2017-2018
DIGITAL LEARNING PLAN
ANNUAL REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

WYOMING
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

DIGITAL LEARNING PLAN AND EMBRACING TECHNOLOGY

Wyoming Statute §21-2-202 dictates that the statewide technology plan shall "have as its goal the provision of equal access to educational instruction and information." The Wyoming Digital Learning Plan (DLP) is the state's technology plan and focuses on recommendations for equitable access for digital learning and on the skills needed to prepare K-12 students for the next steps of college, career, or military readiness in the digital age.

The DLP affords Wyoming the opportunity to engage with technology as a resource, and use that resource to our advantage. By state statute, the Wyoming Department of Education (WDE) and representatives from the Digital Learning Advisory Panel (DLAP) created the DLP. These stakeholders wanted to not only to meet state statute, but dig deeper into what Wyoming needs to be able to engage students in high-quality learning experiences. This opened up opportunities that include using technology to engage students to promote a deeper understanding of concepts and skills. Technology also provides equitable opportunities for all Wyoming students. Technology continues to evolve, and Wyoming will only benefit by embracing all emerging technologies. Wyoming can be a leader in technological innovation, if technology continues to be utilized and adapted in classrooms.

The plan provides the roadmap and recommendations for digital learning. Each year since the creation of the DLP, the WDE has worked to turn these recommendations into reality. The WDE engaged stakeholders about technical learning opportunities to meet the needs of all Wyoming students, and the 2017-18 annual report introduces the initiatives the WDE and its stakeholders created to provide Wyoming with the technology-powered schools needed to meet the workforce needs of the future.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2017-18 SCHOOL YEAR

The 2017-18 DLP Annual Report details all of the projects and initiatives the WDE has been pursuing over the last few years. Projects include: free online education resources, improved classroom connectivity, increased online courses, computer science education, increased collaboration between all agencies and districts statewide, and increased professional development offerings. New this year is the inclusion of computer science education as a critical component. This is a priority of State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jillian Balow to help better prepare students for the needs of the workforce in the coming years.

FREE ONLINE EDUCATION RESOURCES

Open Educational Resources (OERs) provide free use of online instructional content. The Open Range Wyoming initiative provides educators with accessible, high-quality, vetted OER content created by Wyoming teachers. This content is available to anyone, anywhere, at any time. Benefits to using OERs include increased cost savings from not having to purchase instructional materials, increased student engagement by using dynamic content, and time-savings for educators by having resources created and aligned to Wyoming standards.

IMPROVED CLASSROOM INTERNET CONNECTIVITY

The Wyoming Classroom Connectivity Initiative (WCCI) is a collaborative program to improve WiFi capacity in classrooms across the state. In addition, this initiative supports districts and institutions in utilizing the federal E-Rate Category 2 funding opportunities. By utilizing the E-Rate funds, districts keep more of their other funds to spend towards other education priorities. In 2017, there was a 21 percent increase in Wyoming E-Rate filing requests.

INCREASED ONLINE COURSES

A strategic priority for the WDE is to increase part-time online courses offered within and across districts. Throughout this year, the WDE has revamped the program to meet the statutory changes made in 2017. This plan encompasses both the Virtual 307 online course offerings and approval of online programs. The online course offerings have been added to the improved virtual education website **Virtual307.com**. In addition, the K-20 statewide learning management system (LMS), Canvas, provides a platform for districts to house the content of their virtual education courses. By increasing access to online classes, Wyoming will be able to provide equitable educational opportunities to all students regardless of location.

COMPUTER SCIENCE EDUCATION

Computer science and computational thinking were recognized as a new priority this year, as a critical knowledge and skills area all students should have in order to be prepared for the workforce. All schools will be required to offer computer science and integrate computational thinking by the 2022-23 school year. Boot Up Wyoming 2022 was created to support schools as they prepare educators to be successful in teaching computer science.

STATEWIDE COLLABORATION

Many of the projects outlined in the DLP are only possible due to multiple agencies and school districts working together. One example is the statewide LMS. By utilizing the economies of scale to offer a statewide solution to the LMS, the WDE and postsecondary institutions were able to negotiate much lower pricing than would have been available if districts or community colleges had to purchase separately.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Professional development is critical for growing the capacity of educators across the state and to increase the quality of instruction students receive. The WDE has worked tirelessly this year to provide additional relevant professional development offerings to all school districts, including on the Future Ready Framework. This framework provides a robust structure for digital learning visioning, planning, and implementation focused on personalized student learning. This work started with training for district administrators and will continue with training for librarians, school leaders, and technology integration leads.

Digital Learning Plan
PROJECTS

WYOMING CLASSROOM
CONNECTIVITY INITIATIVE

Wyoming Classroom Connectivity Initiative

WCCI focuses on improving WiFi access in schools across the state by providing technical assistance and professional development to school districts.

VIRTUAL
307

Virtual 307

Virtual 307 is the state's K-12 virtual education program, including a website for pre-registration for virtual education courses offered throughout Wyoming.

Wyo Courses 2.0

WyoCourses 2.0

WyoCourses 2.0 is a consortium of linked Canvas learning management system instances to allow students and educators to login once and access all of their classes.

OPEN RANGE
wyoming

Open Range Wyoming

Open Range Wyoming is a platform providing high quality, vetted, openly licensed education resources aligned to Wyoming content standards.

BOOT UP
WYOMING

Boot Up Wyoming

Boot Up Wyoming is an initiative to implement computer science in all Wyoming schools by the 2022-23 school year.

FUTURE 🌐 **READY**™
SCHOOLS
PREPARING STUDENTS FOR SUCCESS

Future Ready Wyoming

Future Ready Wyoming is a robust structure for districts to vizualize, plan, and implement personalized student learning. through the use of digital learning.

wy-fi
WY DISTRICT DASHBOARDS

Wy-Fi

Wy-Fi is a dashboard used by educators to better understand student outcomes using data, including early warning indicators for meeting educational milestones.