In alliance with the North Carolina Digital Learning Plan ~~state school technology goals~~, the Transylvania County Board of Education (the "board") is committed to establishing and supporting effective digital teaching and learning practices supported by contemporary ~~21ˢᵗ century~~ information and communications technology systems to foster globally competitive, ~~healthy, and responsible~~ students prepared for modern life. The board recognizes the benefits of digital and technology-enabled and -enhanced teaching and learning resources that provide the ability to make data more accessible, personalize learning, easily customize curriculum, provide access to current information, and enable access to quality materials at a lower cost than traditional materials. To that end, the board supports classroom digital and technology-enabled and -enhanced teaching and learning resources that are aligned with the current statewide instructional standards ~~as the resources become available~~. In addition, to the extent funding permits, the board will endeavor to ensure that all students have access to personal digital and technology-enabled teaching and learning devices to foster the ~~21ˢᵗ century~~ skills necessary for future-ready learners. The board delegates the responsibility for coordinating the selection and acquisition of technological resources to the superintendent or designee in accordance with this policy and policy 3200, Selection of Instructional Materials, as applicable.

The board expects that information and communications technologies will be integrated seamlessly across the curriculum and used to support student achievement and to prepare students to be successful in college, in careers, and as globally engaged, productive citizens. ~~Such technologies will also be used to support programs and activities that promote safe schools and healthy and responsible students.~~ The curriculum committee should provide suggestions in the curriculum guides referenced in policy 3115, Curriculum and Instructional Guides, for integrating technological resources (as defined in Section A, below) into the educational program. School administrators and teachers are encouraged to develop additional strategies for integrating technological resources across the curriculum and utilizing the power of technology to personalize learning and improve learning outcomes while making more efficient use of resources. The strategies should be included in the school improvement plan if they require the transfer of funds or otherwise relate to any ~~mandatory or optional~~ components of the school improvement plan.

The superintendent shall oversee development of the school system's digital teaching and learning vision as part of the school system's strategic plan and a yearly action plan that aligns to the vision. ~~integrate digital planning to support teaching and learning needs into school system strategic planning efforts and~~ The development and ongoing review of the vision and the action plan will include various stakeholders such as curriculum leaders, teachers, administrators, students, parents, and representatives from technology services, instructional technology, finance, and other departments as required. The action plan will include adequate data privacy protections to secure student data and will take into account the level of out-of-school Internet access for students.

The superintendent may ~~shall~~ establish relationships with businesses and seek grants and other funding sources in an effort to acquire additional technological resources for the educational program and to support continuous out-of-school Internet access for students.

A.   SELECTION OF TECHNOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Technological resources are information and communications technologies includinge, but are not limited to, the following: (1) hardware, including both fixed and mobile technologies and devices such as desktop computers, laptops, netbooks, tablets, e-readers, smartphones, and gaming devices; (2) software, including cloud-based and web-based applications, programs, and platforms; (3) network and telecommunications systems and services; (4) Internet access; (5) multimedia equipped classrooms; (6) computer classrooms and laboratories; and (7) other existing or emerging mobile communications systems. All technological resources must be purchased and used in a manner consistent with applicable law and board policy, including laws and policies related to copyright, public records, bidding, and other purchase requirements, accessibility for students with disabilities, staff duties, and standards for student behavior.

Technological resources must meet or exceed the following standards before they may be considered for implementation.

1.   Technological resources must support the current statewide instructional standards or the programs of the school system, including the system-wide and school-level priorities established by the district-level and school media and technology advisory committees.

2.   Technological resources must support the current use of learning and instructional management technologies in the school.

3.   Technological resources must be compatible with the condition of the network and other infrastructure resources. The technology director shall set minimum standards for technological resources that are purchased or donated. Upgrading, hardware conditions, and similar requirements must be maintained to the highest standards.

4.   There must be sufficient staff to operate and maintain the technological equipment, programs, and systems.

5.   There must be adequate funds budgeted to implement and support the technological resources and to train instructional staff to use the resources to improve educational outcomes.

Procurement of technological resources should be done in collaboration with teachers and technical support staff, as appropriate. Whenever possible, a pilot period to test the resource should occur prior to full purchase.

B.   DEPLOYMENT OF TECHNOLOGY TO SCHOOLS

89
90 The superintendent shall oversee the development of the school system's technology
91 deployment and refresh plan. The plan will be designed to ensure organized, effective,
92 and efficient, and sustainable means of deploying and maintaining technology resources
93 and will establish appropriate refresh/replacement cycles. new information and
94 communications technologies. The superintendent shall develop procedures that outline
95 the strategy of the technology deployment and refresh plan.
96
97 **C.   ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION AND OTHER COLLABORATIVE TOOLS**
98
99 The superintendent is authorized to permit instructional personnel to incorporate email,
100 social networking sites, blogs, wikis, video sharing sites, podcasts, video conferencing,
101 online collaborations, instant messaging, texting, virtual learning environments, and/or
102 other forms of direct electronic communications or Web 2.0 applications for educational
103 purposes to the extent the superintendent deems appropriate and in accordance with
104 policy 7335, Employee Use of Social Media. The superintendent shall establish
105 parameters and rules for use of these tools and shall require instruction for students in
106 how to use such tools in a safe, effective, and appropriate way. Instructional personnel
107 shall make all reasonable attempts to monitor student online activity and shall otherwise
108 comply with the requirements of policy 3225/4312/7320, Technology Responsible Use,
109 when using these tools.
110
111 **D.   TECHNOLOGY-RELATED PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**
112
113 The superintendent shall plan a program of technology-enabled professional development
114 for digital teaching and learning that prepares the instructional staff administrators,
115 teachers, coaches, school library media coordinators, and technical support staff to for
116 utilizing utilize digital tools and resources in accordance with the N.C. Digital Learning
117 Competencies for Teachers and Administrators. Professional development shall
118 emphasize technology integration and continuous improvement, including the use of
119 ongoing technology-integrated online-learning activities throughout the course of study
120 and the provision of personalized learning. Professional development shall also address
121 the ethical, legal, and practical issues related to social networking and mobile devices in
122 the classroom and other topics deemed necessary by the superintendent or technology
123 director. The superintendent and technology director should assist schools in
124 coordinating staff development needs as provided in policy 1610/7800, Professional and
125 Staff Development. To the extent possible, job-specific professional development
126 opportunities should be made available, as well as professional development that is
127 personalized to meet the needs of individual staff.
128
129 Legal References: G.S. 115C-522, -528; 143B-1341; State Board of Education Policy BOP-018
130
131 Cross References: Professional and Staff Development (policy 1610/7800), Curriculum and
132 Instructional Guides (policy 3115), Selection of Instructional Materials (policy 3200),

133   Technology Responsible Use (policy 3225/4312/7320), Internet Safety (policy 3226/4205),
134   Copyright Compliance (policy 3230/7330), School Improvement Plan (policy 3430), Integrity
135   and Civility (policy 4310), Public Records – Retention, Release, and Disposition (policy
136   5070/7350), Network Security (policy 6524), Staff Responsibilities (policy 7300), Employee Use
137   of Social Media (policy 7335), Gifts and Bequests (policy 8220)
138
139   Other ~~References~~ Resources: North Carolina Digital Teaching and Learning Competencies for
140   Teachers and Administrators, available at https://www.dpi.nc.gov/districts-schools/districts-
141   schools-support/digital-teaching-and-learning/digital-teaching-learning-standards#digital-
142   learning-competencies-for-educators; ~~North Carolina State School Technology Plan (Division of~~
143   ~~Instructional Technology) (current version)~~ The North Carolina Digital Learning Plan (2022),
144   available at https://www.dpi.nc.gov/districts-schools/districts-schools-support/digital-teaching-
145   and-learning/digital-learning-
146   initiative#:~:text=The%20North%20Carolina%20Digital%20Learning%20Plan%20describes%2
147   0the,Learning%20Initiative.%202022%20North%20Carolina%20Digital%20Learning%20Plan
148
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150
151   Revised: March 5, 2018; [DATE]