



Technology Plan

2022-2026



September, 2021

Background

The Anacortes School District has long striven to provide innovative and engaging learning experiences for students. Strategic planning that recognized the need to transition and transform learning using digital resources led to the passage of a technology levy in 2014 followed by its renewal in 2018. The resources provided by both levies resulted in the digital makeover of classrooms—from analog environments with print-based materials to multimedia centers with a rich mix of print and digital resources to support learning.

Our Technology Levies have provided the funding to support the purchase of laptops, online tools, multimedia audio/visual systems, and the necessary staffing and infrastructures to maintain connectivity in our classrooms. Additionally, levy funds were used to support online/hybrid learning and additional staffing to support parents and families as our students navigated the challenges of learning remotely due to the impact of the COVID Pandemic.

The plans intentionally connected technology with the current strategic plan: creating the conditions for students to be school ready, transition ready and preparation for College, Career and Life Readiness. In Anacortes, our teaching and learning plans have focused on:

Ensuring That Students Are College, Career and Life Ready

Students need to be able to navigate online resources to gather, evaluate and synthesize information, particularly in doing research. Many college and career settings are now paperless, and students are navigating these environments in elementary, middle and high school to prepare them for success.

Improving Academic Achievement

In the district's Annual Operating Plan, Strategic Pillar 1: Quality Instruction & Curriculum goal 1.7 states each student graduates from high school ready for college, career, and life with 21st century skills. Increased technology integration in classrooms aligns with the skills and attributes needed for success in the 21st century. Researchers often refer to these as the "6 Cs." They are:

1. Critical Thinking
2. Communication
3. Collaboration
4. Creativity
5. Character
6. Citizenship



In addition, digital standardized testing is now the norm requiring students to use technology as a standard part of the formative and cumulative assessment process.

Closing The Digital Divide

Anacortes has a notable achievement gap among students from families who have limited financial means. Students from these families face a significant “digital divide” because they lack access to technology and connectivity at home. A digitally rich, well-connected environment at school and home helps close this gap and prepares all students for their post high school experience.



Providing Relevant Instruction

When used effectively, technology helps teaching and learning become more relevant for the student. Students can explore their own areas of interest while also mastering the content provided by their teachers. Technology offers greater ability for teachers to adjust the pacing for individual students, allowing some students to work at a rapid pace while allowing others to work more strategically with the goal that all achieve competency in the subjects they are studying. Furthermore, adopting online resources and curricula allow students multiple entry points that print resources alone cannot provide.

For these reasons, we have made technology essential to the Anacortes School District’s instructional framework, [Five Dimensions of Teaching & Learning](#) (University of Washington). This framework puts forth a vision of instruction that focuses on purpose, individualization, engagement, thinking skills and positive classroom culture. It supports student self-assessment, rich student talk and deeper, project-based learning. Technology aligns with this model of teaching, as it offers opportunities for personalized student learning and collaboration.

District Technology Policy

The district’s digital transformation has followed district policy. The policy states:

The district recognizes that technology is an important element of ensuring that students have the necessary skills to navigate the 21st century and excel in their native digital world. The superintendent shall ensure that the district creates the necessary conditions to effectively leverage technology for learning.

Therefore, the superintendent will create or provide the following levers:

- *shared vision for educational technology*
- *empowered leaders in effecting change at every level*
- *a systematic technology implementation plan*
- *consistent and adequate funding for infrastructure, personnel, digital resources, and professional development*
- *equitable access for students and staff*
- *skilled personnel to select and effectively use technology resources*

- *ongoing professional learning which included dedicated time to practice and share ideas*
- *technical support for maintaining, renewing, and using technology resources*
- *curriculum framework that is aligned with and supports digital age learning and work*
- *student-centered learning which stems from the needs and abilities of students*
- *continuous assessment of technology resources*
- *engaged communities that include partnerships and collaboration*
- *support policies which include financial plans and accountability measure*

2022-2026 Vision

ASD Strategic Plan & Vision of Technology Use

In the 2020-2021 school year the district updated its five-year strategic plan and continues to align efforts around equity and inclusion. The plan specifically calls out the importance of technology to the success of teaching and learning in our schools. The Strategic Plan calls for a continued shift in instruction to allow for hands-on, student-centered pedagogies enhanced or made possible by the use of technology in our learning environments. The district's technology vision continues to support our instructional framework described above. It also draws on standards from the International Society for Technology in Education (www.iste.org). They are:

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.

Following the District’s Strategic Plan, District Policy, and ISTE Standards, the technology plan calls for continued dynamic growth in the upcoming four years. The list below illustrates the district’s approach to each component of the technology policy.



Shared Vision

Staff and students must have a vision for how technology can transform the classroom environment. Based on the ASD technology Plan from 2018-2022, there has been a concerted effort to outfit district buildings and classrooms with standard tools and resources. Additionally, providing professional development and training to staff to successfully leverage these technologies preparing students for college, career, and life readiness. In the years ahead we will continue to develop, design and align the vision and strategic planning around technology integration to support a systematic approach to teaching and learning and student learning opportunities.

Empowered Leaders

ASD is committed to supporting leaders across the organization to apply and leverage technology in the day to day practices. This includes collaborating with district leadership in decision-making related to tools and online resources. Teacher voice is an important component in achieving classroom success with this work.

Strategic Modernization Schedule

The 2022-2026 Technology Levy will allow the district to continue to modernize student and staff laptops on a regular, consistent schedule that engages volume purchasing to secure the significant cost savings for the District.

2022-2023 Modernize staff computers & increase safety infrastructure

2023-2024	Modernize student computers in grades PK-12
2024-2025	Modernize classroom computers & audio/visual equipment
2025-2026	Modernize servers, communication, and networking infrastructure

Consistent, Adequate Funding

The 2022 technology levy provides about \$2 million per year for infrastructure, personnel, digital resources, and professional development. As technology is not funded by the state as part of basic education, these local funds allow the district to achieve the board’s vision for technology integration. Consistent and adequate funding is required for both daily learning opportunities and the district to be responsive in unexpected situations e.g. a Pandemic in which students are required to access instruction in a remote or hybrid environment.

Equitable Access

Equitable access for students, teachers, staff, and parents is a priority for ASD, especially as it relates to the ability for all students to access the Internet at home. A goal of the new strategic plan is to remove obstacles in allowing all students to access the Internet outside of school. In addition, the district is developing plans for para-educators with specific classroom assignments to have access to devices to enhance their ability to support student learning.

Skilled Personnel

District is committed to creating infrastructure to support teachers in designing and delivering lessons that draw on technology to deepen student inquiry in alignment with the ISTE standards.

Ongoing Professional Learning

ASD prioritizes professional learning as a vital means to achieve growth. The technology levy has resources dedicated to professional development, including summer training and time built into the school year. The district also sends representatives to state and regional instructional technology conferences, as well as the embedded professional learning that teaching staff engage in through the teaching and learning department.

Technical Support & System Audits

ASD has a highly-trained team supporting technology infrastructure. In addition to paying this team’s salaries, the Technology Levy provides the funding that allows the team to maintain and replace the hardware, software, and systems that our students and staff depend on. The team’s monitoring includes working with the Washington State Risk Management Pool to plan for and prevent cybersecurity threats, perform system audits, and work with trusted vendors to ensure our systems operate with 99.99% uptime during school and business hours.

Curriculum Framework

The ISTE standards provide the curriculum framework that is aligned with and supports digital age learning and student work. Instructional specialists work with teachers on implementing these standards through their coaching. In addition, the digital learning committee will review online materials and tools to support the curriculum framework.

Student-Centered Learning

Student-centered learning remains central to the district’s instructional framework, strategic plan and our digital transformation effort. Often referred to as student “voice and choice,” student-centered learning continues to be a focus of both instructional coaching and teacher evaluation in our school system.

Engaged Communities

ASD will partner with the community to achieve the full potential of the digital transformation. Strategic plan goals include launching an Innovation Expo to highlight student work, uniting with partners to assure Internet access at home for all district students and communicating actively with parents/community about successes and areas for growth with our technology initiative.



Support Policies

The school board is committed to developing an ongoing revenue stream to support the digital transformation. The strategic plan calls for ballot measures in 2018 and 2022 to renew the technology levy to update infrastructure hardware and support continued staffing and professional development. Accountability is built into the strategic plan and board policy.

Conclusion

The role of technology in the district’s overall improvement process is important, as evidenced by its place in the strategic plan and the vision presented in this document. We live in a fast-changing world, and we know that many of the jobs our students will obtain have yet to be created. Our new strategic plan calls for innovation, creativity and relevance in learning – all attributes that tech-infused instruction can support. Anacortes has come a long way in the first phase of its technology plan in schools, with devices in student and staff hands and a willingness to use technology to shift instruction. This continuation of previous plans draws on ideas and examples of best practice to support teachers and students in their use of technology to support learning. It provides a sustainable roadmap for future growth and success.