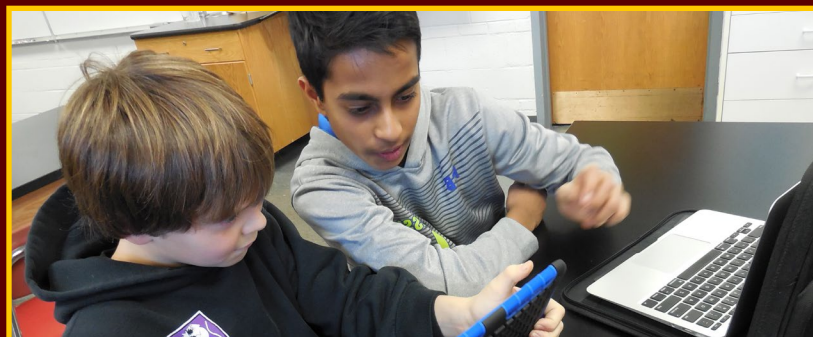
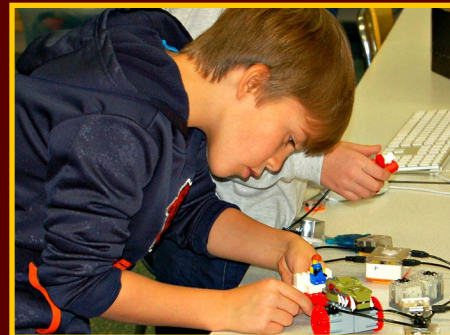




Avoca School District 37 Technology Innovation Plan 2017-2021



FOREWORD

Introduction

Over a decade ago, the Avoca School District launched a 1:1 laptop program for its 6th, 7th and 8th grade students. Within just a few years, the program was extended to include 4th and 5th grades, and interactive Promethean boards were installed in all of the primary classrooms. The vision at that time was one of “technology integration and accessibility at the point of instruction.”

Since that technology plan, Avoca has increased integration throughout the curriculum, supported by the deployment of additional laptops, the incorporation of iPads in the primary classrooms, the adoption of Google Apps for Education, and a significant expansion of bandwidth to enable access to online resources.

Today’s educational landscape and future workforce continue to evolve with a much greater reliance on:

- Creativity
- Collaboration
- Communication
- Critical thinking
- Problem-solving

As we prepare our students to be future ready, the Common Core State Standards, Next Generation Science Standards, and even the new C3 (college, career, civic life) Framework for Social Studies all challenge our students to delve well beneath the surface of learning to experience greater understanding. Rather than acquiring knowledge, the emphasis is on applying learning to authentic situations.

Avoca’s 2016-2021 District Strategic Plan is heavily focused on both student and teacher learning. The Technology Innovation Committee was charged with developing a strategic plan that emphasizes teachers’ adoption of tools, applications, and innovative practices to enhance student learning.

It is for those reasons that the 2017-2021 Technology Innovation Strategic Plan is less about electronic devices, and more about how those tools and innovative practices can be leveraged to maximize the unique potential of our students!

Avoca Mission

The mission of Avoca School District 37 is to maximize the unique potential of each child.

Avoca Vision

We believe that we maximize the unique potential of each child when we:

- Develop the whole child so each becomes a confident, well-rounded member of the community.
- Attract, develop and retain high-quality staff who share a passion for teaching, learning and collaborating.
- Are recognized for systems that cultivate innovation and high performance.
- Engage and partner with families and our communities.
- Effectively and efficiently utilize, people, time and fiscal resources.

Theory of Action for Technology and Innovation

We believe that we empower future-ready, global-minded, passionate learners when we:

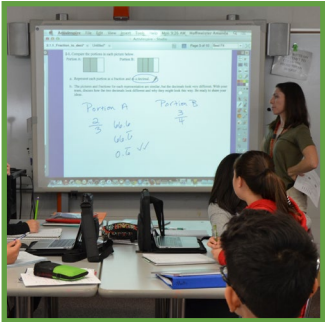
- Transform learning through innovation, creativity and critical thinking.
- Engage in responsible and appropriate collaboration and communication within and beyond the Avoca community.
- Optimize resources to elevate student and professional learning.

What follows in this document are our strategic priorities, aligned strategies, and accountability plans to drive our use of technology and innovative practices to meet the current and future needs of our diverse students and those who educate them.



Explore New Opportunities

- A. Flexibly use resources, such as personnel, physical spaces, and time to accommodate innovative initiatives
- B. Use technology to access local and global learning communities beyond Avoca School District 37
- C. Utilize a design process that establishes a funding, implementation, evaluation, and potential expansion system for innovative ideas



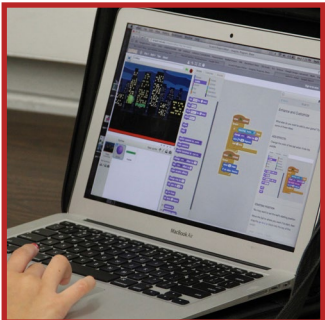
Enhance Instructional Practices

- A. Employ best practices for incorporating technology and instructional tools and strategies to support a student-centered learning environment
- B. Utilize technology to facilitate greater efficiency of assessment and feedback for standards-based student learning



Prepare & Support Implementation

- A. Develop, implement, and monitor a professional learning framework for faculty
- B. Optimize internal resources for professional learning
- C. Leverage external professional learning opportunities
- D. Provide parents with learning opportunities, resources, and strategies for supporting their children



Optimize Investments in Technology

- A. Develop a comprehensive refresh, deployment, and financing plan for infrastructure, student and staff devices, classroom peripherals, non-computing devices, and applications
- B. Reevaluate and update administrative processes and procedures
- C. Optimize the roles and responsibilities of technology personnel to meet the needs of the District
- D. In conjunction with the Communication & Engagement Committee, plan and execute a redesign of the District website

Flexibly use resources, such as personnel, physical spaces, and time to accommodate innovative initiatives

WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE

Avoca School District's learning environment optimizes opportunities for flexible learning spaces, schedules, and staffing options.

HOW IT WILL HAPPEN

1. Investigate how other schools make effective use of existing spaces and schedules.
2. Research mobile furniture options and explore the uses of current building spaces to identify opportunities to use settings flexibly for learning throughout the buildings.
3. Establish designated innovation areas in each building.
4. Evaluate effectiveness of innovations and identify opportunities to expand into curricular areas.
5. Investigate time as a resource to identify possible options for increasing problem-based learning opportunities.



HOW WE WILL KNOW

- Personnel and time will be used flexibly to meet unique learning needs.
- Furniture and building spaces will be used flexibly to meet unique learning needs.
- Students will have a voice in selecting learning settings that allow them to be most successful.
- Teachers connect innovations, such as makerspaces, into curriculum and instruction for students at each grade level.



WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE

Avoca School District utilizes technology to connect with others to enhance learning.

HOW IT WILL HAPPEN

1. Identify authentic opportunities to collaborate with other learning communities to enhance curriculum.
2. Implement digital citizenship best practices.
3. Make recommendations for incorporating global connectedness using technology at each grade level.
4. Create a mechanism for disseminating effective ideas with the staff.



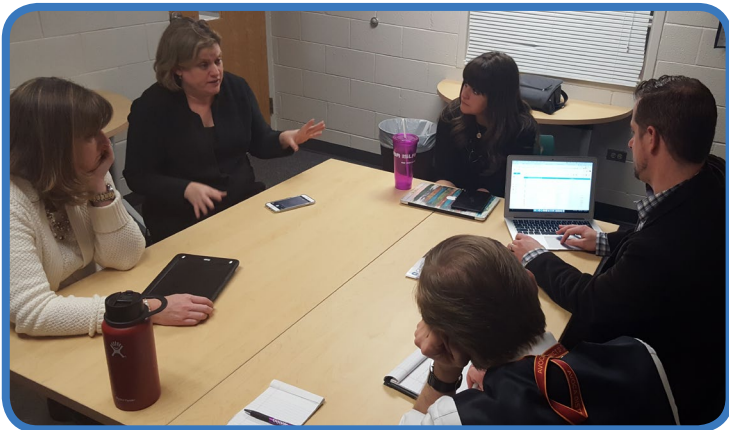
HOW WE WILL KNOW

- Students will demonstrate appropriate digital citizenship while engaging in collaborative opportunities.
- Opportunities for global connections will be embedded within grade level curriculum.
- Increased involvement with outside learning communities.
- Avoca School District will participate in reciprocal relationships with local and global learning communities.

Utilize a design process that establishes a funding, implementation, evaluation, and potential expansion system for innovative ideas

WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE

Avoca School District encourages innovation through a systematized procedure for taking ideas from concept to implementation.

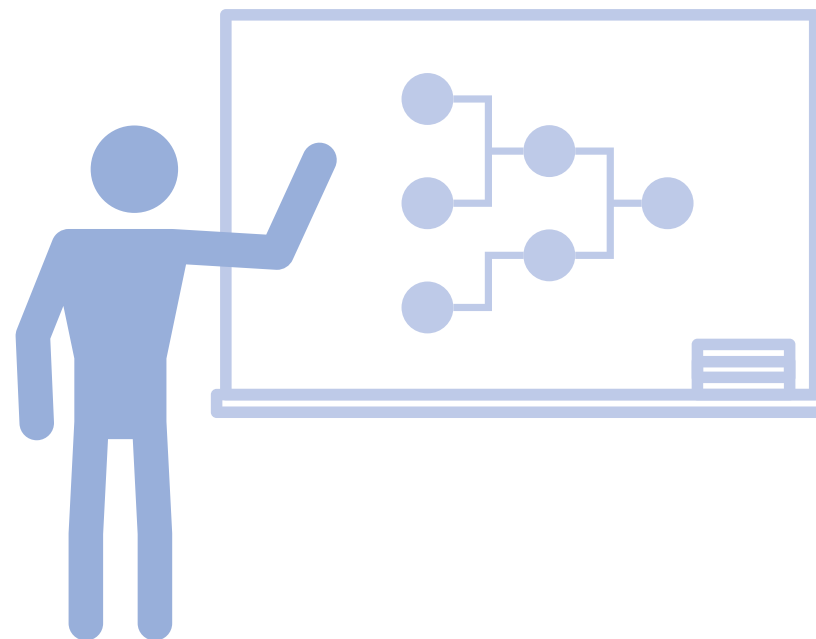


HOW IT WILL HAPPEN

1. Investigate innovative technology initiatives.
2. Create a process for staff to propose, implement, and evaluate innovative ideas on a small scale.
3. Create a mechanism for sharing ideas and pilot progress with the staff.
4. Identify options for evaluating effectiveness of pilots, global initiatives, internet safety, and other initiatives.
5. Ensure that ongoing professional development supports additions to and changes in the curriculum.

HOW WE WILL KNOW

- Staff utilizes a process for identifying, piloting, and evaluating new ideas for implementation
- Professional development includes coaching to support a design process for technology innovation and integration.
- Staff will disseminate effective ideas with their peers.



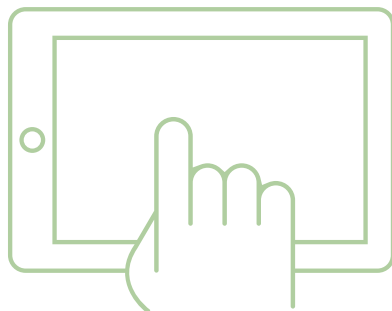
Employ best practices for incorporating technology and instructional tools and strategies to support a student-centered learning environment

WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE

To increase student-centered learning, Avoca School District will expand its use of instructional tools and strategies.

HOW IT WILL HAPPEN

1. Conduct a self-study of the current reality within Avoca by gathering examples of student-centered instruction and technology integration across all grades and content areas.
2. Develop a warehouse of examples of student-centered practices and technology integration ideas for grade levels and subject areas.
3. Partner with Apple to gather ideas for how we can leverage our current technologies to enhance student learning.
4. Investigate, recommend and implement the best practices of student-centered instruction and technology integration throughout the District.
5. Make recommendations for computer science instruction at each grade level.



HOW WE WILL KNOW

- Technology integration recommendations will be implemented into content areas.
- Teachers incorporate student voice and choice into learning.
- Computer science experiences are offered at each grade level.
- Teachers share student-centered practices and technology integration ideas through staff development and the use of an idea warehouse.



Utilize technology to facilitate greater efficiency of assessment and feedback for standards-based student learning

WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE

Avoca School District will leverage technology to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of formative assessment.

HOW IT WILL HAPPEN

1. Identify and experiment with tools that simplify the assessment process and improve feedback.
2. Make recommendations for the integration of assessment tools across grade levels and content areas.
3. Explore systems for managing assessment data.

HOW WE WILL KNOW

- Teachers will use technology-based platforms and applications for assessment to provide timely, meaningful feedback to students in all grade levels and content areas.



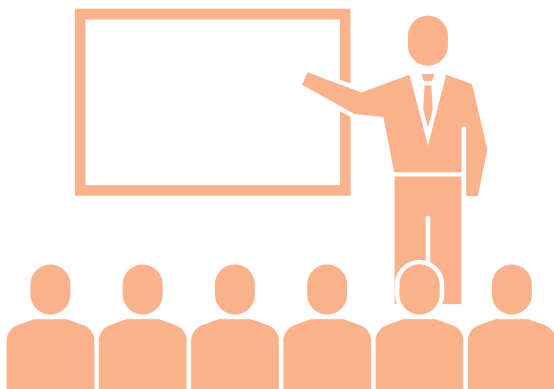
3A Develop, implement and monitor a professional learning framework for faculty

WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE

Avoca School District will implement a personalized learning progression for faculty in the area of technology integration.

HOW IT WILL HAPPEN

1. Form a technology team to investigate best practices for tech integration and personalized professional learning.
2. Recommend a learning progression for faculty.
3. Adopt a personalized learning platform that contains a self-monitoring and accountability component.
4. Utilize a coaching model in which technology integration specialists support teachers in planning and incorporating technology into curriculum.
5. Investigate opportunities to celebrate teachers' progress.
6. Explore technology integration evaluation tools to inform decisions.



HOW WE WILL KNOW

- Faculty self-monitors and demonstrates progress along the learning progression as evidence of growth for evaluation.
- Teacher adoption of technology integration practices will increase.
- A coaching model will support faculty learning.
- Teachers access a warehouse of resources for instruction and assessment.
- Technology expectations are embedded in the curriculum.
- Staff utilizes the personalized learning platform for professional development.
- Stakeholder feedback drives decisions for the technology program.

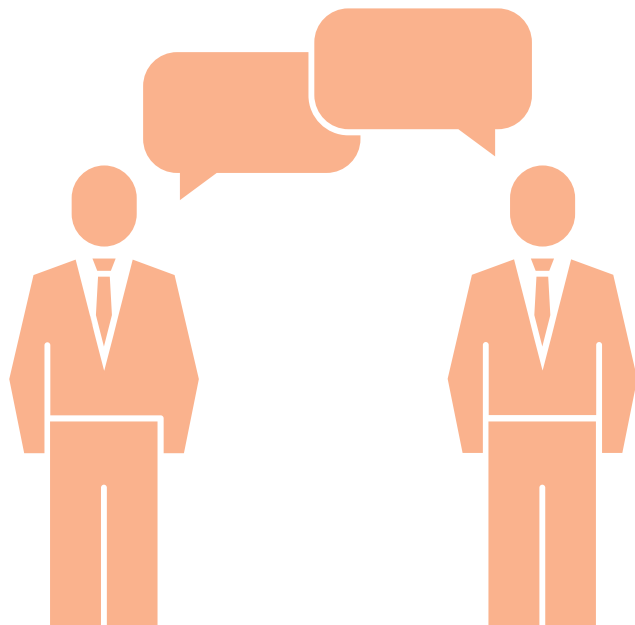
3B Optimize internal resources for professional learning

WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE

Avoca School District will leverage the skills and expertise of our current personnel to enhance learning.

HOW IT WILL HAPPEN

1. Identify and implement best technology integration practices.
2. Incorporate coaching practices that support innovative learning models, pilot programs, and peer learning opportunities.
3. Recruit staff who have innovative skills to serve as professional resources for others.
4. Utilize the schedule flexibly to provide ongoing professional learning opportunities.



HOW WE WILL KNOW

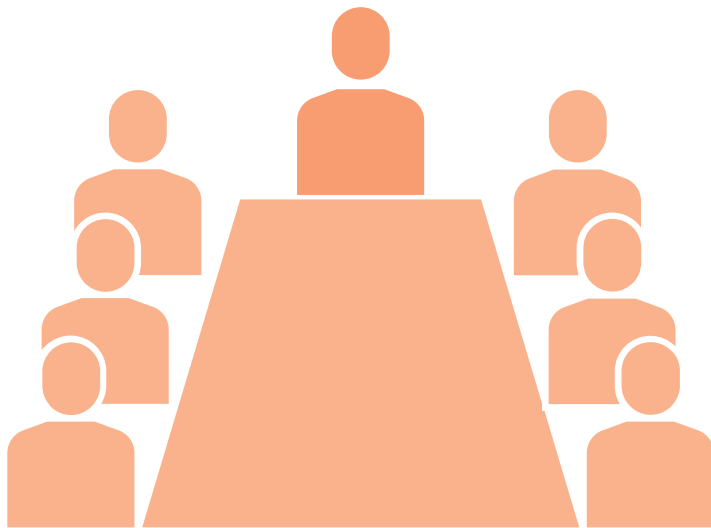
- Technology Innovation Learning Team plans, organizes and facilitates implementation of best technology practices, including professional development.
- The technology committee will maintain a calendar of professional development opportunities.
- Teachers participate in faculty-created courses through a personalized professional learning platform.
- Teachers regularly participate in observation of peers.
- Faculty self-monitors and demonstrates progress along the learning progression as evidence of growth for evaluation.



3C Leverage external professional learning opportunities

WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE

Avoca School District staff will adopt and share innovative teaching practices learned through regular interaction with resources outside the district.



HOW IT WILL HAPPEN

1. Provide opportunities for faculty to learn from innovation experts outside of our district.
2. Utilize resources provided by Apple and Google.
3. Guide staff to expand their Personal Learning Networks (PLNs) via social media.
4. Systematize the dissemination of information gained from external learning opportunities.

HOW WE WILL KNOW

- The technology committee will maintain a calendar of professional development opportunities.
- Staff will share and implement new ideas gained from speakers, site visits, conferences, networking, and other professional development opportunities.
- Staff uses social media to learn from their Personal Learning Networks.
- Faculty self-monitors and demonstrates progress along the learning progression as evidence of growth for evaluation.



WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE

Avoca School District will offer a variety of opportunities, strategies, and tools to help parents support student learning.

HOW IT WILL HAPPEN

1. Survey parents to identify their needs as they relate to supporting student learning.
2. Provide regular opportunities to help parents understand technology practices, policies and initiatives.
3. Utilize digital tools to help with parent communication and the sharing of resources and strategies.



HOW WE WILL KNOW

- Parent feedback informs the planning of learning opportunities.
- Parents participate in District-facilitated learning opportunities.
- Parents utilize what they have learned to support their students.

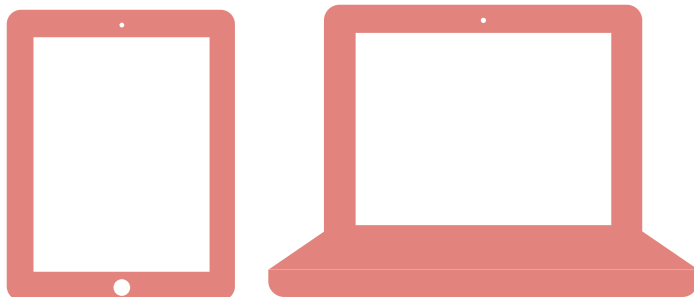
Develop a comprehensive refresh, deployment, and financing plan for infrastructure, student and staff devices, classroom peripherals, non-computing devices, and applications

WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE

Avoca School District students and staff will have consistent and equitable access to devices and other technology tools.

HOW IT WILL HAPPEN

1. Develop a five-year, projected technology budget.
2. Create, monitor and implement a five-year infrastructure plan.
3. Design a refresh plan to address aging devices, interactive whiteboards, and projectors.
4. Evaluate the utilization of software and subscriptions and update accordingly.
5. Revisit current outsourced IT service provider contract and solicit bids.
6. Charge a focus group with researching and identifying the most appropriate device(s) for students and staff.



HOW WE WILL KNOW

- A five-year projected technology budget will be developed and revisited annually.
- A refresh plan addressing devices, whiteboards, and other peripherals will be evaluated, implemented and updated annually.
- A database of subscription services will be maintained.
- The recommendations of the device focus group will be implemented.

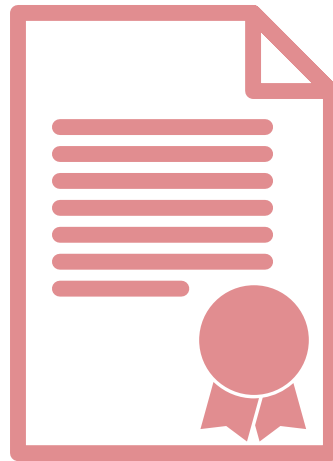


WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE

Avoca School District will establish, refine, and align our systems and processes to effectively manage and communicate district policies.

HOW IT WILL HAPPEN

1. Review staff and student acceptable use policies and damage waiver program and revise as necessary.
2. Review teacher access and identify responsibilities for staff and the technology department.
3. Research, implement and evaluate a help desk ticket system.
4. Develop a standardized intake system to effectively and efficiently address the needs of new students, staff, and substitute teachers.
5. Revisit state and district registration requirements and update accordingly.



HOW WE WILL KNOW

- A warehouse of technology policies will be accessible to all staff and updated as needed.
- Students and staff will abide by an updated acceptable use policy.
- The registration process will align with the requirements of the District and state, while continuing to be user-friendly.
- A help desk ticketing system will be implemented.
- A standardized system will be in place to transition all new students, staff, and substitutes into the District.
- New policies and revisions will be clearly communicated to staff.



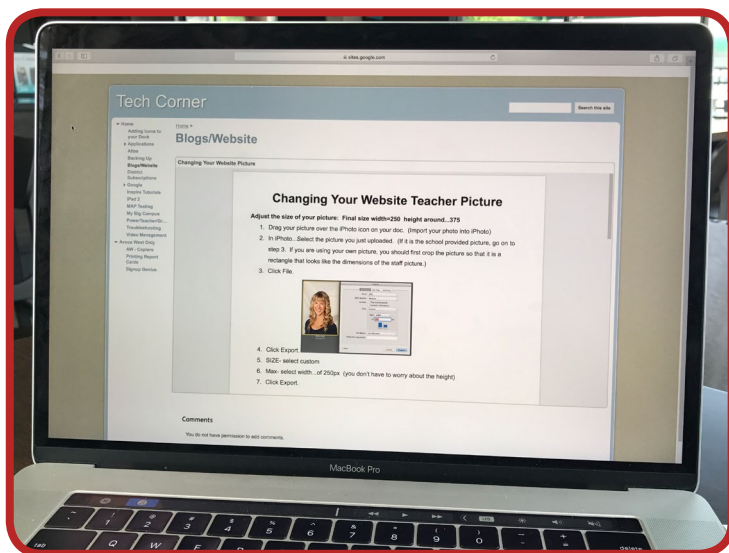
Optimize the roles and responsibilities of technology personnel to meet the needs of the District

WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE

Avoca School District Technology personnel will be deployed in a manner that leverages each professional's unique skill set to best meet the needs of the District.

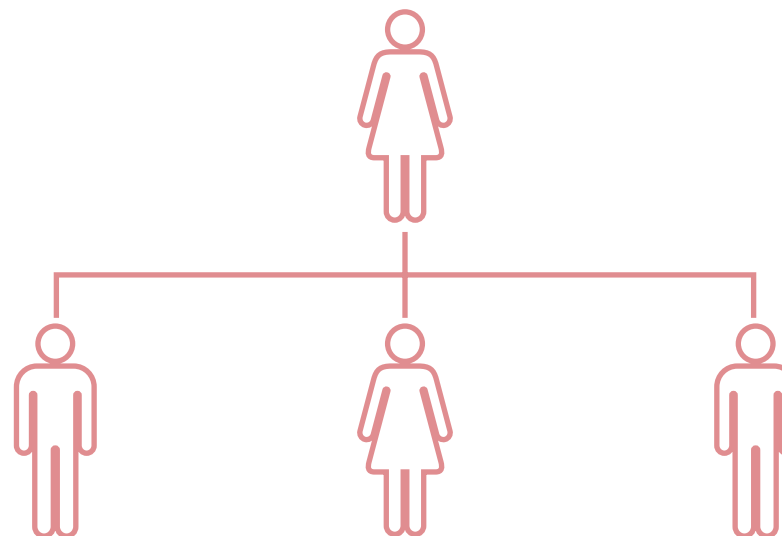
HOW IT WILL HAPPEN

1. Develop, document and disseminate job descriptions identifying specific technology personnel for various tasks and responsibilities.
2. Implement a ticket system that assigns tasks to appropriate personnel and evaluate its effectiveness and efficiency.
3. Further develop and promote the Technology Corner as the knowledge base for technology resources.



HOW WE WILL KNOW

- Specific roles and responsibilities for technology personnel are posted to the Tech Corner.
- A well-developed Tech Corner is maintained and accessed to address staff technology needs.
- Every staff member has bookmarked the Technology Corner for quick accessibility.
- Help desk ticketing system assigns tickets to the appropriate staff person.



In conjunction with the Communication & Engagement Committee, plan and execute a redesign of the District website

WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE

An intuitive, dynamic, and easily navigable website will be universally available to our Avoca School District families and other interested visitors.

HOW IT WILL HAPPEN

1. Form a Revamp website committee to direct the development of a new District website.
2. Create and disseminate a Request for Proposal for the development of a website in alignment with the requirements of the Revamp Website Team.
3. Review, evaluate and accept a proposal.
4. Revamp Website Team and website designer work in cooperation to develop a new website.
5. Launch of new website tentatively scheduled for winter 17-18.



HOW WE WILL KNOW

- Avoca's website is dynamic, intuitive and easy to navigate.
- Avoca's website will provide resources to our parents and visitors regarding curriculum and instructional practices, as well as other substantive information.
- Avoca's website is ADA compliant.

POSTSCRIPT

About this Plan

From the very beginning this Technology Innovation Strategic Plan was designed to impact learning; not only student learning, but teacher learning, as well. It was never meant to be just about using technological equipment, but applying technology and innovative practices for the purpose of facilitating learning, expanding school beyond classroom walls, creating, discovering, and applying knowledge to genuine and unique situations. It was less about devices, and more about what can be accomplished with them and a little ingenuity!

This is not the Technology Innovation Strategic Plan “to end all” technology strategic plans. It is designed to be reviewed, revisited and revised in the spirit of continuous improvement. What were considered “strategic priorities” today, may be nothing but an afterthought when the strategic planning process is launched again in a few years.

Hundreds of students, parents and staff members contributed to this plan, many through interviews and surveys, others via site visits and committee work. The research conducted included the scouring of educational and technological articles and blogs, and consultation with thought leaders both in person and virtually.

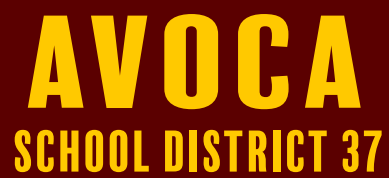
We would like to thank the New York Department of Education for allowing us to model our Strategic Plan from the template they designed.

Thank you to Daniel Hammond for constructing the final product.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

For their contributions to this plan, the Avoca School District would like to thank the following:

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Winnetka School District 36
Members of Avoca’s Technology Innovation Committee:
Dana Allen, 6th Grade Mathematics Teacher
Diane Bilcer, Elementary Literacy and Enrichment Teacher
Kristi Byrd, 2nd Grade Teacher
Robert Cates, Technology Specialist
Becky Cross, 5th Grade Teacher
Tim Furman, Technology Specialist
Susan Geidner, Elementary Media Specialist
Jim Gravagna, 8th Grade Science Teacher
Daniel Hammond, Middle School Music Teacher
Beth Haugeberg, District Technology Coordinator and Technology Facilitator
Dave Hoffheimer, Encore Technology Teacher
Jessica Hutchison, Elementary Principal
Kevin Jauch, Superintendent
Kelli Lane, Technology Facilitator
Jason Lavicky, Parent
Stephanie Rick, 3rd Grade Teacher
Kelly Sabatini, Middle School Art Teacher
Carrie Stotz, Middle School Media Specialist
Rosanne Ullman, Board of Education Member
Steve Volkadov, Parent
Todd Wagner, Parent
Jennie Winters, Curriculum and Instruction Coordinator
Rick Zelinsky, Board of Education Member



District Offices
2921 Illinois Road
Wilmette, IL 60091

(847)-251-3587
www.avoca37.org