

Success Institute Charter School Technology Plan

2022-2023

Vision Statement

The mission of Success Institute (*SI*) Charter School is to provide a holistic and challenging educational environment, provide a comprehensive, wide ranging scope of education that will prepare them for the challenges they will face as 21st Century citizens. The *SI* Strategic Technology Plan seeks to ensure that students have access to the technology skills and tools they need both while enrolled in the educational environment the remainder of their educational pursuit and establishment of careers.

The *SI*'s technology plan titled "Turning Point" empowers the students as independent, productive citizens. These experiences will prepare students to excel in a 21st century globally-competitive marketplace. They will learn through technology environments how to be healthy and responsible adults by making personal choices that are ethical and beneficial to themselves and others. They will explore information, theory and ideas in order to hold rich discussions and reflections.

Success Institute Charter School will use technology to support our values of 1) student and learning focus, 2) motivated faculty and staff, 3) partnerships and teamwork, 4) continuous improvement focus, 5) management by fact, and 6) results focus in an environment that is committed to improving student learning.

The use of technology has become ingrained in the school culture and through technology innovation and infusion through daily operation. Technology will support the development of students to become self-directed learners, complex thinkers, quality producers and collaborative workers who will be prepared to compete within today's global society.

Our goal is to align with the state technology plan for creating Future-Ready Schools for the 21st Century. Success Institute Charter will support and enhance the mission of creating globally competitive students, 21st century professionals, healthy and responsible students, leadership for innovation, and 21st century systems.

To maximize the value of the time spent with technology, teachers and staff and administrators will be properly equipped with the knowledge and the tools they need to do the job. Professional development continues to be provided by both inside and outside sources to best fit the needs of teachers. Effort will be made to ensure that parents understand the important issues of a technology-based society so that they will support the use of computer technology, both at school and in the home.

Success Institute Charter School Strategic Priorities

2022-2023

Globally Competitive Students

Technology is a tool that enables students, teachers and administrators to work more productively, offering solutions for time management student monitoring and intervention, and creating interesting and effective lessons and classroom activities. The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction initiatives North Carolina reference website models of well-designed instructional technology resources. Teachers in Success Institute are expected to lead students in the use of their resources as well as to identify additional quality web-based and software-based resources. Technology is a tool that helps every teacher and every student master basic skills and develops critical thinking and problem solving abilities in addition to fostering collaboration and communication outside of the school walls. Technology can be a support instrument to reinvent schools so that all students achieve at higher levels and are better prepared for the workplace. Recent studies are showing that students with exposure to computers are doing better academically than their peers without computers. Success Charter is committed to decreasing the student-to-computer ratio and to expanding the types of technology resources available to students. Success Institute has wireless classrooms that enable technology to be brought to the students in their classrooms rather than having student relocate to the computer lab.

Strategic Priority 1: **Shared Services Model**

Globally Competitive Students

Success Institute Charter School strives to maximize technology to produce globally competitive students and positively impact student achievement. *SI* offers a variety of courses and education programs to meet students' needs beyond the basic core areas including a full range of offerings in the visual and performing arts, foreign language, honors and advanced placement courses, and career technical education. Success Institute recognizes technology is about student learning and instructional improvement connected to standards. We use it as a tool for differentiation to provide individualized learning to meet the diversity in our classrooms. District administrators use technology tools to collect, organize, analyze, disaggregate, and report on student achievement data. This offers an opportunity to make data driven decisions aligned with curriculum and instruction.

Success Institute operates in two buildings-one multi-purpose facility and one academic building which houses our technology. SI has Spyware, two firewalls, one server, and one Internet content filter. Cloud based services would allow for the removal of these devices and services to be provided in a more reliable manner. A statewide shared service model will provide additional support to our small technology staff to allow for the form maintenance to assist teachers with instructional needs. Our school has internet access with 100% wireless connection.

Our technology facilitator provide flexible and equitable access as much as possible to information, media, and technology resources and assist teachers with integrating technology rather than making it a separate subject. Digital Resources such as: LEARN NC, NCWISEOwl are utilized by students and teachers to support learning. Technology is integrated into the curriculum daily.

Various software programs support differentiated instruction and access student performance data through the following: EVAAS, EDUSS, I-Ready, Engrade, Typingtest.com, Study Island, Khan Academy, Math Goodies Webquest, and I-XL. These programs are research based and have proven to be successful in addressing high student performance.

Success recognizes the importance of a systematic process for data analysis in regards to supporting continuous school improvement at the school and student level. Student performance data are used to support decision making.

According to the enGauge Model (<http://www.metiri.com/features.html>) 21st Century Learning Skills academic achievement the areas of digital literacy inventive thinking, effective communication and high productivity must be addressed. Students must be taught and given ample opportunities to experience technology not only as an enhancement device but as a tool to master current subjects and topics. In addition, student must be challenged to utilize tools to produce evidence of learning that express higher order thinking, collaborative efforts and the global reasoning required in our current society.

The five elements of 21st Century learning that are required to promote this type of student growth include:

- An emphasis on core subjects
- An emphasis on learning skills
- Use of 21st Century tools to develop learning skills
- Teaching and learning in a 21st Century context
- Use of 21st Century assessments that measure 21st Century skills.

http://21stcenturyskills.org/images/stories/otherdocs/P21_Report.pdf

System change should occur, which moves education from the delivery of information from the teachers to student, to a discovery of learning on the part of the student as led by the teachers. Collaboration in support of the learning environment with the focus on designing challenging, real-world, authentic learning experiences for students should be at the century of this change.

Research studies show that integrating technology within the curriculum framework to increase student achievement. In research that has been replicated in 16 states, Lance et al (1992) concluded that students in schools with well-equipped school media centers and professional media coordinators will perform better on achievement tests for reading comprehension. Current research indicates the need to move beyond “integrating” competencies into the curriculum to the transparent use of appropriate resources and technologies to stimulate higher order thinking skills. By making student active learners in control of their learning experiences, students are empowered. There is however no substitute for the knowledgeable teacher who guides students through this active learning process. Technology serves to enhance and facilitate this process. Research supports the idea that the targeted use of technology, one must also affect a change in teacher beliefs and provide an adequate computer-to-student ratio within the classroom.

Current Situation Narrative

Success Institute Charter has a computer lab to address the learning styles of all students. Technology is integrated within the daily instruction. Technology enriched curriculum is designed to meet the individual needs of students, ensuring that they are fully prepared for lifelong learning to be competitive in a constantly changing international environment. The myriad technologies available to 21st Century students are helping Success Institute move toward its goal of maximizing the academic performance of every student.

Networked learning environments support student learning with the use of computer technologies. The relationship between technology and student performance is supported through technology use, curriculum standards and assessments. We will continue to strive for high performing schools whether technology supports student achievement through equity of software and digital resources for differentiation, innovative delivery of rigorous courses, and a systemic process for data analysis regarding school and student performance data.

Strategic Priority 2: 21st Century Professionals

Compelling research indicates that the quality of teachers has an impact on student learning and achievement. Studies have found that the more effective teachers had the most significant impact on student achievement as determined by standardized tests.

Teachers are recognized as change agents who have the power to make a difference in classroom practices. Research on classroom use of technology has determined that teacher skills are fundamental for effective use of instructional technology and that professional development is the catalyst to transform teaching practices that effectively use technology. As more technology becomes part of the K-12 environment, the need for knowledgeable teachers to use these tools effectively becomes paramount.

Newly hired teachers should possess strong instructional skills and exhibit a commitment to lifelong learning. All teachers are expected to willingly participate in ongoing, sustained professional development activities that will enhance their skills and those of their students.

The demands of the 21st Century learning environment make it essential that Success educators use every tool at their disposal to help with planning, instruction, time-management, productivity, and professional development. Technology is an invaluable asset to the educator as he or she works through these initiatives because it not only increases productivity, it also brings worldwide experience and expertise into the classroom and stimulated the learning experience.

Technology promotes professional growth by providing a variety of opportunities for professional development through NC Education. Real-time, face to face professional development is none model of instructional delivery. Distance learning, online classes, webinars, and online tutorial offer avenues for supplementing content knowledge, for learning new instructional theories and for developing new teaching strategies and essential skills. Parents can increase involvement as time constraints dissolve and education-related interactions. Success

Institute partners with the Iredell County public library for summer camp program, book club, book checkout, story time. Technology enhances critical-thinking strategies, provides access to a variety of informational sources, and builds a bridge to real-world applications.

21st Century Systems

One of the great promises offered by the development and proliferation of technologies is the possibility of working more effectively and more efficiently. Technology infrastructure should be characterized by a seamless network of wires, cabling, equipment, and personnel that supports 21st Century education. Success realizes the benefits of a technology rich environment.

Online student management systems and application software allow teachers to focus more on teaching and less on clerical tasks. Online administrative and clerical resources such as PowerSchool, BUD, and CECAS have streamlined the reporting and information management process. Through the statewide resources such as PowerSchool, and NC Education every educator in North Carolina has the opportunity to access a broad range of essential information and resources that affect teaching and learning.

Strategic Priority 2: Universal Access to Personal Teaching and Learning Devices

Current Status and Moving Forward

Success Institute Charter School access to personal teaching and learning devices is universal. All teachers will be provided with a laptop and all students have access to laptops through the one to one program. *SI* also provides additional devices such as ten ipads, interactive smartboards and Engrade. In the future, Success is working on devising the one to one program, Smart Responders, and add iPads and additional formative assessment technologies to help support the accommodation of these learning styles. Success will continue to refresh and replace computers as necessary to provide the most useful technology the budget allows. We must be prepared with appropriate devices as online assessments begin to be administered.

Our goal is to purchase two to three desktop computers in every lower grade classroom. Our goal for grades third through eighth grade classroom is to each have ten wireless laptops.

Strategic Priority 3: Statewide Access to Digital Teaching and Learning Resources, Including Digital Textbooks

As the Common Core Standards are coming online, we plan to look at digital Math textbooks for the middle school. Teachers will receive training on the tools available from SAS Curriculum Pathways. Teachers will continue to be provided with training for appropriate online tools to support student learning such as NC WiseOwl and LEARNNC. Success plans to make use of the learning Object Repository as the NC Education Cloud comes online and it becomes available. The use of these tools will help promote digital literacy.

Strategic Priority 4: A Statewide Model of Technology-Enabled Professional Development

Teachers at Success Institute Charter have been provided professional development pertaining to technology integration. Various teachers have become technology leaders and share an area of specialization with the rest of the staff. Teachers also need training on how to implement the technology standards within specific content areas. *SI* will continue technology training through available resources both online and face to face.

Strategic Priority 5: 21st Century Leadership for All Schools and Districts

Our Leadership team is prepared to lead and create a vision for 21st Century education. The team consists of individuals who are assigned to a grade level professional learning community in order to improve communication and facilitate collaboration. Those leaders utilize the North Carolina online teacher evaluation system.