



**OSCEOLA COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
TECHNOLOGY PLAN
2019-2020**

OVERVIEW

The District is committed to serving students equitably in alignment with its mission of “Inspiring all learners to reach their highest potential as responsible, productive citizens.” Realizing this foundational goal means focusing the necessary attention on each child as determined by his or her unique needs/interests. Each school year, the Superintendent involves hundreds of people, ranging from parents, students, community members, School Board members, and employees, in providing input and suggestions to guide the District to reach new heights of achievement in all areas. The District’s strategic plan acts as the roadmap that drives improvement efforts towards unlimited success for Osceola students, staff, and schools.

STRATEGIC PLAN

The District’s [2019-2022 Strategic Plan](#) presents goals, strategies, metrics, and activities for improvement focused on the District’s stated beliefs high standards of truth, integrity and diligence as all stakeholders share in the responsibility to afford “Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day.” Strategic Plan Goal One covers Academic Success, which will ensure every student receives high-quality instruction while engaging in standards-based curricular activities as teachers implement differentiated assistance with supportive coaching, modeling, professional development and Learning Cycle visits. Its activities seek to complete and implement effective lessons demonstrating standards-aligned curriculum in every classroom. Strategic Plan Goal Two addresses Talent Management. The objective is to attract, develop, retain, and reward a highly dedicated, high-quality workforce. It specifically aims to improve the rates of teacher turnover, high-performing teacher recruitment, teacher attendance, and instructional vacancies. Fiscal Responsibility falls under Goal Three, which is to increase operational efficiency while reducing costs for energy consumption and a focus on employee healthcare. Goal Four encompasses Community Engagement and Governance. The District will provide parents opportunities to support their children’s education, promote educational choice to meet the diverse needs of students and build upon the positive, proactive communication to all stakeholders. Continuous improvement processes will be strengthened by the utilization of stock-takes and Professional Learning Communities. Finally, Goal Five addresses School Safety and Security and guides efforts to strengthen school and facility security procedures and infrastructure as well as improving school-wide support for behavior and social/emotional learning for all students.

DISTRICT FACTS

The District operates twenty-five elementary schools (K-5), two K-8 schools, nine middle schools (6-8), ten high schools (9-12), one fine arts school (6-12), one postsecondary technical education school with three branch campuses, one adult learning center with three branch campuses, two alternative education sites, and one virtual school program. Florida Statute designates charter schools as public schools. In our district, there are twenty-seven charter schools (one charter pre-school/early learning center, three charter elementary schools, one charter middle school, three charter high schools, fourteen K-8 charter schools, and five multi-level schools). Additionally, there are more than fifty State-recognized private schools operating within District boundaries. Currently, support facilities include a District Administration

Complex (including four separate buildings and various portables), a Maintenance Facility, three Transportation Centers, and a Pre-kindergarten Learning Center, which also houses administrative departments, a Staff Development site, and a Curriculum Development Center.

Osceola County agencies struggle to address growth effectively, and population increases have been a challenge for the District. According to U.S. Census Bureau data released in April 2019, Osceola County experienced the seventh highest percentage population increase in the nation in 2017-2018. The K-12 student enrollment as of November 15, 2019, is 68,909. A new middle school was completed and opened in August 2019. The District employs more than 7,000 staff members, including administrators, instructional personnel, and professional support personnel.

The District's post-secondary institution, Osceola Technical College (oTECH), works closely with secondary students, offering a variety of courses and certifications (such as CNA, LPN, LEO, EPA, MOUS, A+, Network +, MCP, and MCSA) to make Osceola students job-ready upon graduation. The District's graduation rate was 86.3% for the 2017-2018 school year, higher than the state average of 82.3%.

For those choosing to pursue a post-secondary degree, several continuing education opportunities are available locally. oTECH offers many post-secondary, job-preparatory programs for adults and courses to support a variety of career choices. The Adult Learning Center Osceola (ALCO) offers ESOL, Adult Basic Education, and GED Preparation and Testing for adults. In addition, Valencia College/University of Central Florida and Johnson University have campuses in Osceola County.

PROFESSIONAL STAFFING/DEVELOPMENT

District Strategic Plan Goal Two addresses Talent Management. Activities within this goal include building leadership capacity at all levels; strengthening the recruitment, hiring, and retention process; and creating a District-wide culture of feedback for professional growth. The District values the task of investing in the future accomplishments of all students by enhancing the learning process. Student success must be the collective goal of all who are charged with educating every learner. Everything that is "technology", be it software, hardware, network connectivity, computer literacy or professional development for instructional staff must be viewed through the lens of student achievement.

The District actively promotes the successful integration of technology into the dynamic standards-aligned curriculum. Technology Resource Teachers in the Media and Instructional Technology Department equip classroom teachers and provide support to teachers through a variety of methods. There are live technology training sessions and coaching and modeling provided on school campuses throughout the academic year.

BUSINESS OPERATIONS

In support of the Strategic Plan's Goal Three for Fiscal Responsibility, District finance officers employ fiscal management methods that integrate sound business practices to manage the 2019-2020 budget of \$1.257 billion. The District's commitment to wisely use its resources has resulted

in minimal overhead and low per-student costs. The District has repeatedly earned the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting, the highest form of governmental accounting and financial reporting recognition. The Government Finance Officers Association bestowed this award for the District's comprehensive annual financial reports for the fiscal years ending each June 30, of 2010 through 2018. In addition, the District's comprehensive annual financial report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2017 received the Certificate of Excellence (COE) in Financial Reporting from the Association of School Business Officials (ASBO) International.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Osceola County residents are informed about the individual public schools within the District, as well as the School Board and Osceola School District initiatives, most importantly by its web presence at <http://www.osceolaschools.net/>. Social media tools such as Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, Instagram and LinkedIn are utilized, as well as a mobile app. School Board meeting agendas with associated documents, along with broadcasts of both live and recorded sessions are available for the public online.

The communication tool *Let's Talk!* is accessible through the District's website or a smartphone app. It gives parents, students, teachers, staff and community residents a safe, reliable way to reach district leaders whenever necessary. The goal is to build trust and interaction throughout the community with all stakeholders.

Here Comes the Bus is another program made available to parents of the more than 23,000 students who ride a school bus. Parents may view the real-time locations and confirm arrivals of their child's school bus on their smartphone, tablet or computer. It improves communication and enables parents to have information they need as their child is transported each day.

To meet the needs of students, teachers, and families, the District maintains partnerships (and memorandum agreements) with a myriad of local organizations. Examples of these collaborating entities include the City Governments of Kissimmee and St. Cloud; Osceola County Government; Education Foundation – Osceola County; Community Vision, Inc.; Osceola County Council on Aging; Florida Department of Health in Osceola County; Park Place Behavioral Health Care; Florida Department of Juvenile Justice; and American Red Cross. Osceola County has public transportation, CareerSource Central Florida, and a number of non-profit community organizations prepared to offer assistance with food, shelter, employment, medical health, education, and legal services, which are vital connections for families in the District. Such joint efforts support District Strategic Plan Goal Four for Community Engagement and Governance.

TECHNOLOGY POLICIES

In the effort to inspire all learners to “reach their highest potential”, a primary focus is digital learning using computing devices. The District's objective is to provide superior customer support for every facet of teaching and learning with technology. The students, teachers and administrators must have the best devices possible for use on the safest network possible. To

that end, the District has adopted various policies and the School Board has established rules related to technology use and data security.

Type of Policy	Summary of Policy/School Board Rule	Web Address
Student data safety, security and privacy	Chapter 5.70*+ STUDENT RECORDS	School Board Rules
District teacher evaluation components relating to technology (if applicable)	Instructional Employee Evaluation Handbook	Employee Evaluations
Student Use of Personal Technology	Chapter 8.00 – Auxiliary Services STUDENT USE OF PERSONAL TECHNOLOGY, 8.63+ Chapter 5.30*+ STUDENT CONTROL Code of Student Conduct Student Internet and Network Use Procedures	School Board Rules Code of Student Conduct Information and Technology Division
Acceptable/Responsible Use policy (student, teachers, admin)	Chapter 8.00 – Auxiliary Services NETWORK ACCEPTABLE USE, 8.60+	School Board Rules

NETWORK CAPACITY AND INFRASTRUCTURE

In order to support the curriculum delivered digitally, as well as computer-based assessments, the District has continued to update the network bandwidth capacity. Reliable, adequate wireless connectivity is paramount for students, faculty and staff. The District increases its Internet connection and its Wide Area Network (WAN) bandwidth capacity commensurate to the needs of its school facilities.

The capacity of each school’s infrastructure equipment (switches, cabling, and wireless access points) and the on-site equipment owned and configured by the ISP are two of many determining factors when the District contemplates increasing bandwidth throughput to the student desktops or wireless devices. The condition of infrastructure equipment in schools is constantly monitored. Aging equipment is regularly assessed to determine the ability to support future bandwidth requirements, and necessary upgrades are identified. Long range planning for future infrastructure projects is constant.

Network infrastructure equipment purchases are funded in large part by the support received through the Universal Service Administrative Company’s (USAC) E-rate program. The District

must re-apply annually for funding support for eligible products/services, including network infrastructure equipment. The District is currently upgrading the switch gear at eight schools for the 2019-2020 cycle of E-rate program funding.

Deliverable	Estimated Completion Date	School
Purchase and install upgraded switches in MDF/IDF to support connectivity	September 2020	Partin Settlement Elementary St. Cloud Elementary Hickory Tree Elementary Osceola Co. School for the Arts Professional & Technical High Zenith St. Cloud High Osceola High

Since schools have certain E-rate program budgets, the funds may be exhausted before aging, end-of-life switch gear can be replaced, so another invaluable funding source is the approved sales tax referendum. In this way, the community supports the District’s on-going efforts to refresh network infrastructure and necessary equipment in its schools. Projects scheduled in 2019-2020 are:

Deliverable	School
Purchase and/or Install new Network Switches, Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS), Wireless Access Points	Central Avenue Elementary Deerwood Elementary Kissimmee Elementary St. Cloud Elementary Sunrise Elementary Flora Ridge Elementary East Lake Elementary Thacker Avenue Elementary Highlands Elementary Reedy Creek Elementary New Beginnings Osceola County School for the Arts Poinciana High Osceola High St. Cloud High Professional & Technical High Osceola Schools Environmental Study Center
Install/Upgrade Wireless Access Points	Mill Creek Elementary

To protect the security of the network and minimize “denial of service” attacks, the District has contracted with its ISP to use a “threat management system”. The District uses web filtering and firewall technology to protect all users in the network environment.

DIGITAL CLASSROOMS ALLOCATION

Funds will be used to establish the “Greenshirt Academy” and create model technology integrated classrooms at twelve schools. From each school, two core academic teachers and the school’s media specialist will be selected to participate. Professional development will occur June 1-4, 2020, July 27-30, 2020 and quarterly during the 2020-2021 school year. The participants will facilitate sessions at the first Osceola Technology Extravaganza in August 2021.

Each teacher will receive a laptop cart to establish a 1:1 classroom environment. The school’s media center will receive 12 student laptops and charging station to increase the number of devices available to students in the media center. Other district funds will be used to provide a SMART interactive flat panel for each school.

Administrators will complete a one-day leadership technology symposium that will include evaluating the effectiveness of digital technology use and creating a technology integration plan for their school.