
Indicators of Digital Readiness

Indicator	Digital Learning Tools and Content
Theme	Education and Classroom Practice
Priority Level	P1
Organizational Level	School

Description of the Indicator

Digital learning tools enable teachers to offer students customized and adaptive paths that provide motivation and various methods of achieving curricular goals. Schools must provide access to a range of digital learning tools and content platforms in order to prepare learners to be effective consumers and creators of information, which are among the 21st-century skills that will be necessary for success at the post-secondary level and in careers. In order to meet this goal, schools must strengthen, broaden, and deepen students' education through effective use of digital learning tools throughout the curriculum.

Why is this indicator important?

Familiarity and fluency with digital tools are required life and career skills in the 21st century. According to the [Partnership for 21st Century Skills](#):

- Technology must empower students to accomplish their own 'knowledge work'
- Students must have rich and ample opportunities to use modern technology for important purposes
- Technology can be a means to access content on any topic, a tool for thinking and creating, a connection to peers and experts, and a window into other cultures.
- Online, collaborative projects with peers or experts in other states or countries can expose them to different cultures and perspectives.

Indicator Rubric

Insufficient Evidence of Implementation (0 Points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● School has begun exploring options available for offering digital tools and content, and evaluating programs, but has not yet chosen specific digital tools/content to offer broadly to students and faculty
Foundational Stage of Implementation (3 Points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● School has adopted a small number of digital tools/content supporting each grade level and content area● Teachers have been encouraged to implement them on a volunteer basis● Some professional development has been offered to the faculty to facilitate integration of these tools/content on intermittent occasions
Achieving Success in Implementation (6 Points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● School has adopted a variety of digital tools/content supporting each grade level and curricular area● Regular professional development opportunities exist for faculty to learn about the tools/content and suggested implementation
Exemplary Success in Implementation (9 Points)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Faculty and students are regularly engaged in learning with a wide variety of digital tools and content● Digital learning has become an essential part of the fabric of the school culture, with close to 100% of staff integrating digital tools and content for students' personalized learning experiences● Ongoing professional development sessions are offered to faculty to facilitate effective integration of digital learning

Who in the school/district should lead and be involved with this indicator?

- Administrators
- Teachers
- Students
- Technology Coaches/ Education Technology Specialist
- School Library Media Specialist/ Librarian
- Curriculum Director
- IT/Assistive Professionals/leaders
- Board of Education members

How to execute the indicator

- Take the Future Ready District Leadership Self-Assessment. (<https://dashboard.futurereadyschools.org/start/steptwo>)
- Identify areas of improvement and develop a school/district technology plan outlining school/district goals for the implementation and integration of digital learning tools and content into the classroom. This plan should include:
 - School/district vision
 - Needs assessment
 - Implementation plan
 - Evaluation plan
- Create a school/district technology committee to review and evaluate devices, digital platforms, digital content, software/apps. This committee should include school/district stakeholders, including:
 - Administrators
 - Teachers
 - Students
 - Parents
- Evaluate potential digital platforms, digital content, and software/apps.
 - Create an evaluation rubric.
- Based on committee feedback, acquire digital tools and create teacher and student accounts (as needed).
- Manage web filters and access to apps in a way that does not limit the learning possibilities for teachers and students.
- Provide staff members a comprehensive list of digital tools and content available to them.
- Create an easily accessible district/school digital resource library.
- Provide ongoing professional development to support all school staff. Professional development should be offered in multiple forms:
 - Staff meetings
 - In-service professional development days
 - eLearning
 - Turn-key training
 - Peer mentoring and observations
 - Professional Learning Communities (PLCs)
 - Out-of-district conferences and workshops

Recommended evidence to submit for successful execution of this action

Examples of artifacts that schools can submit to demonstrate progress in the use of digital tools and content are:

- School or district strategic technology plan that addresses use of digital tools and content
- Inventory for digital tools and content in use at the school by grade level and content
- School-based usage statistics for digital tools by grade level and content
- Evidence of professional development opportunities on digital tools/content
- School library website/inventory of digital tools available to staff and students by grade level and content

- Catalog/calendar of professional development on digital tools offered to teachers
- Teacher lesson plans that incorporate digital tools and content
- Portfolios of student work created using digital tools
- Student Works Cited pages reflecting the use of digital content
- Staff and student surveys regarding use of and satisfaction with digital tools and content

Resources schools can use to complete this action successfully

Digital Platform

- GSuite for Education
- Microsoft Office 365

Learning Management System (LMS)

- Canvas
- Schoology
- Edmodo
- PowerSchool Learning
- Blackboard

Financial Resources for:

- Subscription services
- Software/apps
- eBooks and digital content for school library
- Sources: possible yearlong pilot from the company, local funds, grants, education foundations, parent organizations

Professional Development

- In-District Professional Development
- Technology Coaches
- Google for Education Training Center: <https://edutrainingcenter.withgoogle.com/>
- Microsoft Educator Community Courses: <https://education.microsoft.com/courses-and-resources/courses>
- EdSurge - 50+ Can't Miss K-12 Education Technology Events for 2017-2018: <https://www.edsurge.com/news/2017-07-02-50-can-t-miss-k-12-education-technology-events-for-2017-2018>
- The EduCal - <https://sites.google.com/view/theeducal17/home>

ISTE Standards

- ISTE Standards for Administrators: <https://www.iste.org/standards/for-administrators>
- ISTE Standards for Students: <https://www.iste.org/standards/for-students>
- ISTE Standards For Educators: <https://www.iste.org/standards/standards/standards-for-teachers>

Digital Resources

- AASL - Best Websites for Teaching & Learning 2017: <http://www.ala.org/aasl/standards/best/websites/2017>
- AASL - Best Apps for Teaching & Learning 2017: <http://www.ala.org/aasl/standards/best/apps/2017>
- Center for Digital Education: <http://www.centerdigitaled.com/>
- ISTE Toolbox: <https://www.iste.org/explore/categorylist?id=2&category=Toolbox>
- ISTE - 30+ Tools for Diverse Learners:
<https://www.iste.org/explore/articleDetail?articleid=434&category=Toolbox&article=30%2b+tools+for+diverse+learners>
- Microsoft Educator Community: <https://education.microsoft.com/>
- Tech & Learning: <https://www.techlearning.com/>

Certified Schools Exemplars: See links for school evidence

1. [Navesink, Middletown School District, 2018 Silver Certified](#)

Navesink teachers use a variety of digital tools and platforms to deliver standards aligned learning experiences for their students. While the regular tools in the Google For Education suite are used daily, they also use additional ones like Blogger, and Google Tour Builder to support the social studies, as well as, science and ELA curriculums. They effectively combined tools that provided students the opportunity to collaboratively create across the curriculum. Teachers regularly use the district's digital subscriptions such as Discovery Education and Brainpop, as well as, free platforms like PBS Learning Media, to provide a range of content for students to use as they solve real world problems. It is a commitment to using digital tools to support learning that allowed Navesink to achieve exemplary level.

2. [Harmony Elementary, Middletown School District, 2018 Silver Certified](#)

Harmony Elementary School, within the Middletown School District is 1:1 with Chromebooks in grades 3-5 while the younger students have access to iPads within their classroom. The students at Harmony Elementary School also have access to a full computer lab. Both the district and school provide training to staff throughout each year on various digital learning tools, content, and best practices for integration. Our students have access to programs that provide personalized learning experiences that allow students to move at their own pace and level of learning. These digital tools provide valuable data for our teachers which helps to drive instruction and support learning groups within each classroom.

3. [Washington Township High School, Washington Township Public Schools, 2018 Silver Certified](#)

We have identified key digital tools that allow teachers to use technology to promote creation, creativity, collaboration, and critical thinking. We build professional development around these tools and incorporate the SAMR model to help teachers measure effectiveness

4. [Luther Lee Emerson, Demarest, 2018 Bronze Certified](#)

Luther Lee Emerson is a community of lifelong learners. Professional learning is a high priority at this school, and in the district at large. As members of the Northern Valley Consortium, all staff select two full-day workshops of their choice from a catalog of over 100 available opportunities. Numerous and varied offerings are available in the areas of technology, instruction, social and emotional health, and curriculum connections. Additionally, all teachers new to the district are enrolled in the Professional Learning Academy through the Northern Valley Curriculum Center. This is a three-year program where teachers complete several workshops as a part of a course of study, receive instructional coaching, and create and present and action research project. For more information on this program, see the link below. This year, the district staff participated in a gamified professional learning activity through Kyte Learning. Kyte offers thousands of online professional development courses that teachers can choose to learn about and then implement in their classroom.

5. [Frank J. Smith School, East Hanover School District, 2018 Bronze Certified](#)

The Frank J. Smith School employs the use of Google Apps for Education to engage students in content while also making

positive use of technology. Elementary school teachers utilize chromebooks on a regular basis with developmentally appropriate tools that best meet their individual needs. Additionally, Frank J. Smith School has extensive (and growing) access to ipads to support the integration of technology in classrooms of our youngest learners. All teachers utilize Google Classroom as a learning management system to support a hybrid learning environment. Technology tools are integrated across the curriculum and extended in our STEM course through which students gain experience coding and exploring STEM challenges while using 21st century skills.

6. [Hackensack Middle School, Hackensack Public Schools, 2018 Bronze Certified](#)

Faculty and students are regularly engaged in learning with a wide variety of digital tools and content. Digital learning has become an essential part of the fabric of the school culture, with close to 100% of staff integrating digital tools and content for students' personalized learning experiences. All faculty use Google Classroom to learn from the administrative team as well as communicate successes and best practices with each other. Students are expected to uphold digital citizenship values and create Works Cited documents for projects that includes digital content from the web and library resources. Faculty and students both have the benefit of a suite of resources that have been curated online. These resources are maintained by the district IT team and the library. The scope of tools available includes research database subscriptions, creative media, intervention services, and adaptive learning tools. Professional learning opportunities are led by numerous staff. Specifically, these professional development opportunities focused on Blended Learning, Edulastic, and Netop Vision. Our district even hosted our own EdCamp After Hours in October with much success. Staff have access to the district-created PD Planner calendar for professional learning opportunities on digital tools and content.

7. [Hazlet Middle School, Hazlet Township Public Schools, 2018 Bronze Certified](#)

All Hazlet Middle School students have individual access to Chromebooks, with our 1:1 program, guided by our district Technology Plan. Teachers use Google Classroom for all assignments and LinkIt to warehouse and analyze student data. Students are given choice as to how to document their learning, using tools such as video production and digital platforms such as IXL. Teachers have been trained to deliver personalized instruction using digital tools, as evidenced by our district-wide PD offerings.

8. [Middle Road School, Hazlet Township Public Schools, 2018 Bronze Certified](#)

We achieved exemplar in this category by providing evidence to showcase a wide range of learning tools that utilized technology and various different learning platforms. Evidence included photos and documents that showed digital tools that faculty and students can use to promote 21st century learning skills. Personalized learning experiences were showcased by included evidence such as: district wide lists of in service professional development days. Digital learning platforms included: screenshots of student work via google classroom, class dojo, google slides etc. that were made using a chromebook and/ or other forms of technology.

9. [Point Pleasant Beach High School, Point Pleasant Beach School District, 2018 Bronze Certified](#)

Our mission started through the creation of Middle States goals, followed by a partnership with the Ocean County Library system. We then developed sample lessons in each subject area highlighting the incorporation of digital learning tools. We then developed staff-led PLC groups. Staff have met in groups monthly during the school year to focus on a topic of their choice. Two groups have focused on the use of digital learning tools and assessment. At our March PLC meeting, groups completed a Google Form regarding the implementation of digital tools and assessment in their classes. We have also worked to purchase and incorporate many digital learning tools schoolwide including Virtual Reality stations, podcasting, and online educational resources such as KUTA Math and Study Island.

10. [G. Harold Antrim Elementary School, Point Pleasant Beach School District, 2018 Bronze Certified](#)

The G. Harold Antrim Elementary School is a Google school. Google Classroom is used in Grades 3-8, and GAFE is used school-wide. Antrim has over 10 contracts with various online learning platforms which assist teachers in providing digital ready opportunities for their students. Teachers use digital portfolios, FlipGrid, and other programs to track student progress and assess students. The Point Pleasant Beach School District is Middle States Accredited and part of the accreditation process was to create student performance objectives. One of these objectives specifically speaks to the

district's commitment to creating an environment where digital tools and content provide college and career opportunities for our students.

11. [Indian Mills Memorial School, Shamong School District, 2018 Bronze Certified](#)

Indian Mills Memorial School has adopted a variety of digital learning tools for staff and students as indicated in the Technology Plan. An action plan is also illustrated in the technology plan for future growth with digital learning tools and content. Furthermore, as a 1-to-1 Chromebook shop, it is essential for continued exploration of digital tools and content to enhance academics.

It's essential to provide easy access to digital tools for staff and students. Indian Mills Memorial provides web links in three locations for quick access. Student Links and Staff Resources are pages on the website that directs intended stakeholders to appropriate digital tools. Another area of digital tools provided to students is on the IMMS Library Student Tech Tools page. This student page displays approved digital tools with edshelf. Lastly, parents are also provide with digital tools on the Parent Resource drop down on the Indian Mills Memorial School webpage

Implementation of digital tools always coincides with training for optimal success in the classroom. Listed below are a few professional development trainings on digital tools that teachers have taken advantage of at Indian Mills Memorial School.

12. [Chestnut Ridge Middle School, Washington Township School District, 2018 Bronze Certified](#)

Chestnut Ridge Middle School recently went 1:1 with devices, and with this adoption they have embraced digital learning tools. The district provides the staff with a wide variety of platforms and resources to help with this implementation. All students and staff use Office 365 for communication, collaboration, and creation. Students and staff also have access to the Blackboard Learning Management System for submitting work and participating in blending learning environments. This is an addition to the wide variety of digital textbook platforms and instructional technology platforms that are used every day by the teachers to put information, activities, and resources at student fingertips. The use of these programs is supported in a wide variety of ways through administrative committees, instructional technology specialists, and a wide variety of in-service opportunities. Our evidence highlights some of the of these supports and examples of in-service opportunities.

13. [Robert Menendez Elementary/PS #3, West New York, 2018 Bronze Certified](#)

Digital content and learning tools allow teachers to give students alternative ways to access information and to show what they've learned. The use of digital tools also allows students to share with a physical audience in the classroom, as well as an online audience via various digital platforms. Digital tools provide motivation for students, and enables teachers to use additional methods for achieving curricular goals. It is important for Robert Menendez Elementary School to provide access to both teachers and students to a range of digital learning tools and content in order to prepare learners to be effective consumers and creators of information in this digital age. These are the 21st-century skills that will be necessary for success in their continuing education and in their chosen careers. In order to meet this goal, schools must reinforce, expand, and heighten students' education through effective use of digital learning tools, and content throughout the curriculum.