

## Digital Learning Initiative Belief Statements

We Believe:

- A variety of digital tools are necessary to support and facilitate student learning opportunities, to effectively assess student understanding, and to adhere to District and state standards which require technology use. We further recognize digital tools can strengthen students' development in the areas of communication, collaboration, creativity, and critical thinking.
- A variety of digital tools are essential to support and facilitate differentiated instruction and can inspire students to become lifelong learners.
- It is necessary to teach students a common set of digital skills, including the ability to find, evaluate, utilize, share, and create content using digital devices, information technologies, and the Internet. In applying these skills, we must support students in being responsible digital citizens who use appropriate behavior while engaged with technology. We believe these skills must be standardized by grade level and integrated into the curriculum.
- We must provide equitable access to appropriate digital tools across our District 181 schools by grade level. Each teacher and student should be equipped with digital tools to use throughout the school day and at home as appropriate for learning and the learner.
- Ongoing staff professional development and support for all staff are necessary for successful technology integration throughout the curriculum. It is critical that professional development include opportunities both in and out of the classroom to support high quality instruction.
- Long-term systemic strategic planning and financial investment are critical to realizing and sustaining a robust District-wide digital learning environment, with accountability for addressing these components:
  - Curriculum and digital content renewal
  - Professional development
  - Infrastructure and adequate staffing
  - Platform replacement cycle
  - Parent education
  - Digital safety and security
  - Periodic evaluation of plan implementation



*Adopted by the Board of Education March 14, 2016*