

Effective Digital Planning Always Begins with a Vision

High-functioning learning communities are driven by the core beliefs detailed in their mission, vision, values, and goals statements. Working together, parents, principals, and teachers define priorities that carry great implications for instruction. Those priorities should play a role in all of the choices made by a school—including choices about the kinds of technology to incorporate into classrooms. Use this handout to ensure that your technology plans align with your school's mission, vision, values and goals.

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<i>Question</i>	<i>Your Response</i>
What is your school's mission statement? Do you have any specific vision statements that define how technology can help your building to meet your mission statement? If so, what are they? If not, how do you think technology could be used to help your school to meet your mission statement?	
What do your school and community care deeply about? What are their hopes for students? What are their expectations for students? Do their hopes and expectations differ? What do they want students to know and be able to do by the time they have finished high school?	
What do performance indicators—attendance patterns, test scores, graduation rates—tell you about your student population? What skills have your students mastered? What skills are they struggling with? What areas are of the greatest academic importance in your building right now?	
Instructionally, what does your building do well? Are your students well-versed in basic skills? Are they terrific problem solvers and/or creative thinkers? Do they collaborate well? Are your teachers providing meaningful enrichment and/or remediation opportunities for all students?	
What specific programs is your school attempting to implement right now? How are those programs connected to your mission statement? What specific outcomes are you being held accountable for? How is this accountability changing the choices that you make as a building?	
How is technology currently being used in your building? Are there specific efforts underway to use digital devices and/or web-based opportunities to address your building's mission, vision statements or core priorities? Who is leading them? What kinds of digital resources do your teachers have access to? Are there high-speed Internet connections in every classroom? What devices are available for use by students and teachers? Can teachers access websites easily or does your district's firewall make digital connections difficult? How well do the resources available to your teachers align with your school's mission, vision statements and core priorities?	

Scenario Writing

Stories help to make complex ideas concrete—and will keep you focused on the core beliefs of your learning community when making decisions about digital behaviors, tools and projects to pursue. On the back of this handout, consider writing a detailed scenario describing the technology integration decisions of a fictional teacher or team that is effectively translating your school's mission, vision and priorities into action. Then, use your scenario as a guide when thinking through new digital choices and directions.