

# Foreword

Plano Independent School District has always prided itself on providing students with an excellent, comprehensive education that enriches their lives and prepares them for their future. The Board of Trustees of Plano ISD has developed the following mission statement and strategic beliefs which provide the foundation for this technology plan along with the District Improvement Plan and the State of Texas Long-Range Plan for Technology, 1996-2010.

## MISSION

The mission of the Plano Independent School District is to provide an excellent education for all students.

## Our Beliefs About Excellence in Public Education

1. The primary business of the school district is to foster the highest level of *STUDENT LEARNING*. Successful learning is created by developing each individual's
  - *Essential academic and critical thinking skills,*
  - *Strong appreciation of arts and cultures,*
  - *Responsible citizenship and character traits of integrity and ethics,*
  - *Emotional and physical well-being.*
2. Successful learning is best achieved through strong **CONNECTIONS WITH PARENTS, FAMILIES AND ALL SECTORS OF THE BROADER COMMUNITY**. These connections must be shaped by
  - *Continuous communication to strengthen relationships, trust and unity to better serve children and youth,*
  - *Strong partnerships and collective accountability including shared vision, cooperative effort and responsible action among families, students, staff and the community.*
3. Ensuring high levels of student learning requires **CONSTANT CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT** of the entire school system. Such capacity development includes
  - *Attracting, training, and retaining a high quality, diverse staff,*
  - *Achieving constant innovation to improve organizational structures and processes,*
  - *Building modern technology tools to create personalized learning and effective and efficient system management,*
  - *Developing strong leadership to promote and challenge the district to accomplish its mission.*
4. Continuous improvement of both student and system performance is essential, and must be shaped through **DATA-DRIVEN DECISION-MAKING**.
  - *Continuous improvement means all levels of the system must use a constant flow of data that are relevant and readily available to improve learning and organizational effectiveness.*
  - *Data to measure progress in performance must come from multiple sources. Test scores are necessary, but one of many ways to measure the success of students or the district.*



## Board of Trustee Strategic Goals

### ***Student Learning***

We will provide curriculum, instructional programs and services that enhance each student's academic and personal potential resulting in a successful graduate.

### ***Community Connectedness***

We will proactively engage our community to increase understanding, involvement and support to ensure student success.

### ***Capacity Development***

1. We will ensure that all employees continually develop their personal and professional skills in order to enhance student learning.
2. We will work to acquire and manage appropriate resources to enhance student learning.
3. We will develop a plan for recurring assessment of all programs, support services and facilities to ensure efficiency and effectiveness.

### ***Data-Driven Decision-Making***

We will analyze and use relevant data to improve student achievement and district operations.

### **DISTRICT BASED IMPROVEMENT GOALS:**

1. **All** students and **all** AEIS reported student groups will improve annually in reading and writing performance on TAKS and other measures.
2. **All** students and **all** AEIS reported student groups will improve annually in math performance on TAKS and other measures.
3. **All** students and **all** AEIS reported student groups will improve annually in science and social studies performance on TAKS and other measures.
4. Secondary attendance will increase and the dropout rate will decrease for **all** students and **all** AEIS reported student groups.
5. The percentage of students following the state recommended high school program will meet the established state standard.

*I think what Plano is doing regarding technology is incredible. Technology access is no longer an option – it is a way of life. I think it is wonderful for the kids to be given such experience at such an early stage in life. It can only enhance their future if done in the right way. – parent survey comment*



In addition to a sound background in traditional academics, today's students must be competent and confident in using a wide range of technology in a variety of settings. Today, and in the future, most career paths require the use of computers and related technology. In short, students must be as comfortable using a computer or other technology as they would using a pencil and paper. Most importantly, students must have consistent access to technology in their classroom environment so they can become proficient in using it in many ways. They must be encouraged and guided to use technology as a tool to access information and to efficiently develop dynamic, effective projects.

Teachers play a critical role in developing and nurturing appropriate technology use by students. Therefore, teachers must have access to up-to-date technology and appropriate training and technical support to take advantage of the wide range of possibilities and opportunities connected to the use of technology in the classroom. Technology then becomes a tool to assist teachers in many ways - from presenting lessons in new, dynamic formats, to assessing individual student needs and monitoring and reporting student progress. In addition, teachers must be able to prepare students by teaching the concepts and skills needed to ensure they understand and use technology effectively.

Technology is equally important to administrators and support staff in the school district. In this era of increasing demands with limited financial resources, it is essential that all staff have access to technology and the skills to use it appropriately and effectively. With this commitment, all staff will become more productive and efficient.

***The Plano ISD vision statement for technology:***

To provide comprehensive, equitable, ethical and efficient use of existing and emerging technology to engage, challenge and nurture diverse learners.

***Plano ISD operates under the following technology philosophy:***

We believe that technology is an essential tool that should be available in all classrooms and offices in support of our district mission. It is not an education itself, and it does not and should not take the place of a well-trained professional teacher. It can, however, motivate students and enhance the curriculum, and bring to the fingertips of every student a storehouse of research and information that expands student learning and strengthens teaching.

*PISD does an outstanding job of providing us with technology to use in our classrooms. It is amazing what the students can produce with the technology when given the time and instruction.*  
– teacher survey comment



***The district's vision statement for technology is based on the following beliefs:***

- Plano ISD strives to provide students with a comprehensive education that enriches their lives and prepares them for their future.
- Dramatic changes in the workplace and in the role technology plays in our lives make it essential that students become competent in using a wide range of technology in a variety of settings.
- Students must understand how emerging technologies shape the political, economic and ethical climate in which they live.
- Students must have access to technology in their classroom environment so they can use it proficiently.
- Teachers play a critical role in developing and nurturing appropriate technology use by students. Therefore, they must have access to up-to-date technology and the appropriate training and technical support to take advantage of it.
- Technology is equally important to administrative and support staff in the school district. All staff members should have access to technology and possess the skills to use it appropriately.
- The use of technology links district personnel to each other and to information they need to work efficiently and effectively.
- The use of technology meets a wide range of learner interests, abilities and learning styles and helps them access, analyze and use information to create quality products.
- The use of technology links students, staff and community to each other and to information, thus building communication and partnerships between the school, home, community and the world.
- The use of technology increasingly creates a community that is both larger and more diverse, spanning geographical and cultural barriers.
- Technology must be used appropriately and effectively in order to maintain a safe, respectful and productive environment.

***Definition of Technology***

“The practical application of knowledge”.

Technology encompasses the creation, gathering and distribution of information via voice, data or video communications, including but not limited to:

- interactive telecommunications equipment (networks)
- computers and related materials
- assistive technology or equipment for instructional programs
- digital video and audio recording/playback devices
- video distribution networks
- copying and fax machines and other non-instructional production equipment
- emerging hardware devices, software and electronic information services

