



Executive Summary

Vision is the first step for technology planning. The Vision for this Technology Strategic plan is aligned with the [Westerly Public Schools' Strategic Plan](#) and presents a picture of a dynamic, adaptive, technology rich environment. The plan will incorporate the district's goals of Personalization, Elementary Technology Infusion, Engagement and Community Well Being. Vision statements will describe how students, teachers, staff and the public make the best use of technology on a daily basis to drive the district's mission. The Vision supports accelerated Data Driven Decision Making (D³M) which leads to increased personalization and improved productivity and continuous improvement for all students. This Vision will be continuously reviewed, revised, and monitored. Our plan will be inclusive, dynamic, collaborative and adaptive--able to evolve as new, innovative technologies transform instruction and allow for better academic outcomes. Like the [Westerly Public Schools' Strategic Plan](#), the Technology Vision is hopeful, with an emphasis on how a positive outlook can bring about deeper learning and a sense of personal well being.

Technology can and should support the greater plan which “reflects this belief and the desire to create classrooms and relationships that nurtures children.”

With Technology in a supporting role, we will “maintain our mission, imbue our core beliefs in all of our work, and achieve our goals.” Westerly will utilize the [SAMR model](#) (Substitution, Augmentation, Modification and Redefinition) to benchmark and continuously improve our process leading from mere enhancement to complete transformation.

The Westerly Public School vision is for technology to become an ubiquitous tool for learning, similar to what pen and paper are today. Technology is integrated into every facet of daily learning and instruction. It is pervasive. Pervasive technology is exemplified by the mindset to seamlessly select the appropriate tool to facilitate learning and instruction. What technology is not, and will never be, is a replacement or a substitute for great teachers and instruction. Yet to achieve the goal of personalization, technology should be at the forefront by providing greater access to more devices and widening the suite of applications for all stakeholders.

Recognizing that our world is rich with technology, data, and information, we are afforded the opportunity to personalize the learning experiences, ensuring that it is experiential, blended, flexible, and differentiated. The learning experience can be made relevant and personal by blending effective teaching and pedagogy with enhanced technology tools. By continually improving access for all students, Westerly Public Schools provides the needed supports to face challenges of 21st century life---both in and out of school. Today’s students have moved beyond the basics to embrace the [4C’s — the “super skills” of the 21st century](#). Westerly Public Schools implementation of GAFE (Google Apps for Education) along with our adoption of a mature, robust Student Information System (Skyward) are significant examples of software platforms that support personalized learning. Westerly Public Schools provides integrated tools, hardware and software to support the achievement of the [District Strategic Plan](#), rigorous [Rhode Island State standards](#), and Federal Department of Education guidelines for [College- and Career-Ready Standards](#). Technology now enhances and expands the learning experiences for all students, everyday.

Westerly Public Schools believes that it is incumbent to educate both staff and students to ensure that they understand and respect the intellectual property rights and how to use the myriad of resources ethically, safely, and responsibly. The information-age, and the vast amount of resources, information, and applications available to citizens begs the question of responsible use. Equipping students with 21st century skills requires exposure, experience and best practices for an educational experience where technology is omnipresent.

“Technology can help classrooms be more like real-world environments and better prepare students to enter an increasingly connected and globally-competitive workforce. And there are many technologies that can help teachers streamline daily processes and increase opportunities to incorporate the 4 C’s into student learning---critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and creativity”

PERSONALIZATION

Key Outcome: Technology will be used to enhance these outcomes, the learning experience, and to motivate students and engage parents.

Instruction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Make data available for analysis <input type="checkbox"/> Provide support for educators using digital and blended learning <input type="checkbox"/> Provide opportunities for internships (students)
Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Support personalized learning assessments <input type="checkbox"/> Encourage use of feedback mechanisms that utilize technology to gain efficiency
Educator Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Enable learning communities for staff that impact student learning
Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Enhance learning <input type="checkbox"/> Support staff retention <input type="checkbox"/> Motivate Students <input type="checkbox"/> Engage Parents
Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Invest in infrastructure <input type="checkbox"/> Invest in devices that increase student access and learning outcomes <input type="checkbox"/> Develop and support a consistent, known budget document

S.M.A.R.T. Goals: Use SMART goal formatting to develop professional learning goals that will build the capacity of Westerly Public Schools' educators as they integrate and utilize technology in their instruction.

1. By June, 2018, All teachers will engage students in higher-level thinking skills (4C's--Communication, Collaboration, Critical Thinking, Creativity) through the integration of technology tools in at least 50% of lessons, as evidenced by lesson plans, student work samples and journals, and observations.

2. In Westerly Public Schools, by June, 2018, all classroom teachers will have transitioned from MMS to our new Student Information System, Skyward. They will utilize the gradebook on a weekly basis at a minimum.

3. By June 2018, Google Apps For Education adoption or (GAFE) technology will be incorporated for learning in 2-3 lessons per week.

Measurement through SAMR model

Responsible Party: District Administration--Technology, Curriculum & Instruction. All Buildings are responsible for Web Page adoption and updates. Building level support in the form of Technology Liaisons are in place.

Elementary Technology Infusion

Key Outcome: Technology will be used to enhance these outcomes, the learning experience, and to motivate students and engage parents. Technology department will actively engage with the Building Committee to ensure desired outcomes.

Instruction	<input type="checkbox"/> Create Technology Rich 21st Century, dynamic learning environments
Assessment	<input type="checkbox"/> Utilize appropriate technology tools which reinforce and support academics, instruction, and assessments
Educator Quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Support on-going professional development targeted on assessment literacy and instructional technology
Technology	<input type="checkbox"/> Enhance learning <input type="checkbox"/> Support staff retention <input type="checkbox"/> Motivate Students <input type="checkbox"/> Engage Parents
Infrastructure	<input type="checkbox"/> Enable global learning experience in an open campus by expanding opportunities for learning to occur. <input type="checkbox"/> Help define 21st century classrooms---especially through Elementary classrooms <input type="checkbox"/> Work with Stakeholders to define and adhere to a budget that achieves the above outcome <input type="checkbox"/> Support safety and security through technology

S.M.A.R.T. Goals:

1. By June, 2020, Elementary learning spaces will be renovated and redesigned to support ALL students.
2. By June 2016, all facilities will have Wi-Fi Infrastructure to support a 1 to 1 level of access, through a combination of district owned and BYOD network.
3. By June 2017, Google Apps For Education adoption or (GAFE) technology will be available for all learners and in all environments.

[Measurement through SAMR model](#)

Responsible Party: District Administration--Technology, Curriculum & Instruction. All Buildings are responsible for adoption of Google Apps For Education. (GAFE). Building level support in the form of Technology Liaisons are in place, Professional Development is available.

Engagement

Key Outcome: By improving access to technology resources for all stakeholders, we will improve family engagement. Examples of recent and ongoing improvements include, Google Apps For Education (GAFE), district mobile applications, and upcoming transition to Skyward - the new student information system.

Instruction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Support virtual learning opportunities for parents, students and educators <input type="checkbox"/> Support engaging families through technology
Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Facilitate engagement of stakeholders, use various modalities
Educator Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Recruit and Retain Educators of Quality, with Technology Skills
Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Improve Communication through conferencing, distance learning, and communication to/from home about programs and student progress
Infrastructure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Acquire and utilize an improved SIS <input type="checkbox"/> Support a comprehensive communications plan <input type="checkbox"/> Pursue fiber ring plan district

S.M.A.R.T. Goals:

1. By January, 2017, All schools will have a Facebook Page and a Twitter Account..
2. By September 2017, Transition from our current Student Information System to our new SIS, Skyward will be complete and online to students, parents, and the public.
3. By June 2017, Google Apps For Education adoption or (GAFE) technology will be available for all staff and all learners and in all environments.

Measurement through SAMR model:

Responsible Party: District Administration--Technology, Curriculum & Instruction. All Buildings are responsible for understanding Social Media protocols and guidelines and establishing a social media presence.

Well Being

Key Outcome: Technology can enhance the sense of wellbeing for all members of Westerly Public Schools. It empowers students to take charge of their own online learning, and provides concrete tools to analyze data for staff to improve learning outcomes. Finally, technology provides a myriad of applications to continuously improve the overall safety and security posture of the district.

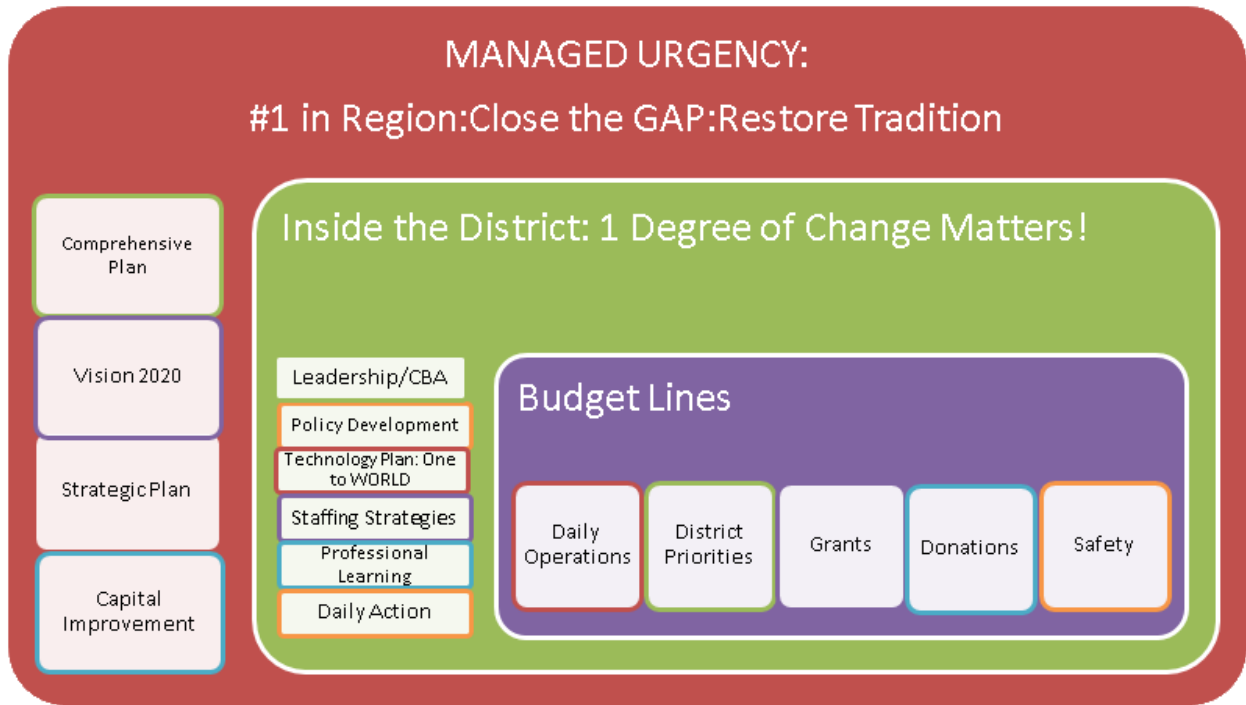
Instruction	<input type="checkbox"/> Facilitate learning experience enhancements through technology--GAFE, Skyward.
Assessment	<input type="checkbox"/> Provide platform for collecting and using data on school climate--GAFE, Skyward, RIDE tools.
Educator Quality	<input type="checkbox"/> Facilitate exemplary teaching and learning by providing ongoing, sustained professional development
Technology	<input type="checkbox"/> Safeguards <input type="checkbox"/> Digital Citizenship <input type="checkbox"/> Ongoing Professional Development
Infrastructure and Security	<input type="checkbox"/> Safety and security hardware <input type="checkbox"/> Improved access to technology to enhance safety such as: <input type="checkbox"/> Camera systems, door buzz in, and emergency radios <input type="checkbox"/> Raptor background check system <input type="checkbox"/> Crisis Go Application <input type="checkbox"/> Facilitate crisis platform and response

S.M.A.R.T. Goals:

1. By January, 2017, All schools will have enhanced security systems, radios, and cameras and other undisclosed security plans and measures.
2. By September 2017, The Crisis Go application will be available to all administrators and executive assistants.
3. By June 2018, Skyward's Learning Management System will available and used by at least 50% of all teachers 100% adoption by September 2018

Measurement through SAMR model:

Responsible Party: District Administration--District Safety Officer, Facilities, Technology, Curriculum & Instruction. All Buildings are responsible for reporting security concerns. The district safety officer, facilities, and technology department work cooperatively to provide support.



Summary

All Westerly Public Schools' individuals are treated as professionals and supported by sufficient resources and ongoing training designed to enhance and broaden skills that support the district vision, mission and initiative.

We recognize that Technology alone is not and should not be a panacea,. Rather the real focus is how we engage our students, parents and the greater public with instructional tools to get results and add value to all students' academic performance

Based on Google's Apps for Education (GAFE), WPS has begun to create a comprehensive, customized professional development system to provide teachers and administrators with the skills and understanding needed to use data to inform instructional practice and make formative assessments a daily practice in the classroom.

In addition to GAFE, Westerly Public Schools has selected a new Student Information System, Skyward, which we will begin to slowly roll out during the 2016-2017 school years with full implementation to begin during the start of the 2017-2018 school year. This system was selected after a comprehensive group determined it to be the best available technology to improve data analysis and reporting for the district.

Through ongoing and continual analysis of the technology infrastructure, purchasing decisions are made in order to support a 21st century curriculum and assessment system and to move additional testing to appropriate technology formats. Such analysis led to the implementation of PARCC testing on computers, as well as the transition of NWEA testing to take greater advantage of technology.. Assessments and other diagnostic tools which use technology allow

teachers to check where each child is with reading, writing and math basics throughout the year so they have a solid foundation for continued learning.

The use of technology as an instructional tool is becoming increasingly important, just as technology continues to increase in importance in our everyday lives and in the workplace. Students in Westerly Public Schools are leading the way with creativity of content and knowledge as they continue to gain valuable critical thinking, problem solving and higher-order cognition skills.