.1: Prepare teachers to implement blended/personalized learning.

- **Strategy 4.1.1:** Use blended learning strategies to deliver staff development at the district and campus levels.
- **Strategy 4.1.3:** Expand use of NearPod as a tool for supporting blended and personalized learning.
- **Strategy 4.1.4:** Implement Edpuzzle, a tool that allows teachers to edit existing videos (from youtube, etc.) and embed assessment questions, etc.
- **Strategy 4.1.5:** Implement Screencast-o-matic, a tool that allows teachers to create instruction screencasts. These screencasts are narrated presentations that teachers create to help clarify concepts for students.

Objective 4.2: Promote and support student involvement in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM)

- **Strategy 4.2.1:** Offer First Lego League after school robotics programs at the elementary and middle school campuses.
 - Comments: Weslaco ISD has 38 teams participating in First Lego League (4th-8th grade) and Junior First Lego League (2nd and 3rd grade).

Objective 4.3: Provide access to a wide variety of online learning tools for all students.

- **Strategy 4.3.1:** Utilize Clever Portal to provide access to most online resources using a single login.
- **Strategy 4.3.2:** Implement Google Single Sign On for any resources that it is available for.