

Policy Code: 3220 Technology in the Educational Program

In alliance with the North Carolina Digital Learning Plan, the board is committed to establishing and supporting effective digital teaching and learning practices supported by contemporary information and communications technology systems to foster globally competitive 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. 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 skills necessary for future-ready learners.

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. The [Educational Technology Advisory Curriculum Committee](#) should provide suggestions ~~in the curriculum 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 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. 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 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 including, but not limited to, the following: (1) hardware, including both fixed and mobile technologies and devices such as desktop computers, laptops, tablets, 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.
2. Technological resources must meet district security standards. ~~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.
6. Technological resources must be approved by the district before use.

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 in accordance with the district hardware adoption plan.

B. Deployment of Technology to Schools

The superintendent shall oversee the development of the school system's technology deployment and refresh plan. The plan will be designed to ensure organized, effective, efficient, and sustainable means of deploying and maintaining technology resources and will establish appropriate refresh/replacement cycles. The superintendent shall develop procedures that outline the strategy of the technology deployment and refresh plan.

C. Use of Personal Technology Devices

~~The board authorizes the use of personal technology devices by students and employees at school sites in along with their school system assigned devices. Use of personal technology devices for educational purposes is subject to this policy and may be subject to other board policies, including but not limited to policy 3225/4312/7320, Technology Responsible Use, policy 3228/7323, Use of Personal Technology to Conduct School Business, and policy 4318, Use of Wireless Communication Devices.~~

~~Personal technology devices include, but are not limited to, computers, phones, tablets, and other similar technological devices. Personal gaming devices or consoles, laser pointers, or routers (wireless or wired), personal assistant devices, and MiFi devices may not be used at school sites. To protect students' privacy, personal technology devices may not be used in locker rooms, restrooms, or nurses' offices. Students must have the classroom teacher's permission to use a personal technology device during the school day.~~

~~The superintendent shall develop a plan for the use of personal technology devices at school sites. The plan should address, at a minimum, the instructional use of personal devices, compatibility requirements, access limitations or requirements, content filtering, security, and other issues as recommended by the technology director. The plan should assign personal responsibility to the user for repair and replacement of damaged or stolen devices and for any data or other charges arising from use of a personal device. The plan should require a written agreement for the use of personal technology devices from each student and staff member who wishes to participate.~~

~~School employees may confiscate a student's personal technology device if it is used in violation of board policy, the Code of Student Conduct, or a school rule. Confiscated devices will be returned at the end of the school day unless law enforcement involvement is necessary. In accordance with policy 4342, Student Searches, a student's personal technology device, including, but not limited to, text messages and digital photos, may be searched whenever a school official has reason to believe the search will provide evidence that the student has violated or is violating a law, a board policy, the Code of Student Conduct, or a school rule. The scope of such searches must be reasonably related to the objectives of the search and not excessively intrusive in light of the nature of the suspected infraction.~~

C.D. Electronic Communication and Other Collaborative Tools

The superintendent is authorized to permit instructional personnel to incorporate email, collaboration tools ~~social networking sites, blogs~~, video sharing sites, podcasts, video conferencing, ~~online collaborations, instant messaging, texting~~, virtual learning environments, and/or other forms of ~~direct~~ electronic communications ~~or Web 2.0 applications~~ for educational purposes to the extent the superintendent deems appropriate and in accordance with policy 7335, Employee Use of Social Media. The superintendent shall establish parameters and rules for use of these tools and shall require instruction for students in how to use such tools in a safe, effective, and appropriate way. Instructional personnel shall make all reasonable attempts to monitor student online activity and shall otherwise comply with the requirements of policy 3225/4312/7320, Technology Responsible Use, when using these tools.

D. Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) is an artificial intelligence tool that responds to a user's input or prompt by generating new text, images, audio, video, or content based on what it learned in its training data set. The board encourages the use of generative AI by school system employees and students to expand their skills and capabilities and to prepare students for a future AI-enhanced world. The superintendent or designee shall develop and maintain guidelines that detail the acceptable and responsible use of generative AI by school system employees and students. See also policy 3225/4312/7320, Technology Responsible Use.

All school system employees and students should be AI literate, that is, have an understanding of basic AI principles and applications, the skills to recognize when AI is employed, and awareness of its limits. The superintendent or designee shall develop a comprehensive AI literacy training strategy that involves training all employees and students in the effective, ethical and safe use of generative AI tools. The training should equip employees with the necessary knowledge to effectively employ generative AI in their work while ensuring its safe and responsible integration into classroom instruction.

E. Technology-Related Professional Development

The superintendent shall plan a program of professional development for digital teaching and learning that prepares administrators, teachers, coaches, school library media coordinators, and technical support staff to utilize digital tools and resources in accordance with the N.C. Digital Learning Competencies for Teachers and Administrators. Professional development shall emphasize technology integration and continuous improvement, including the use of ongoing technology-integrated ~~online-learning~~ activities throughout the implementation of curriculum course of study and the provision of personalized-differentiated learning. Professional development shall also address the ethical, legal, and

practical issues related to social networking and mobile devices in the classroom and other topics deemed necessary by the superintendent or assistant superintendent for technology and digital learning. In addition, professional development shall involve training on generative AI, including its impact, effective use, capabilities, limitations, concerns, and responsible use. Staff will be trained both to use generative AI professionally and to guide students to effectively and ethically use generative AI as a learning tool. To the extent possible, job-specific professional development opportunities should be made available, as well as professional development that is personalized to meet the needs of individual staff.

School improvement teams should identify any staff development appropriations for technology-related professional development in their school improvement plans. The superintendent and assistant superintendent for technology and digital learning should assist schools in coordinating staff development needs as provided in policy 1610/7800, Professional and Staff Development.

Legal References: [G.S. 115C-522](#), [-528](#); [143B-1341](#); State Board of Education Policy [SBOP-018](#)

Cross References: Professional and Staff Development (policy 1610/7800), Technology Responsible Use (policy 3225/4312/7320), Internet Safety (policy 3226/4205), Use of Personal Technology to Conduct School Business (policy 3228/7323), Copyright Compliance (policy 3230/7330), School Improvement Plan (policy 3430), Integrity and Civility (policy 4310), Use of Wireless Communication Devices (policy 4318), Student Searches (policy 4342), Public Records – Retention, Release, and Disposition (policy 5070/7350), Network Security (policy 6524), Staff Responsibilities (policy 7300), Employee Use of Social Media (policy 7335), Gifts and Bequests (policy 8220)

Other Resources: North Carolina Digital Teaching and Learning Competencies for Teachers and Administrators, available at <https://www.dpi.nc.gov/districts-schools/districts-schools-support/digital-teaching-and-learning/digital-teaching-learning-standards#digital-learning-competencies-for-educators>; The North Carolina Digital Learning Plan (2022), available at <https://www.dpi.nc.gov/districts-schools/districts-schools-support/digital-teaching-and-learning/digital-learning-initiative#:~:text=The%20North%20Carolina%20Digital%20Learning%20Plan%20describes%20the,Learning%20Initiative.%202022%20North%20Carolina%20Digital%20Learning%20Plan>; [North Carolina Generative AI Implementation Recommendations and Considerations for PK-13 Public Schools](https://go.ncdpi.gov/AI_Guidelines), available at https://go.ncdpi.gov/AI_Guidelines

Adopted: February 2, 2021

Revised: May 2, 2023

New Hanover County Public Schools