



Annual Operating Plan Technology – 2019-20

We will provide secure and reliable learning environments that will allow students and staff to use technology in an effective and seamless manner.

Goal: Increase staff knowledge and usage of the technology available for teaching, learning and workplace applications to improve student achievement outcomes.

Focus on leveraging technology tools and resources to promote learning and communication.

(Responsibility: Superintendent of Education (L. Munro), Manager of IT, Educational Technology Team)

Strategies (What will we do?)	Prioritize and begin the strategic implementation of the recommendations made through the IBM Board Learning Plan Leveraging Digital.
Evidence of Progress (How well did we do it?)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formation of Learning Council to inform the Ed Tech Plan • Review and prioritize goals based on the February 2019 report recommendations • Create an educational technology plan for the Board that will ensure technology is embedded and embraced by educators, and is an integral part of the teaching and learning of the Board's key achievement priorities • Develop next steps for communication to inform stakeholders of the updated learning plan
Status (Is anyone better off? How do we know?)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning Council established in October 2019. Five meetings scheduled. First meeting held Oct. 23/19. Learning Council Sub-Committee met twice in fall 2019 to create a plan to support professional learning with all stakeholders and digital alignment with the Essential Practices, a key priority with the LPLD Committee. For example, promoting applications such as OneNote, Brightspace, Notepad, VideoNote to support the triangulation of data. Meetings subsequently postponed with Job Action and subsequent school closures • Initial Goals were set through Learning Council. Goals include establishing a professional working group to align Program and ITS resources and embedding technology into professional learning; • School-based digital contacts established in Nov. 2019. Meetings postponed due to Job Action and subsequent school closures. Some schools had not submitted names. Digital leads established at each school to support D2L implementation as a result of increased use of the VLE due to school closures • LPLD Report to Board Jan. 27, 2020

Goal: Use an up-to-date technology platform (D2L, Brightspace and O365) to support student achievement.
Goal: Provide a single, secure, Ministry of Education approved platform for families to receive communication.

Focus on the implementation of a secure communication platform for parents/guardians. Support educators' understanding and usage of a virtual learning environment to improve student achievement outcomes.

(Responsibility: Superintendent of Education (L. Munro), Information Technology Services Management Team, Educational Technology Team)

Strategies (What will we do?)	Launch the Parent Portal and Brightspace platform across the Grand Erie District School Board.
Evidence of Progress (How well did we do it?)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a plan for the incremental launch of the Parent Portal/ Brightspace model at Elementary and Secondary schools across the district complete by May 2020 • Track the number of families using the Parent Portal • Track the number of educators using Brightspace • Collect feedback from families on their Portal Experience • Communicate resources to the system on best practices using the Parent Portal and Brightspace
Status (Is anyone better off? How do we know?)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rollout schedule of Parent Portal was planned for 4 phases. Phase one and two were completed Oct. 23/Nov.11 2019, with schools represented from both elementary and secondary as well as an even distribution from Haldimand, Norfolk and Brant County; Subsequent sessions were not completed due to Job Action and Subsequent school closures • Brightspace Training sessions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Educators Training: 3 after school sessions (fall 2019) More sessions planned after job action. ○ Ongoing educator support from Ed Tech to interested educators; ○ Principal Training Nov. 19, 2019; ○ Intro to President's Council Jan 9, 2020; ○ Trustee Training March 9, 2020 (deferred). • Parent Portal Training for Administrators scheduled for Feb. 18, 2020 (deferred); • Data is being collected from families using Parent Portal; Results show that families that used the Parent Portal in fall 2019 continue use the Parent Portal in the spring with a slight increase since the commencement of Distance Learning; • Data collected for educators using Brightspace; Course count logins have increased exponentially since the commencement of school closure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Elementary course access count Feb 28. 2020: 3934 April 30, 2020: 246 161 ○ Secondary course access count Feb. 28, 2020: 38243 April 30, 2020: 258 068 • Began planning for a small survey for parents on their Parent Portal experience in November 2019. The survey is intended to also meet a Communications AOP goal. Survey was to be sent out in late March 2020 to families currently using the Parent Portal. *Given the incomplete roll out schedule of the Parent Portal and subsequent school closures this item will be deferred until the 2020-21 school year. • PLE module on Brightspace and Parent Portal created September 2019 for teachers and available in the VLE

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional VLE Resources provided to educators during school closures. Topics include, but are not limited to: Getting Started in the VLE, Using Tools in Brightspace and the VLE, Creating Assignments in Brightspace, Creating Widgets, Launching Virtual Classroom for Synchronous Learning with Students, etc. Parent Portal Support Information made available to parents through the Home Page of the GEDSB website (Dec. 2019).
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Goal: Ensure ongoing, equitable and reliable access to technology for all classrooms and educators.

Goal: Create a financially sustainable plan for the deployment of up-to-date technology.

Focus on the process for implementing a sustainable plan to refresh classroom and educator devices.

(Responsibility: Superintendent of Education (L. Munro), Information Technology Services Management Team)

Strategies (What will we do?)	Implement a robust technology refresh schedule that will ensure well performing devices are consistently in place for classrooms and educators.
Evidence of Progress (How well did we do it?)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Replacement of one third of all teacher-issued and classroom devices with leased devices, beginning with the oldest devices in use Reduced IT inventory of spare parts set aside for device repairs Decrease in the number of work orders required for devices
Status (Is anyone better off? How do we know?)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All year 1 secondary and elementary teachers will have been provided with new HP Laptops (approx. 640). All secondary classrooms have been outfitted with new HP Laptops (approx. 930) All Grade one classrooms have been outfitted with new HP Laptops. Grade one was a priority as the refresh was started in June 2019 and needed to be completed this year as approved by EC and Trustees in 2018-2019 Ed Tech Board Report Grade 8 classroom deployment completed Grade 2-7 is next for the fall of 2020 Asset management system is being used to track devices to maintain accuracy with the refresh schedule. Old Dell laptops have been pulled from schools. If the device is not damaged ITS was refreshing these devices to use as spares for the next year until the next wave of device deployment. Currently, 400+ of these devices were used to support Learning from Home due to school closures. Additionally, 900 devices were pulled from Gr. 2,3,4, 5 classrooms earlier than fall 2020 to further support the number of devices required for Learning from Home ITS Report to Board March 9, 2020

