

# Lopatcong Township School District Technology Plan for Digital Learning 2016-2019

## **I. District Vision**

The Lopatcong School District is committed to provide a safe, secure and supportive learning environment that challenges all students to meet or exceed developmentally appropriate expectations based on New Jersey Core Curriculum Content and Common Core State Standards through interactions with highly qualified and dedicated staff. With community collaboration, the district will promote a positive atmosphere that acknowledges diversity and encourages students to be self-reflective and civically responsible. By providing a comprehensive educational program using varied instructional strategies, recognizing individual differences, incorporating technology and digital literacy and encouraging critical thinking, the district will prepare students for college and careers in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

### **District Technology Vision**

The Technology Vision for Lopatcong is to enhance curriculum with the infusion of with technology. As our students advance into the workforce of the future, they will need to be comfortable with not only current technologies but will need to be lifelong adapters of continually changing technology. Our students will need these skills to be competitive in the 21st century global society. Lopatcong will continue with the strategy of infusing technology to continue to support the New Jersey core curriculum content standards and Common Core State Standards. Students today are born into technology (digital natives) with computers, tablets, internet, texting, and social networking. It is our responsibility to practice and teach technology to give our students the opportunity to be technology literate and to be responsible digital citizens. Lopatcong will continue to improve 24X7 resources for both students and staff. Lopatcong is dedicated to using technology as a tool to ensure our students become lifelong learners.

## **II. District Infrastructure**

The Lopatcong School District strives to maintain adequate infrastructure for Digital Learning. The NJTRAx Technology Readiness Report is attached to this document.

### III. TEACHING AND LEARNING WITHIN THE DISTRICT

#### CURRICULUM, PEDAGOGY, TEACHING, LEARNING, AND ASSESSMENT

##### Basic Expectations Curriculum, Teaching, Learning and Assessment

1. Do students collaborate with peers and create original deliverables as an outcome?

*Yes, students commonly collaborate to create original content*

2. Do students critically evaluate their work and peer work for continuous improvement?

*At this time, peer editing does occur in writing class in a limited capacity. As we increase the usage of classroom collaboration tools through technology, we will expect to see this practice used more widely throughout the district in all content areas.*

3. Are barriers identified that impede teachers in effectively infusing technology into instruction?

*Yes, barriers are identified and addressed accordingly. Currently our biggest barriers are budget and limited time for professional development.*

4. Are teachers infusing standard 8.2 concepts within their lessons?

*Our teachers always make an effort to infuse technology standards, however there is always room for improvement. The technology coordinator and administrators will continue to emphasize this need and provide assistance whenever requested.*

## **Pedagogy**

5. Do students learn from one another, from the teacher, and from resources available outside the school walls?  
*We currently have various resources available for students from outside of school through our website. In addition, a few teachers are piloting the flipped classroom model this year. As we continue to utilize Google Classroom, we anticipate that collaboration, teaching, and resources, outside the school walls will increase.*
  
6. Considering the district's vision for student learning, do teachers know about the technologies that will help make this type of learning more achievable and through what pedagogical design?  
*Many teachers are aware that the technology exists, however we will work towards more professional development and turn-key training so that all faculty has a refresher and can familiarize themselves with the available technology and hopefully begin integrating it into their own pedagogy. The integration of technology links to the districts instructional philosophy of educating students for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.*

## **Assessment**

7. Are multiple means used by students to demonstrate learning?  
*Yes, students demonstrate learning through projects, assessments, and other means.*
  
8. Do students have digital portfolios to maintain online collections of their work and objects?  
*Yes, each student has a personal server folder beginning at Grade 3 and a Google Drive account beginning at Grade 4. We are planning to extend Google accounts to Grade 3 in the 16-17 school year. Projects and documents saved in these locations follow the student until they are promoted from our district upon completing 8<sup>th</sup> grade.*

## IV. TRANSFORMATIONAL BUDGETING

### Basic Expectations

1. Is the monetary source for all upcoming purchases identified?  
*Yes, though our budget is limited, the district is committed to keeping our technology current. In the case of leased equipment, a decision must be made whether to return the equipment and replace with a new lease or buy out the lease and keep the equipment. This decision will be based on the market value of the equipment and available funds.*
2. Are the funding sources for recurring services, anticipated purchases, and professional learning (include the technology resources to support the district's technology initiatives) over the next three years identified?  
*Yes, we are working to keep our costs down and find ways to save money, so we are trying to plan conservatively. Many of the recurring costs are supplemented by Erate funding.*
3. Does the district have a system in place to determine if what is purchased is actually being used appropriately?  
*Staff observations, surveys, and monitoring by the technology coordinator, will all be used as a means to determine if the technology is being used properly.*
4. Is the district using innovative ways to fund educational technologies?  
*We are always looking for ways to fund educational technology and ways to utilize free resources to reduce costs.*

# Lopatcong Township School District Technology Plan

## IMPLEMENTATION PLANNING

### Lopatcong Middle School

NJTRAx PARCC Readiness Rating: 9

NJTRAx Digital Learning Readiness Rating: 5.4/5.0

### Lopatcong Elementary School

NJTRAx PARCC Readiness Rating: 9

NJTRAx Digital Learning Readiness Rating:

### **Goal 1: Increased Availability of Student Technology Devices**

**Strategy:** Budgeting and support from administration and board of education

**Indicator(s):** NJTrax and Local Inventory

**Objective:** Budgeting - Infrastructure

Projects/Activities (include the steps required to ensure activity completion)	Person responsible for completion of activity and those responsible for reviewing or approving the activity to move forward	Timeline (mm/yr span)	Resources
Budget for necessary bandwidth to support more devices	Technology Coordinator, Administration, Business Office	Ongoing	School and District Budgets
Continue to upgrade wireless network to provide more dense coverage and faster connection speeds	Technology Coordinator, Administration	Ongoing	IDEA, NCLB, and other Grants
Use Erate funding when possible to purchase technology to upgrade existing infrastructure	Technology Coordinator	Ongoing	School and District Budgets

**Objective:** Budgeting – Student Devices

Projects/Activities (include the steps required to ensure activity completion)	Person responsible for completion of activity and those responsible for reviewing or approving the activity to move forward	Timeline (mm/yr span)	Resources
Utilize what funds are available to purchase less expensive mobile devices rather than stationary computers	Technology Coordinator, Administration, Business Office	Ongoing	School and District Budgets
Use grant funding for classroom and/or assistive technology when possible	Technology Coordinator, Administration	Ongoing	IDEA, NCLB, and other Grants
Pursue additional grant opportunities and alternate funding methods for technology use	Technology Coordinator	Ongoing	School and District Budgets
Encourage the use of funds designated for textbooks and print media to be used for digital media	Technology Coordinator, Administration, Faculty	Ongoing	School and District Budgets
Promote our Middle School BYOD program and support its use in the classroom, to supplement district owned technology	Technology Coordinator, Middle School Administrations	Ongoing	Technology Coordinator

**Goal 2: Classroom Technology**

**Strategy:** Support from administration and board of education to provide our faculty with the tools and knowledge to create an environment of 21<sup>st</sup> Century learning in all classrooms

**Indicator(s):** Lesson Plans, Professional Development, NJTrax and Local Inventory

**Objective:** Maintain current Technology tools for staff

Projects/Activities (include the steps required to ensure activity completion)	Person responsible for completion of activity and those responsible for reviewing or approving the activity to move forward	Timeline (mm/yr span)	Resources
Maintain or Replace projection devices and interactive boards	Technology Coordinator	Ongoing	Budget
Provide staff members with quality laptops for teaching	Technology Coordinator	Ongoing	Lease or Teacher Partnership program

**Objective:** Integration of technology devices on a daily basis

Projects/Activities (include the steps required to ensure activity completion)	Person responsible for completion of activity and those responsible for reviewing or approving the activity to move forward	Timeline (mm/yr span)	Resources
Provide Budget-conscious professional development	Administration	Ongoing	Budget and Grants
Alternative training methods such as turnkey training for staff	Technology Coordinator, Administration, Faculty	Ongoing	Faculty and Administrators
Support for Classroom Management Systems	Technology Coordinator	Ongoing	Technology Support
Lesson Plans that infuse technology standards	Faculty	Ongoing	NJCCCS Standards 8.1, 8.2, and ISTE

**Goal 3: Continued Student Achievement**

**Strategy:** Using the standards as a guide we strive to continue achievement of

**Indicator(s):** Grades in technology classes and technology proficiency exam

**Objective:** Maintain Technology Proficiency

Projects/Activities (include the steps required to ensure activity completion)	Person responsible for completion of activity and those responsible for reviewing or approving the activity to move forward	Timeline (mm/yr span)	Resources
Continue to integrate technology standards into lesson plans and educate	Administration, Faculty	Ongoing	Genesis Lesson Planner, NJCCCS Standards and ISTE
Educate students about digital citizenship possibly during health class	Technology Coordinator, Guidance Counselor	Annually	NJCCCS Standards and ISTE
Continue BYOD program	Technology Coordinator	Ongoing	BYOD Policy

**Objective:** Online Assessment Preparation

Projects/Activities (include the steps required to ensure activity completion)	Person responsible for completion of activity and those responsible for reviewing or approving the activity to move forward	Timeline (mm/yr span)	Resources
Utilize online programs for Math and ELA so students gain familiarity with these subjects online	Faculty	Ongoing	Study Island (or comparable program)
Benchmark tests will be given using online assessments	Administration, Faculty	Ongoing	Study Island (or comparable program)

## Professional Learning

Goal No.	Initial Activities	Follow-up Activities (as appropriate)
1	Provide Staff with resources to successfully utilize student technology programs and devices	Continued training and PD.
1	Admin and Technology Coordinator will keep up to date on available grants for technology	We will review our findings at the end of the year to evaluate our success in this area and discuss improvements.
2	Online PLC using Google classroom to help familiarize staff with its use from the student perspective	This will be a continuous initiative.
2	Tech Coordinator and possibly the Guidance Counselor will visit with classes to do a lesson on Digital Citizenship	This will be a yearly activity.
3	Study Island (or comparable program) will be used for benchmark assessments and PARCC preparation	Differentiation is based on benchmarks.

## Budget

Goal No.	Activity	Funding Source (Federal/State/Private)	Amount
1	Chromebooks for Elementary School and Middle School	Private	approx. \$6200 / cart of 24
1	Chromebooks for Special Education	Federal	approx. \$6200 / cart of 24
2	Replacement projectors	Private	approx. \$800 per classroom
2	Staff Laptops	Private (lease)	4 year lease \$8,000/year ending 2017
3	Study Island	Federal/Private	Approx. \$9,000
3	Google Classroom	Federal/Private	\$30/chromebook (license)