Educational Technology Plan
2016-2019

Spartanburg County School District Five

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I verify that all components for the Spartanburg County School District Five Technology Plan have been addressed.

Superintendent: 03/31/2017 **Date**

Dr. Scott Turner

Chief Technology Officer: 03/31/2017 **Date**

Dr. Jeff Rogers

Director of Technology: 03/31/2017 **Date**

Sam P. Vezina

Director of Instructional Technology: 03/31/2017 **Date**

Amanda T. Dobson

I. Executive Summary

The Mission of District Five Schools of Spartanburg County is to provide every student quality educational experiences in a safe, nurturing, and engaging environment, enabling each individual to succeed in life and function as a productive citizen.

In Spartanburg Five, we believe that technology is a one tool that should be used to help leverage the curriculum. Our technology integration supports each curriculum area in a meaningful way that impacts learning inside and outside the classroom. All student learning experiences are designed to have connections with real-life opportunities. Technology is used to level the field for all students, to meet individual needs, to provide real-time data, and to offer lessons which allow consideration of student voice and choice along with pace and place as students are empowered to individualize their learning experiences.

Spartanburg Five has experienced substantial growth in the area of technology over the past three years. We have an interactive Promethean Board in most classrooms across our district. We are currently in our first year of a true 1:1 laptop deployment for Grades 3-8. We are in year two of our K5-2 grade classes being at least 1:3 with iPads or laptops and in 2017-18 we will kick off our final phase with each student in Grades 9-12 receiving 1:1 with laptops.

To prepare for this new initiative, the district has spent the last three years training teachers with different technology tools and demonstrating different delivery methods for our current students. We have added much adaptive software and a learning management system help facilitate and curate our student learning. For support in this area, we added an Instructional Technology Specialist that assists with all software operations, deployment, training, managing student accounts and single sign-on access for most applications.

Thirteen technology trainers are stationed throughout the district to support the day to day use of technology. The trainers are classroom teachers who have received specialized training to help maximize assistance. The district offers sessions to all staff members during the summer, during the school year, after school and online. We recently added online tutorials housed within our learning management system (LMS) that allows for on-demand, need based training.

This school year the district added 2.5 technology coaches. These coaches were formerly tech trainers that served in their schools. The coaches work together with teachers, co-teach lessons and debrief through coaching cycles, allowing for authentic feedback and relationship development between staff and technology team members.

Spartanburg Five acknowledges the critical need of staying abreast of technological advancements. This fluid pan allows the district to adopt or modify technologies as they become available in order to maintain the mission of the school district and attain organizational goals.

Technology Dimension 1 is the Learners and Their Environment

Spartanburg County School District Five will use research-proven strategies to provide a developmentally appropriate, challenging curriculum using the framework of the Profile of the SC Graduate. This will challenge all of our students to communicate effectively, achieve high academic standards and prepare for life after graduation.

Technology Dimension 2 is Professional Capacity
Spartanburg County School District Five will provide meaningful and appropriate professional development opportunities to allow for the technology proficiency of all staff. Our goal is that all teachers will effectively use instructional technology in the classroom on a daily basis.

Technology Dimension 3 is Instructional Capacity
Spartanburg County School District Five will maintain a student-centered environment that supports student achievement by using current research-based technologies in instructional settings.

Technology Dimension 4 is Community Connection
Spartanburg County School District Five will use technology to facilitate meaningful partnerships with the world and the local community, allowing our students to see the connection between school and the outside world in their work.

Technology Dimension 5 is Support Capacity
Spartanburg County School District Five will continue to expand and support technology resources to assist educators and learners in meeting the state academic standards.

Technology Plan Members:
Dr. Jeffrey Rogers, Chief Technology Officer
Sam P. Vezina, Director of Technology
Amanda T. Dobson, Director of Instructional Technology
Matt Feiling, Instructional Technology Specialist
Kelli Gerhardt, Instructional Technology Coach
David Kalk, Instructional Technology Coach
Geoff Turner, Instructional Technology Coach

II. Background Information

Mission: The Mission of District Five Schools of Spartanburg County is to provide every student quality educational experiences in a safe, nurturing, and engaging environment, enabling each individual to succeed in life and function as a productive citizen.

Vision: District Five Schools will pursue exemplary educational opportunities and academic excellence in order to improve the quality of life for our students and community.

Belief Statements

We Believe That:

- Children are our most valuable resource
- Public education is a pillar of our society
- Integrity is taught by example
- Excellence is achievable
- Mutual respect is beneficial
- Knowledge empowers
- Diversity strengthens
- Family is the foundation of society
- Children need supportive adult role models
- Attitude makes a difference
- Learning is a lifelong process
- Personal responsibility serves the common good
- Stewardship of resources maintains trust

District Profile

Number of Schools	12
Student Enrollment	8228
Free and Reduced Lunch Eligibility	45%
District E-rate Discount	60%

Overview

This plan was developed using input from the stakeholders and end users of technology in Spartanburg County School District Five. By having both technical and end user input we are able to assess the needs of the district and make sure that solutions are both effective in the ultimate goal of educating students as well as being viable for implementation both technically and fiscally.

District Needs Assessment

In the next three years, Spartanburg Five will consider the following expenditures and upgrades:

- Further investigation and purchase of intelligent adaptive softwares
- Increase instructional software libraries
- Increase connections between media specialists and classroom teachers
- Continued deployment and maintenance of one-to-one student devices
- Expand the model classroom initiative by adding forty-five additional teachers
- Continue PBL training for classroom teachers delivered by Advanced Learning Partnerships
- Upgrade outdated security systems with new IP-based security cameras.
- Upgrade outdated phone systems with new VOIP systems

III Current State of Technology

Current Technology

District Five schools currently owns approximately 6,000 Windows 10 laptops, over 500 iPads and 50 Chromebooks. Around 550 computers in the fleet are a mixture of Windows 7, 8 and 10 Laptops used by instructional teachers.

Each school is equipped with a physical server using Microsoft's Hyper-V. Each server hosts a Windows Domain Controller and a Windows file server. The file server is used for instructional purposes by students, teachers and administrators. Instructional software is loaded on the file server for easy network access. The file server is also used as a print server for all network printers at each school.

Byrnes High School is home to the core district router and the head-in for the Internet. The district was recently upgraded to a 800 Meg internet circuit. Byrnes High is also home to local servers used by other schools in the district for programs such as Powerschool, Destiny, Enrich, etc.

All the schools within District Five have complete wireless coverage in all instructional areas, including cafeterias and gymnasiums. Aerohive access points are dispersed throughout the district and enable staff and guests to use the network resources from mobile devices.

Five locations in District Five (Florence Chapel, Berry Shoals, Beech Springs, Byrnes High School and the District Office) utilize VoIP telephone systems. All other sites use digital phone systems.

All schools in our district are running gigabit switched networks. Switches have been upgraded and provide gigabit speed to the end user. All schools are linked together via AT&T's ASE circuit at speeds of 250 megabits per second for each elementary school and one gigabit for both middle schools.

Spartanburg County School District Five prides itself by using technology to advance student achievement in the classroom. The district uses Schoology as a learning management platform in order to facilitate the integration of technology within the classroom.

Spartanburg Five offers a District Five virtual school and offers expanded credit recovery programs through Apex K-12 curriculum. The district offers all four Biomedical courses and two of three Engineering courses for Project Lead the Way. We plan to begin the third course of Engineering in the 2017-18 school year. We are also pleased to be in our first year of Gateway to Technology at both middle schools in our district.

Each grade level, beginning at K5, conducts a MAP test a minimum of twice of each year. Projections of growth for each student are available to the teachers on the NWEA site using the Dynamic Reporting component. With Dynamic Reporting, a student goal worksheet is produced with current RIT band correlations and goal setting information for growth within the subject area. It also highlights individual student Lexile Levels and produces individual reading lists for each student.

Enrich software is used by staff in order to make data-driven decisions. Enrich is a web-based software program that provides standardized test results to teachers and school administrators on every test offered or administered within our school district. The information allows teachers to customize instruction and provides a tool to automate the generation of student academic plans. Student data is updated nightly on this system. This software provides criterion based reports that are user friendly and customizable through import to MS Excel. To this set of data, we have recently added reading and math benchmarks along with all standardized testing. This integrated software has empowered our teachers to make many data-driven decisions on instruction within their classroom.

Additional technologies include School Check-In Systems, digital report cards for kindergarten and first grade students, and Blackboard calling systems for parental contacts and emergency notification. Blackboard also provides an app for parent and community communication.

Spartanburg Five also converts software using Level Data's automated services. PowerSchool has provided a great method for both parents and students to become more involved with the educational process because of the ability to view a student's progress in real time.

The recently purchased the d5live.net domain name serves as our platform for all student digital learning. Every student in Spartanburg School District Five is issued an email account with the domain that is used to login to their assigned laptop as well as all software used by the district through single sign-on.

IV Technology Plan

In order for students to compete in a society increasingly reliant on technology, they must be technologically proficient. The staff is empowered with technological tools and skills that enable them to provide technologically advanced educational opportunities. Spartanburg

School District Five will provide all students, teachers, and administrators with the tools, training, and support necessary to utilize technology to enhance learning, increase productivity, access information, and effectively communicate with others.

Technology Goals

In order to attain our vision, the following goals have been developed.

1. Technology will be integrated into all classroom curricula tranforming teaching and learning, both inside and outside, the classroom giving students 21st Century skills, preparing them for a successful future in college or the workforce.
2. Technology will be used to personalize learning experiences for our students and will focus on critical thinking, collaboration, communication and creativity. We will offer our students choice over time and input in determining the pace and place of their learning.
3. Appropriate and purposeful technology professional development activities will be provided to meet the needs of district employees. Teachers will also be offered choice over time, pace and place of their learning.
4. An up-to-date network infrastructure that supports technologies needed to meet district instructional goals and provide administrative services will be accessible to all district students and employees.
5. Computer hardware will be provided that will provide students, teachers, and administrators the ability to achieve the district's technology objectives.

Action Plan

Technology Dimension 1: Learners and Their Environment

Overall Goal: Spartanburg County School District Five will use research-proven strategies to provide a developmentally appropriate, challenging curriculum using the framework of the Profile of the SC Graduate. This will challenge all of our students to communicate effectively, achieve high academic standards and prepare for life after graduation.

Current uses of technology to achieve this goal are as follows:

- Learning Management System (Schoology)
- Instructional Software including, but not limited to: Mathia, Dreambox, Discovery Education, iRead, iReady, Typing Master
- Online educational software packages
- Online educational databases
- Promethean interactive boards and panels
- iPads for K5-2 grade, speech and special education
- BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) Policy
- Title I schools are one-to-one with grades two through four having laptops and grades K5 through first having iPads.

Objectives, Strategies, and Action List to Reach Goal

Objectives	Action Steps
1.1 Teachers will complete technology training as provided by the district.	• The district offers free professional development as 2 or 3 day summer workshops. • The district offers after school professional development opportunities as part of our D5 Explore cohorts, which meet monthly throughout the academic year. • The district provides embedded 1:1 professional development through District Instructional Technology Coaches and District Technology Trainers through coaching cycles. • District Instructional Technology Coaches and Model Classroom Teachers will continue to receive professional development through small group coaching opportunities offered in partnership with ALP (Advanced Learning Partnerships).
1.2 Students will engage in authentic learning activities that are aligned with SCCCR standards.	Using our technology coaches as a guide, teachers will work on developing lesson plans collaboratively with other disciplines and grade levels. Lessons will be shared and highlighted on our district resource website for teachers.
1.3 Students will select appropriate tools to complete multidisciplinary tasks to demonstrate technology proficiency.	We will not treat technology as its own discipline, rather, our concentration will be on the integration of technology as one part of our curriculum and learning process.

Funding Considerations for District and Schools

The above mentioned resources in the district snapshot came from a combination of the district allocation, EIA funds, CATE funds, and capital improvement funds.

Evaluation of Objectives

Documentation of classroom walkthroughs and evaluations, lesson plans and student work samples. Documentation of training, notes from coaching cycles and attendance records.

Technology Dimension 2: Professional Capacity

Overall Goal: The goal of Spartanburg County School District Five is to have 100% of our second year teacher's technology proficient by the end of that school year.

Objectives	Strategies
2.1 Teachers will complete a needs assessment to determine needed professional development opportunities.	D5 Explore Cohorts Needs Assessment
2.2 Provide workshops, courses and training sessions that are appropriate for individual teachers.	• Technology staff development will be offered as part of 2 or 3 day summer workshops • D5 Explore cohorts • 1:1 embedded professional development provided by our team of instructional technology coaches and technology trainers.
2.3 Develop a network of sharing with other teachers to build skills and expertise necessary to prepare for effective tech use.	Grade Level and Vertical Planning Sessions

Implementation Action Steps for District and Schools

Training on software is provided by vendors and district staff. Teachers requesting individual help are assisted one on one by our Director of Instructional Technology, a District Instructional Technology Coach or an assigned District Trainer. Workshops are offered on integrating technology into the curriculum.

Funding Considerations for District and Schools

The yearly budget for staff development has increased to $124,000. This includes state funding and district allocations for tech trainers, contracts with Advanced Learning Partnerships, contractual training for software packages and also professional development for our District Instructional Technology Coaches.

Evaluation of Objectives

Each teacher in the district will participate in a minimum of two D5 Explore cohorts per academic year. These cohorts are chosen by the individual teacher, and they provide professional development opportunities which align with our district goals. Evaluation will be based on successful completion of courses and appropriate observations.

Technology Dimension 3: Instructional Capacity

Snapshot of Current Instructional Capacity:

The district currently has around 7,000 computers and an enrollment of 8228 students. We have part-time instructional lab attendants and tech trainers in most schools to help teachers with software implementation. Classrooms contain Promethean Boards or Panels. Each school has access to a wide variety of instructional software designed to enhance the classroom experience.

During the summer of 2013, each teacher was given a laptop to better facilitate instruction. Mathia software was added to assist with instruction in Mathematics for upper grades and Dreambox was purchased for younger grades. Wireless infrastructure is now covering each school in the district to aid with the "Bring Your Own Device" policy that was implemented in the summer of 2013. This goal of 1:1 will be completed with the addition of devices in grades 9-12 for the 2017-2018 academic year.

Objectives	**Strategies & Implementation**
Teachers will be trained continuously in curriculum based software.	• MAP interpretation staff development will be offered on a regular basis. • Grade Level and Individual Sessions offered by Tech Coaches
Instructional software will be purchased for school and classroom level needs.	Mathia, Dreambox, Discovery Education, iRead, iReady, Typing Master, Schoology, Apex, iCurio, Score 21 and USA Test Prep

Funding Considerations for District and Schools

Our current system has a five year rotation provided for each device. Once the device is at five years, it will be refreshed with a new device.

Evaluation of Objectives

A district wide software inventory will house a record of increased purchases of instructional software.

Technology Dimension 4: Community Connections

Overall Goal: The goal for this dimension is to increase community connections and the use of our facilities for outside community purposes.

Snapshot of Current Technology Use in District

Report to the Community, a once a year publication, includes a technology update that is distributed to all the employees as well as key communicators and made available to the community at large. It can also be found at http://www.spart5.net.

The D5 News, a district electronic newsletter, is published weekly. The newsletter consists of faculty and student events, awards and updates. All employees in the district receive an issue as well as others interested in joining the mailing list.

Our district website was updated to make it more user friendly for our parents and community. All of our schools have web pages and all faculty and staff have access to e-mail.

At all of our schools, we have implemented the parent portal feature in PowerSchool and Schoology. This provides our families with an individual log in to check the discipline and attendance of their student. This also links parents to our grades and current information concerning their child's classes. The feature serves as an updated real-time glimpse into current grade averages and academic progression.

Each school has business partnerships.

Each school has a School Improvement Council made up of parents, business partners and staff.

Objectives	**Strategies & Implementation**
To increase the community connection in our district	Continue to keep the web pages updated and communicate with parents through letters and email.
	Continues to communicate with the Spartanburg Herald Journal to improve public relations.
	Continue with School Improvement Councils.
	Continue with School-to-Work Advisory boards.
	Continue to open our facilities for approved community activities.
	Continue with our "Annual Report to the Community" and the "D5 News" publications.
	Continue to form business partnerships.
	Continue the volunteer programs in the schools.
	Continue to use social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram) by the district and individual schools.
	Continue to use input from families and community members to increase their awareness of what is

	happening in the school district.

Funding Considerations

Meetings are funded by the local school and district budgets.

Evaluation of Objectives

Minutes and membership lists are reviewed in order to evaluate programs. Enrollment and attendance on committees serve as an evaluation of community outreach and involvement. The increase in use of electronic communication between schools and parents serves as an indicator of stakeholder involvement.

Technology Dimension 5: Support Capacity

Technology Staff

Dr. Jeff Rogers	Chief Technology Officer
Sam P. Vezina	Director of Technology
Amanda T. Dobson	Director of Instructional Technology
Sarah Cleveland	PowerSchool Administrator
Matt Feiling	Instructional Technology Specialist
Geannie Gilpin	Computer Technician
Kevin Everton	Computer Technician
Sungmi Phan	Computer Technician
Gabriel Ortiz	Computer Technician
Homer Ellis	Computer Technician
Aaron Bohmer	Computer Technician
Clint Johnson	Computer Technician
Geannie Gilpin	Computer Technician
Kelli Gerhardt	Instructional Technology Coach
David Kalk	Instructional Technology Coach
Geoff Turner	Instructional Technology Coach
Billy Nethken	Systems Administrator

Overall Goal: The overall goal for this dimension is to have all equipment running and teachers knowledgeable on how to use the equipment.

Snapshot of Current Support Capacity

We have 12 schools in our district. Rapid response efforts of technicians are made possible through our ticketing system. Many services can be performed using remote desktop software.

Objectives	Strategies and Implementation Strategies
To have all equipment functioning properly	Technicians respond to all notices received in the ticketing system.
Maintain the equipment or refresh equipment on a regular basis.	• Purchase the parts needed to keep the equipment maintained. • Offer training to technical staff to keep them knowledgeable with the changes in technology and equipment. • Refresh equipment on a three to four year cycle so that teachers and staff will be using current technology.
Provide the district with qualified support staff	Offer Professional Development to the technical staff.
Provide the faculty and staff with software training on a regular basis.	• Director of Instructional Technology will continually offer workshops and training classes on software, as well as purchase staff development from software companies. • Offer classes and workshops free of charge to faculty and staff.

Funding Considerations for District and Schools

A budget of $124,000 a year is allocated for staff development to teachers and technical support. This includes district initiated professional development and outside services provided through Advanced Learning Partnerships.

Evaluation of Objectives

The number of work orders and response time is a method of evaluating the effectiveness of support staff. We randomly offer an evaluation of the support the schools are receiving.

Staff Training /Professional Development Strategy:

Spartanburg Five offers various training opportunities throughout the school year. These trainings are offered by district employees as well as outside trainers. Most schools have an onsite lab manager that can offer assistance on site.

The Director of Instructional Techology coordinates the training within the district. Training is imperative when any new software or hardware is implemented in the district. The district uses

a "train the trainer" model and has found it to be an effective way of quickly training end users on new technologies. Staff development classes are offered throughout the year with incentives ranging from graduate credits and certifications to comp time on workdays. WebEx courses are used in order to reduce travel costs associated with offsite training which opens more opportunities for training.

The district will continue to implement training and staff development opportunities for the staff. These training sessions will not only ensure the proper use of the technology but will assist them in using the technologies in effective way of teaching their students.

V Timeline

One goal of our district is to be able to maintain our new five year district equipment rotation plan for student and teacher devices. We will continue to look for new technology solutions that can provide a better learning experience for the students.

Spartanburg Five continuously evaluates our funding and examines possible solutions for additional equipment or software packages.

Training and staff development will continue throughout the year as long as funding is available for travel and tuition costs. In-house training will still be available in the district.

Priority will be placed on maintaining current technologies within the district. In addition, grant opportunities will be explored to help fund the costs of additional training and technology needs beyond regular budgets.

Professional development will shift focus from BYOD to 1:1 implementation and on authentic integration of technologies in the classroom. With our current plan, we feel that students have better access to technology. The district has and will continue to evaluate tablets and laptops as purchases are considered.

VI Budget Summary

The current Technology budget is as follows (Note: this is not a finalized budget and has not been approved by our Board of Trustees):

Purchased Services: $244,000.00
Software Technology: $135,000.00
Technology Equipment: $1,250,697.00
Technology Training: $124,000.00

VII Evaluation

This plan will be evaluated on a quarterly basis. The members of the team will review the plan in order to assess the completion of goals and reevaluate new goals for the district as technology advancements are discovered. The team will then update the plan as necessary.

In order to effectively evaluate the goals, staff surveys will be taken to provide feedback from the end users. Student achievement will be measured using evaluations from lab managers to ensure students are capable of using technology in an effective way.

Teacher Technology Proficiency

Prior to recertification, a teacher must demonstrate that he/she is technology proficient based on our standards for teachers in Spartanburg School District Five. Principals at each school level are required to approve technology proficiency for their school personnel. This proficiency is based on their ability to complete day to day tasks within the school building, successfully complete required district training for technology integration and also participate in coaching cycles with the district's Instructional Technology Coaches.