

Technology Strategic Plan

2016-2019



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Executive Summary



The innovative use of technology remains a significant strategy in our ongoing improvement initiatives. A growing repository of digital resources and a dynamic computing infrastructure is enabling timely access to content through a variety of interactive and mobile technologies. As a result, Manheim Central School District is transforming learning environments through the innovative integration of technology across all aspects of the school system. These changes are also facilitating increased effectiveness of our business services and creating new professional learning opportunities.

The Strategic Technology Plan for 2016-2019 outlines the multi-year strategies and actions required to achieve the plan's single focus of inspiring and reimagining learning in a digital age. This plan aligns with and supports the Superintendent's and Board of School Directors' Mission, Vision, Shared Values, and commitment to empower all students to reach their individual potential.

A diverse coalition of stakeholders participated in the discussion, description, and elaboration of the themes that ultimately informed the plan's goal, strategies, and actions. The underlying assumptions of this plan include the following:

- Technology, specifically digital and mobile technology, is changing how we live, work, and learn. As a result, we must seek to effectively integrate these technologies to create authentic, inspiring, and engaging learning experiences.
- Technology-enhanced assessments must provide timely feedback to support teachers in differentiating student learning experiences and monitoring progress toward learning goals.
- Ongoing, high-quality professional development for adults that models effective use of technology for learning is critical in shaping the type of instruction we want in our classrooms.
- A robust online education infrastructure that ensures anytime, anywhere access to learning resources is a fundamental requirement for effective digital learning. The growth and dependence on the evolving Manheim Central Virtual Academy will require effective partnerships to ensure that all members within our community of learners can fully participate.

As a result, this plan identifies a single goal that brings focus to all efforts. Moreover, the plan articulates four strategies that are aligned with the district's updated core values to realize the plan's goal. This goal speaks to the plan's focus on transforming learning. The plan envisions full stakeholder participation in technology-enriched learning communities that inspire intellectual curiosity and prepare them with the knowledge and skills to excel in college and chosen careers in a digital age.

Executive Summary



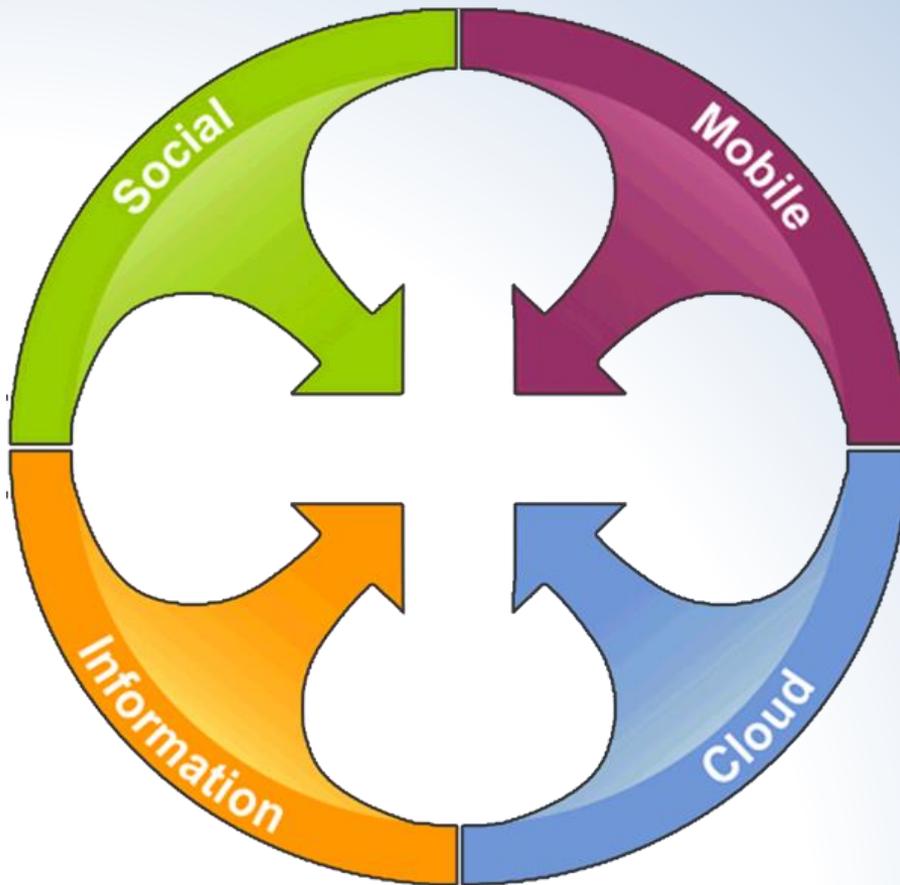
By 2019, we will have implemented the following:

- Educationally Appropriate policies for using personal mobile technology within Manheim Central School District networks.
- A multifaceted virtual community for parents, staff, and students.
- A sustainable, fiscally-responsible funding plan for technology.
- A robust cyber infrastructure that supports the continued growth of the Manheim Central Virtual Academy.
- Responsible reduction of district-wide print expenditures.
- Simplified analytic systems to facilitate data-driven decision making.
- High-quality professional development experiences that help teachers integrate technology into their instructional program.
- Integrated staff & student self-service portal for technology resources.
- Digital citizenship awareness program for staff, students, and parents/guardians.
- “Anytime, Anywhere” access to files and appropriate data.

The Drivers



The interactive and mobile technologies with which our students are immersed outside of school present tremendous opportunities for supporting our design of more authentic learning environments. At the same time, emerging research on how the brain functions and on how people learn is supporting the value of creative, social, and real-life integration of these interactive, mobile technologies in promoting deeper learning for students.



"The Nexus of Forces" – © Gartner 2012

Advances in mobile, social, information, and cloud technologies are reshaping society and creating new opportunities for how we teach and learn. The convergence of these four forces is enabling access to more powerful personal mobile technologies to learn and work. The growing use of personal and consumer-grade technology products in the workplace also increases the expectation of our staff and students to use their own technology tools at school or in the office.

These ubiquitous technologies have the potential to enable a powerful and dynamic human learning network more easily than previously possible. However, if the potential benefits of integrating technology into our instructional and workplace practices are to be realized, then these emerging technologies must be used to facilitate how we transform a learner's interaction and engagement with the content and other learners. In this way, we have an opportunity to reshape current conceptions of teaching and learning to address the learning needs of all students more effectively.

These mobile technologies are upending existing conventions for how, what, and when we learn and work. The innovations for school and work that these technologies are fueling no longer are about what will be possible in the future. Thus, there is an urgent need to reimagine learning and the business of learning in the digital age.

The Vision



Students will acquire the academic, technical, and life skills necessary to enhance and fully develop their unique capabilities, preparing all to contribute positively and responsibly to an ever-changing, increasingly diverse community, society, and world.

We envision classrooms as communities where...

- students are curious, reflective, resourceful, and engaged problem solvers working together;
- digital curricular resources offer students multiple opportunities to integrate challenging content, represented through different mediums including text, video, audio, graphic, and multimedia formats;
- technology supports disciplined inquiry and making students' thinking visible as they make sense of complex and real-world phenomena;
- there are ambitious expectations for all students, and the flexibility for grouping and access to learning is in place to meet their needs;
- students confidently engage in complex authentic tasks;
- all staff members have the resources and support to expertly engage students in digital learning and communicate with their parents/guardians about their progress;
- technology-enhanced assessments are used to inform instruction and to provide meaningful feedback to encourage student reflection;
- technology is used to differentiate instruction and scaffold learning opportunities that meet the learning needs and diverse backgrounds of all students.

We envision workplaces as communities where...

- the focus of our work is on the success of all students and employees;
- colleagues work collaboratively in designing and developing applications and technology solutions;
- staff models the effective uses of technology in their work to solve problems, communicate effectively, and collaborate with others;
- staff demonstrate creativity, innovation, curiosity, and habits of continuous growth in exploring new applications of technology solutions;
- all members of the school community engage as full participants in virtual learning communities through universal access to people, information, and ideas; and
- the needs, perspectives, and experiences of the school community are valued and used to inform decisions.

The Vision



Students will acquire the academic, technical, and life skills necessary to enhance and fully develop their unique capabilities, preparing all to contribute positively and responsibly to an ever-changing, increasingly diverse community, society, and world.

We strive to help teachers...

- Use their knowledge of subject matter, teaching and learning, and technology to facilitate experiences that advance student learning, creativity, and innovation in face-to-face and virtual environments.
- Design, develop, and evaluate authentic learning experiences and assessment incorporating contemporary tools and resources to maximize content learning in context.
- Exhibit knowledge, skills, and work processes representative of an innovative professional in a global and digital society.
- Actively reflect upon and strive to continuously improve their professional practice, model lifelong learning, and exhibit leadership in their school and professional community by promoting and demonstrating the effective use of digital tools and resources.

So that students can...

- Use critical thinking skills to plan and conduct research, manage projects, solve problems, reflect, and make informed decisions.
- Demonstrate creative thinking, construct knowledge, and develop innovative solutions using a variety of tools.
- Use digital media and environments responsibly to communicate and work collaboratively, including at a distance, to support individual learning and contribute to the learning of others.

Goals, Strategies, and Actions



As Cloud Computing, Mobile Technologies, and the Internet continue to transform the way we communicate, work, and live, it also is dramatically transforming the appearance and practice of learning. Remarkable changes in the variety and flexibility of digital content are facilitating important shifts in the ways teachers are teaching and students are interacting with the content and standards of today's curriculum. It presents new opportunities to extend and personalize learning beyond the classroom walls, to connect classrooms and learning communities, and to access learning resources anywhere and at any time.

To address these new opportunities, the 2016–2019 Strategic Technology Plan is a blueprint for how Manheim Central will organize resources and prioritize efforts. This updated blueprint articulates how we will integrate technology to improve the learning outcomes for our students, support the professional learning and development of our staff, and enhance the effectiveness of our services.

The strategies of the 2016–2018 Strategic Technology Plan are aligned with the Mission, Vision, and Shared Values of Manheim Central School District.

Goals, Strategies, and Actions



Goal:

Students will acquire the academic, technical, and life skills necessary to enhance and fully develop their unique capabilities, preparing all to contribute positively and responsibly to an ever-changing, increasingly diverse community, society, and world.

Strategies:

1. Innovative Teaching and Learning
2. Collaborative Communities and Connected Classrooms
3. Digital Citizenship
4. Operational & Technical Excellence



Strategy

1. Innovative Teaching and Learning

Embody excellent teaching and learning through the effective integration of technology and through building staff capacity in the effective use of technology to enhance and support learning.

Actions

By End of 2016-2017:

- Establish place in Curriculum Review Cycle for K-12 Technology Curriculum.
- Identify options & recommend changes to school schedule across all grade levels in support of K-12 Technology Curriculum.
- Establish Growth Plan to achieve desired goals for instructional technology device distribution across all grade levels.
- Develop acceptable use guidelines to implement a process that supports staff, student, and community use of personal technology on MCSD networks.

By End of 2017-2018:

- Identify options & recommend changes to program offerings and required course of study in support of K-12 Technology Curriculum.
- Implement robust infrastructure and management system to support the use of mobile technologies in teaching, learning, and assessment.
- Expand use of technology-enhanced student progress monitoring and performance—real time across all school levels.

By End of 2018-2019:

- Create an online/blended learning strategy to ensure overall quality of online learning that is aligned with the district's vision for learning.



Strategy

1. Innovative Teaching and Learning

Embody excellent teaching and learning through the effective integration of technology and through building staff capacity in the effective use of technology to enhance and support learning.

Actions

Ongoing:

- Revise the technology specifications for learning spaces to support flexibility in reconfiguring classrooms and learning beyond the classroom walls and the school day.
- Enhance learning opportunities for staff on how to effectively integrate technology with content and pedagogy across grade levels and within content.
- Enhance learning infrastructure to facilitate anywhere, anytime access and use of digital content and resources.
- Increase the availability of best-in-class communications, publishing, and social media tools within the schools.

Strategy



2. Collaborative Communities & Connected Classrooms

Develop and expand virtual communities and online learning to connect classrooms, cultivate relationships, and encourage resource sharing between and among students, teachers, staff, parents/guardians, and community partners.

Actions

By End of 2016-2017:

- Leverage Schoology district-wide to engage parents/guardians, students, and staff.
- Facilitate collaborative professional learning communities by connecting members anytime, anywhere dynamically.
- Provide staff members with conferencing and collaboration technologies to overcome distance and time, facilitate staff development, and sustain communities of practice and collaborative sharing.
- Technology-enabled interactive learning communities drive transparent progress reporting, student-teacher interactions, and parent-teacher communication.

By End of 2017-2018:

- Utilize our technology-enabled interactive learning communities to showcase student work.
- Develop technology orientation course for all staff with particular focus on alignment to New Teacher Induction process.

By End of 2018-2019:

- Provide students and parents/guardians conferencing and collaboration technologies to facilitate student learning.
- Develop technology orientation course for all students and parents/guardians, focusing on relevant and appropriate technologies for each level.

Strategy



2. Collaborative Communities & Connected Classrooms

Develop and expand virtual communities and online learning to connect classrooms, cultivate relationships, and encourage resource sharing between and among students, teachers, staff, parents/guardians, and community partners.

Actions

Ongoing:

- Enhance the breadth of curricular and instructional resources in Schoology for all grade levels and content areas.
- Provide learning opportunities for staff on how to effectively leverage technology for collaboration and communication.
- Increase opportunities for staff members of all disciplines to collaborate; this includes but is not limited to making schedule changes to accommodate common planning time. This will allow staff members of all disciplines to collaborate and design unique learning opportunities that will incorporate relevant, real-world technology tools.



Strategy

3. Digital Citizenship

Foster a culture of respectful and ethical engagement in the use of digital technologies so that all staff and students engage in the norms of appropriate, responsible use of technology.

Actions

By End of 2016-2017:

- Adopt curricular materials that teach students and staff to advocate and practice safe, legal, and responsible use of information and technology.
- Develop a program to raise awareness of all users regarding appropriate behaviors and safeguards for participating in a digital community.

By End of 2017-2018:

- Design an outreach program that fosters a culture that reflects a positive attitude toward using technology that supports collaboration, learning, and productivity and demonstrates personal responsibility for lifelong learning.

Ongoing:

- Examine and refine policies and regulations as necessary regarding the use of technology and its use by the school community.
- Develop and communicate acceptable use criteria.
- Evaluate effectiveness of instruction and revise curriculum in response.
- Provide learning opportunities for staff on how to model responsible digital citizenship.

Strategy



4. Operational and Technical Excellence

Expand the integration of management and analytic systems to support continuous improvement in learning outcomes, user experiences, and operational efficiency.

Actions

By End of 2016-2017:

- Technology Support & Integration staffing levels will be revised in light of the Strategic Plan, in support of the curricular and operational needs and goals of MCSD.
- Implement effective reliable system-wide messaging, database management, and data center systems to support anywhere, anytime access and high-quality customer services.

By End of 2017-2018:

- Enhance and ensure safe and secure access, use, and availability of technology systems.
- Streamline processes to maximize efficiency and transform current automated paper-based work flows and integrate staff self-service models.

By End of 2018-2019:

- Update or replace priority instructional and administrative systems to support excellence and improvement in learning and operational outcomes and performance.

Ongoing:

- Identify and prioritize systems for replacement or large-scale enhancement.

Plan Development Process



The process for developing the 2016–2019 Strategic Technology Plan took place throughout the first semester of the 2015-2016 Academic Year, as a diverse subset of our learning community engaged in spirited and wide-ranging discussions.

The ideas and topics borne from these discussions were distilled into major themes that then shaped the development of this plan's goal, strategies, and actions. Each of these serves to frame the shared vision of teaching and learning that the plan articulates.

Most ideas are heavily focused on providing every student with engaging and inspiring opportunities to bring the world into the classroom, integrate greater access to mobile technologies and digital content, and facilitate the responsible use of and interaction with present, emerging, and yet-to-exist technology.

Following the plan's adoption, conversations, brainstorming, and perspective supports for enhancement will continue to be solicited, as the practice of reflection, revision, and continuous improvement must be embraced for the plan to be truly successful.