FLORENCE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT FOUR TECHNOLOGY PLAN

2016-2021

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DISTRICT PROFILE

Timmonsville Educational Center
(3 schools and District Office located in one building)
Total (4) Schools

Elementary School

- Brockington Elementary School

Middle School

- Johnson Middle School

High School

- Timmonsville High School

District Office

- Florence County School District 4 District Office

(1)Timmonsville Adult Education Center

- Adult Education Center

There are four schools in Florence County School District Four:

- 693 Total Students Enrolled in Florence County School District Four;

- 95% of these students receive Free and Reduced Lunch Status;

- 57 Students, English as a Second Language;

- One Dropout for the 15-16 School Year;

- 59% graduation rate for the 15-16 School Year;

- Florence County School District Four had a 90% E-rate discount.

Florence County School District Four is located in the western region of Florence County in Timmonsville, South Carolina. FCSD4's student population is composed of 82 percent African-Americans, 8 percent Hispanic, 7 percent Caucasian and 3 percent other ethnicities. Approximately 15 percent of students have disabilities; over 80 percent of students qualify for free and reduced lunch. The students who attend FCSD4 come from a high poverty community with an overall SCDE Poverty Index of 93.39 percent in 2015.

There is one facility that contains the elementary school, middle school, high school and early childhood center. There is also one adult education facility located in the district.

FCSD4 is committed to providing the latest technology tools to enhance teaching and learning and improve administrative services for its students, staff, teachers and administrators. It is the vision and mission of Florence County School District Four to make our rural school district competitive in the area of technology education; and, tantamount to the larger, urban school districts of this nation. To facilitate the opportunity for all students to become will informed, imaginative and effective decision makers, capable of working independently and collaboratively to create workable solutions to complex problems resembling those they will encounter during the information age.

DISTRICT VISION AND MISSION STATEMENT

THE MISSION OF FLORENCE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT FOUR, IN UNISON WITH PARENTS AND COMMUNITY, IS TO GUARANTEE AN EXCELLENT EDUCATION FOR EACH STUDENT BY PROVIDING HIGHLY QUALIFIED PERSONNEL, RIGOROUS CURRICULUM, AND SAFE AND WELL-MAINTAINED FACILITIES.

Beliefs

We believe:

- Technology promotes student achievement and increases technology literacy skills needed for the 21st century.

- Technology is the catalyst to provide a means to meet the diverse learning needs of students.

- Modern technology creates a demand for a life-long learning process.

- The use of technology as a tool integrated throughout the curriculum supports higher order thinking skills, communication skills, collaboration, and problem solving, which are critical elements of the district's strategic plan.

- Students, teachers, and administrators must be able to process and manage information through the skillful use of technology.

- The creation of local area networks, wide area networks, and access to the information superhighway are vital for schools to provide efficient, effective technology based curricula for their students.

- The demands of the workplace require educational institutions to educate and train students in the use of a wide range of technology in order to better prepare student for highly skilled and well-paying jobs.

- Technology provides a means to meet the diverse learning needs of students.

- Technology provides motivation for students and facilitates their active involvement in activity based learning.

- Technological resources will have a positive impact upon student achievement and motivation.

Plans for the Five Individual Technology Dimensions

TECHNOLOGY DIMENSION 1

LEARNERS AND THEIR ENVIRONMENT

GOAL
Florence County School District Four will use research-proven strategies that will guide students in all grade levels to apply developmentally appropriate technology standards to all curriculum areas that will achieve high academic standards, while achieving technological literacy and successfully participate in a rapidly changing information-based society.

OBJECTIVES

1.1 Florence County School District Four will maximize student learning through technological tools, including assistive technology, that are designed to promote high academic achievement.

STRATEGIES

A. Provide opportunities and resources to facilitate the development and implementation of effective communication and collaboration skills using technology in the core content areas.

B. Identify and promote best practices that successfully integrate technology, including assistive technology, into the curriculum.

C. Teachers will conduct student projects that will yield sustained, engaged learning and collaboration in the core content areas.

OBJECTIVES

1.2 Students will engage in authentic learning activities that are aligned with state standards that effectively integrate technology, including assistive technology, into the core content.

STRATEGIES

A. Develop technology-enhanced learning activities aligned with state standards in core content areas.

B. Provide professional development to educate teachers, and help ensure that lesson plans and activities incorporate a variety of technologies, including those appropriate for students with special needs.

OBJECTIVES

1.3 Provide students access to current and emerging technology tools.

STRATEGIES

A. Implement a 1-to-1 initiative for students in grades 2 - 8.

B. Upgrade computer labs with new technology and create an additional lab.

C. Provide devices for student checkout in the Media Center

D. Upgrade existing classroom technology

1.4 Provide students with access to assistive technologies to support students with disabilities at all grade levels.

STRATEGIES

A. Work with Exceptional Education teachers to assess assistive technology needs.

B. Develop a plan to provide assistive technology equipment and software for Exceptional Ed classrooms

TECHNOLOGY DIMENSION 2

PROFFESSIONAL CAPACITY

GOAL: Florence County School District Four will strive for timely and appropriate integration of technology into all instructional and administrative settings throughout the district. Educators and administrative staff must have adequate access to training in order to enhance their personal productivity and properly integrate technologies into the curriculum on an on-going basis.

OBJECTIVES

2.1 Florence County School District Four will provide schools with information and training in technology integration so that teachers can use research-based best-practice instructional methods throughout the curriculum.

STRATEGIES

A. Offer professional development activities and training in a variety of ways (i.e., on-site, off-site, on-line, self-paced, and combinations of these methods) to address the technology needs of staff.

B. Technology leaders will be assigned to each school to train and monitor colleagues and guide novices in the use of technology integration.

C. Provide professional development opportunities focused on aligning state technology standards with state content standards.

D. Enforce teacher / staff technology competency attainment efforts and establishment or remediation track for those who fall below expectations.

E. Increase the availability of technology professional development tools to teachers: access to laptop computers and presentation devices, Internet access at the classroom level, interactive on-line access to state curriculum standards and lesson plans, access to Web-based and/or CD-ROM-based training opportunities, and access to state-of-the-art training centers in their particular geographic areas.

OBJECTIVES

2.2. Florence County School District Four will assess the overall effectiveness of professional development in the area of instructional technology standards and the impact of technology on student achievement.

STRATEGIES

A. Establish minimum levels of teacher technology proficiency for replication and adaptation across the state.

B. Incorporate instructional technology assessment into current teacher and administrator evaluation processes.

C. Administer evaluations to determine the effectiveness and impact of the professional development offered to teachers and administrators.

D. Encourage teachers to create and maintain technology portfolios showing examples of their students' work and documenting use of technology in their classrooms.

OBJECTIVES

2.3 Florence County School District Four will collaborate in planning for professional development, ensuring that teachers and district staff are trained to use technology, including assistive technology, to enhance learning.

STRATEGIES

A. Develop and submit a technology plan that (1) is directed by the district's technology leadership, (2) is designed for the district and for each school in the district as applicable, and (3) call for site-based input from technology committees or teams in each building.

B. Include in district technology plan professional development for district staff and teachers to be part of assistive technology assessment teams.

C. Include in district technology plan the training needed to ensure the accessibility of electronic and information technology to students with special needs.

D. Include in district technology plan the training needed for school and district staff to evaluate software in order to make decision that ensure the promotion of higher-order thinking skills for all students, including those with special needs.

TECHNOLOGY DIMENSION 3

INSTRUCTIONAL CAPACITY

GOAL: Florence County School District Four will provide students with current technology, resources and instruction to develop skills and create environments conducive for learning. Moreover, students will be equipped to use technology tools to achieve high academic standards in this swiftly changing society.

OBJECTIVES

3.1 Provide teachers with access to a variety of technology equipment, software and resources for teaching.

STRATEGIES

A. Continue to provide the current technology and devices for classrooms.

B. Upgrade interactive board to more reliable interactive panels

C. Continue to provide training for online resources (Google Apps, Safari Montage, StreamlineSC, etc…)

OBJECTIVES

3.2 Florence County School District Four will provide students with access to current and emerging technology resources that will extend their learning beyond the traditional classroom setting and schedule.

STRATGIES

A. Provide continued access to VirtualSC and dual credit courses

B. Provide access to Google Classroom to extend the learning environment outside of the classroom

C. Provide teachers with access to knowledgeable personnel, productivity tools, on-line services, media-based instructional materials, and primary sources of data in settings that enrich and extend teaching goals.

OBJECTIVES

3.3 Florence County School District Four will develop a technology framework for local planning that addresses the steps necessary to create a technology-rich environment that will foster increased achievement by all students, including those with special needs.

STRATEGIES

A. Ensure that curricular design, instructional strategies, and learning environments integrate appropriate technologies (including the range of assistive technology options) to significantly impact teaching and learning.

Facilitate the use of technologies to support and enhance instructional methods (including the use of hardware, software, and assistive technology) that develop higher-level thinking, decision-making, and problem-solving skills.

TECHNOLOGY DIMENSION 4

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

GOAL: Florence County School District Four will encourage parental and community involvement by proving technology tools, resources, and training required increasing student achievement.

OBJECTIVES

4.1 Improve school and teacher communication with students, parents and community.

STRATEGIES

A. Continue to publish school events and district news on District website

B. Continued use of ParentLink for communication between school and home

C. Provide and promote PowerSchool Parent Portal for academic progress for the student

OBJECTIVES

4.2 Florence County School District Four will provide after-hours training and community access to labs, media centers, and classrooms.

STRATEGIES

A. Create and publish flexible schedules of after-hours technology access and training for students, parents, teachers, and community members.

B. Create opportunities for access to facilities for after-hours assistive technology training for students, parents, teachers and community members.

OBJECTIVES

4.3 Florence County School District Four will establish community technology partnerships and collaborations by providing tools, resources, and training that support student transition, achievement, and outcomes.

STRATEGIES

A. Form district-community partnerships to provide students with real-world experiences in the use of technology, including assistive technology that enhances academic achievement.

B. Form district-community partnerships to help research and evaluate school and district technology projects.

C. Provide recognition/reward programs and/or incentives for partnerships showing impact.

D. Form district-community partnerships to facilitate the use of technology, including assistive technology, in the public schools and to improve outcomes for students transitioning form school to work or higher education.

OBJECTIVES

4.4 Florence County School District Four will fully utilize all available resources by fostering collaboration and cooperation among state-supported organizations, institutions, and initiatives.

STRATEGIES

A. Identify all of the organizations, institutions, and initiatives that are currently focused on instructional technology applications.

B. Compile a database of institutions willing to partner with high-need school districts by creating a message board on the South Carolina: Teaching, Learning, Connecting (SCTLS)Web portal (http://www.sctlc.com) where potential partners can communicate with one another and generate ideas.

C. Partner with other school districts as well as community entities to collaborate in order to provide assistive technology demonstration, loan, and assessment for students with special needs.

TECHNOLOGY DIMENSION 5

SUPPORT CAPACITY

GOAL: Florence County School District Four will expand and support technology resources to assist educators and learners in meeting the state academic standards.

OBJECTIVES

5.1 Evaluate, upgrade and maintain network infrastructure as needed to provide faster network connectivity, improve reliability and management of network devices

STRATEGIES

A. Upgrade switches to the latest OS to provide additional functionality.

B. Virtualize server infrastructure to in a Hyper Converged configuration to increase server uptime.

C. Upgrade wireless access points to increase coverage and access.

D. Implement a district network management tool that performs automated software installation.

OBJECTIVES

5.2 Provide efficient communication capabilities

STRATEGIES

A. Continue support and maintenance of hosted-VOIP system district wide.

OBJECTIVES

5.3 Florence County School District Four will implement an upgrade plan to replace and recycle equipment and software.

STRATEGIES

D. Ensure that the obsolescence and upgrade plans are included in the district technology plan.

OBJECTIVES

5.4 Florence County School District Four will implement a disaster recovery plan

for all points of failure in LANs and WANs, including offsite data storage, robust automated backup, and immediate hardware recovery.

STRATEGIES

A. Ensure that disaster recovery plans are included in the district technology plan.

B. Ensure that schools will have electrical distribution systems that provide isolated circuits in all classrooms and redundant power sources for mission-critical equipment.

C. Implement a district management application that monitors bandwidth on the LAN and WAN and provides network failure alarms that can be accessed remotely.

Appendix 1: Florence County School District 4 Budget

Annual Budget
2016 – 2021

Items	Amount	Source
Servers	$25,000	Grants
Network Equipment	$40,000	E-Rate
Software	$30,00	Federal Funds
Computer/Laptops Upgrades	$30,00	Federal Funds
Professional Development	$10,000	Grants
Repairs/Maintenance	$30,000	General Funds

Appendix 2: Acceptable Use Policy

Acceptable Use Police for Florence County School District Four

Student Access Police to Networked Information Resources

Students are encouraged to use telecommunications to explore educational topics, conduct research, and communicate with others. Access to computers, however, also makes available material that may not be appropriate for student's age or course of study. The District will attempt to restrict access to inappropriate materials and will require parental consent for all students to access the Internet. A signed Internet User Permission slip must be on file at the appropriate site prior to using the Internet.

No student will engage in the following activities while using the Internet:

1. Sending, displaying, or requesting offensive message or pictures.
2. Using obscene language.
3. Harassing, insulting, or attacking others.
4. Damaging computers, computer systems, or computer networks.
5. Violating copyright laws.
6. Using others' passwords.
7. Trespassing in others' folders, work, or files.
8. Intentionally wasting limited resources.
9. Employing the network for commercial purposes.

Sanctions may include:
1. Loss of access to computers.
2. Disciplinary action for inappropriate language or behavior consistent with School
    Policies.
3. Notification of law enforcement agencies when criminal conduct is suspected.

Every Student That Uses This Lab Must Have Turned in The Following Permission Form to The Media Center FCSD Student Internet use Permission Form

I understand and will abide by the District Rules for Student Access to Networked Information Resources. I further understand that any violation of the regulations will not be tolerated and may constitute a criminal offense. If I commit any

violation, my access privileges may be revoked, school disciplinary action may be taken, and appropriate legal action may be pursued.

User's Full Name (please print):_____

User's Signature:_____

Date:_____

PARENT OR GUARDIAN

As the parent or guardian of this student, I have read the District Rules for Student Access to Networked Information Resources. I understand that this access is designed for educational purposes only. Although the School District has taken precautions to eliminate inappropriate material, I recognize it is impossible for the School District to restrict access to all such materials. Therefore, I agree that my child would be responsible for any non-education materials that he or she acquires on the network. With these understanding, I give my permission to issue an account for my child to use the Internet at school.

Parent or Guardian's Name (please print)_____

Parent or Guardian's Signature:_____

Date:_____

Every Teacher That Uses This Lab Must Have Turned In The Following Permission Form To The Media Center
Employee Acceptable Use Police for Florence County School District Four

Employee Access to Networked Information Resources

Employees are encouraged to use telecommunications to explore education topics, conduct research and communicate with others in a professional capacity. Access to Networked Information Resources in a privilege extended to employees for educational purposes. Florence County student use of these resources for educational purposes will take precedence. The Florence County School District requires that each employee attend an orientation and sign an Acceptable Use Agreement form prior to using the Networked Information Resources.

Employees will not engage in the following activities while using Networked Information Resources.

1. Sending, displaying, or requesting offensive message or pictures.
2. Using obscene language.
3. Harassing, insulting, or attacking others.
4. Damaging computers, computer systems, or computer networks.
5. Violating copyright laws.
6. Using others' passwords.
7. Trespassing in others' folders, work, or files.
8. Intentionally wasting limited resources.
9. Employing the network for commercial purposes.

Sanctions may include:

1. Loss of access to computers
2. Disciplinary action for inappropriate language or behavior consistent with School
   Board Policies.
3. Notification of law enforcement agencies when criminal conduct is suspected.

Employee Acceptable Use Policy

I have read, understand, and will abide by the Florence County School District Policy. I further understand that any violation of this policy is unethical and may constitute a criminal offense. Should I commit any violation, my access privileges may be revoked and I may be subject to other disciplinary actions prescribed by l aw or School Board Policy. I understand that one of my duties will be to monitor student use of the Networked Information Resources during periods of classroom access.

I clearly understand that it is my responsibility to closely monitor students while they are accessing the Internet.

User's Full Name (please print)_____Date_____

User's Signature:_____

_____

Network/Internet—Terms and Conditions of Use

Internet Orientation:

Acceptable Use – Acceptable use always is ethical, reflects honest, and shows restraint in the consumption of shared resources. It demonstrates respect for intellectual property, ownership of information, system security mechanisms, and the individual's rights to privacy and freedom from intimidation, harassment, and unwarranted annoyance. Access to computer systems and networks owned cooperated by the Florence County School District Four imposes certain responsibilities and obligations on users and is subject to Florence County School District Four policies and local, state, and federal laws. Use of other networks or computing resources must comply with the rules governing those networks owned or operated by the Florence County School District Four.

Privileges – The use of the networks and their resources is a privilege, not a right, and inappropriate use may result in the severe restriction of privileges. The principal or his/her designee will deem what is inappropriate use and his/her decision is final. Also, the principal, or his/her designee, retains the right to close an account at any time as required. The administration, faculty, and staff of the Florence County School District Four may request that the principal deny, revoke, or suspend specific user accounts, require payment for any damages to the system, and bring criminal charges if deemed necessary. The contents of any material created in conjunction with the use of this network should not interfere with the educational purposes and may be reviewed by any staff members responsible for the user at any time. Parents, or legal guardians, have the right to request to see the content of any material created or accessed by their child/children.

Network Etiquette – The user is expected to abide by the generally accepted rules of network etiquette. These include, but are not limited to, the following:

*   Be police. Use appropriate language. Abusive, vulgar, or any other inappropriate language is not allowed.

*   Sharing personal home addresses and phone numbers and those of other students or colleagues is prohibited.

*   Consider all Internet activities as public. Communications relating to or in support of illegal activities may be responded to the authorities.

*   Report to your teacher as soon as you find something you think is not right or makes you feel uncomfortable.

*   Assume that all communication and information accessible via the network as private property and therefore copyrighted.

*   Your password is your private possession and should be treated as such. Teachers and administrators have the right to monitor   . transmissions.

The following list represents some of the inappropriate uses that are not permitted by the Florence County School District Four

*   Commercial advertising, or unethical/illegal solicitation.

*   Accessing a file or web site that contains pornographic or obscene pictures, videos, stories, or other material: making copies or such materials, or distributing or exposing other to such material.

*   Using copyrighted material without permission.

*   Sending or receiving messages that are obscene, profane, racist, sexist, inflammatory, threatening, or slanderous toward others.

*   Creating and or placing a computer virus on the network or any workstation.

*   Sending messages or information with someone else's name on it or misrepresenting the source of information you enter or send.

*   Sending or receiving messages or information that is inconsistent with the school's conduct code or assists other to violate that code.

*   Harassing others or requesting or distributing addresses, home phone numbers, or other personal information which could then be used to make inappropriate calls or contacts.

*   Sending chain letters or engage in "spamming" (sending an annoying or unnecessary message to large numbers of people.)

*   Purchasing something, which requires you to submit a credit card number or obligates the student or school to another party.

*   Attempting to access and/or alter information in restricted areas of any network or in any way violate the confidentiality rights of other users on any network.

*   Failing to report abuses or other conditions that may interfere with the appropriate and efficient use of school resources.

Users are required to report any of the following to his/her teacher or the building network administrator as soon as the following are discovered:

*   Any message, files, Web sites, or user activities that contain materials that are in violation of this policy.

*   Any messages, files, Web sites or user activities that solicit personal information about you or someone else, or request a personal contact with you or another user. (Asks for your address, phone number, credit card number, Social Security number, or to meet you.)

*   Attempts by any user to abuse or damage the system or violate the security of the network and its resources.

*   Any illegal activity or violation of school policy.

*   Any error messages or problems which indicate that the system is not working properly.

Warranty – The Florence County School District Four makes no warranties of any kind, whether expressed or implied, for the service it is providing. The Florence County School District Four will not be responsible for any damages you suffer. This includes loss of data resulting from delays, non-deliveries, misdirected deliveries, or service interruptions obtained via the Internet is at your own risk. The Florence County School District Four specifically denies any responsibility for the accuracy or quality of information obtained through it services.

Security – Security on any computer system is a high priority, especially when the system involves many users. If you feel you have identified a security problem on the network, you must notify a staff member or building network system administrator. Do not demonstrate the problem to other users. Attempts to log on to any network as a system administrator will result in cancellation of user privileges. Any user identified as a security risk or having a history of problems with other computer systems may be subject to severe restriction or cancellation of privileges.

Vandalism – Vandalism is defined as any malicious attempt to harm or destroy the data of another user, Internet, or other networks that are connected any of the Internet backbones. This includes, but is not limited to, the uploading or creation of computer viruses, deletion or alternation of other user files or applications, removing protection from restricted areas, or

The unauthorized blocking of access to information, applications, or areas of the network. Vandalism will result in cancellation of network privileges.

User Privacy – The Florence County School District Four reserves the right to examine, restrict, or remove any material that is on or passes through its network, just as it does any other work or material generated or brought to school by staff or students. Access to electronic information related to any student or staff member will be governed by the same policies that would apply to that information if it were not in electronic form.

Florence County School District Four Employees:
I have read, understand, and will abide by the abide by the above Acceptable Use Agreement. I further understand that any violation of the regulations above is unethical and may constitute a criminal offense. Should I commit any violation, my access privileges may be revoked and I may be subject to other disciplinary actions prescribed by law or other school policies.

I clearly understand that my responsibility is to monitor students accessing the Internet during my class periods.

User's Full Name (please print):_____

User's Signature:_____

Date:_____