

Key Findings

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Negative Impacts on Students

- Students who lack familiarity with computers are unprepared for college and the workforce. They are also at a disadvantage when taking computer-based tests like the PARCC.
- Curriculum/intervention programs don't work like they should
 - Students are unable to get online for programs like iReady for the recommended amount of time per week due to lack of/unreliable computers
 - For blended learning, teachers spend time dealing with malfunctioning computers instead of being focused on small group instruction
 - Smartboard features go unused (see Back-Up Slides)

"In the past, we have had issues with computers slowing down, malfunctioning and working improperly; in return this causes students to get frustrated and sometimes even shut down in the middle of a test. When this happens our students are misrepresented and we cannot get a clear picture of their actual academic needs."

– Ward 7 ES teacher

Next Steps

We have an opportunity not just to “catch up” schools to a minimum baseline, but to implement a comprehensive technology strategy and plan that helps all students

Recommendations:

1. “Catch Up” Schools
 - **Devices:** What can be done this school year to ensure all schools have reliable computers at a student-device ratio that supports curriculum and testing needs? [We think the ultimate goal should be 1:1 student-device ratio.]
 - **Address Data Gaps:** What is the process and frequency for updating the DCPS school tech inventory to accurately reflect condition and usability?
 - **Simplify Device Procurement:** How can we move toward more centralized purchasing or leasing to remove that burden from individual schools and to get better pricing for DCPS?
 - **IT Support:** Should we reassess the current construct of using OCTO for tech support?

Next Steps

2. Develop a comprehensive technology strategy and plan that addresses the following:

- How does technology fit into the overall vision & goals for DCPS?
- What should be the model for technology procurement & refresh and how can we leverage partnerships with industry?
- How should these efforts be funded? We need a sustainable funding model to remove the burden from schools and provide stability.
- How do we support teachers to ensure they have the training to use technology to achieve stated goals?

Is there an existing DCPS tech plan that can serve as a starting point?

“DCPS should create and make public a multi-year technology plan to define and provide adequate technology to each school. The plan should include expected costs and planned funding sources.”

– 2017 DC Auditor report

Next Steps

This is doable. Other school districts have implemented comprehensive tech plans.

	DC	Arlington County (Virginia)	Dekalb County (Georgia)	Orange County (Florida)
Number of Students	~49,000	~28,000	~102,000	~203,000
Percent Free or Reduced Price Lunch	71%	31%	72%	70%
Technology Plan with Vision and Goals	?	X	X	X
Gap Analysis of Current Situation	?	X	X	X
Stakeholder Engagement/Feedback	?	X	X	X
Professional Development For Teachers	?	X	X	X
Student-Device Ratio (Desired or Actual)	?	1-to-1	1-to-1	1-to-1
Dedicated Funding Stream	?	X	X	X