Joplin Schools

Education Technology Plan
2014-2017

Table of Contents

Introduction

Joplin Schools serves an area of 69.69 square miles in parts of Jasper and Newton Counties. The students are served by 11 elementary schools, three middle schools, a high school, Franklin Technology Career Center, an early childhood center.

Located in the southwest corner of Missouri, Joplin was established in 1871 by John C. Cox and named after his close friend Reverend Harris G. Joplin. Joplin soon became a central hub for the Tri-State Mining District excavating lead and zinc for more than seven decades.

According to the Census information, Joplin has a total population of 49,526. This population consists of 20,712 households of which 19.5% of the families fall below poverty levels as outlined by the United States government.
Census results indicate a 1.2% decrease in Joplin's population since 2010.

The District has an assessed valuation of $811,264.332. The property tax rate for 2012 was $3.66 per $100 of assessed valuation. Joplin Schools has approved status based on the Missouri School Improvement Plan through the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

According to current core data reported to the state, Joplin Schools serves 7,763 students that include 1,500 minority students, 128 of which qualify for services as English Language Learners. 62.58% of the student body are eligible for free and reduced meals.

Technology Planning Process

Preparation for the 2014-2017 Joplin Schools Technology Plan began in spring of 2013, when key technology department members began identifying future needs and considerations for future technology. The department developed a committee in November of 2013 consisting of teachers, staff members, students, parents, administrators, community members, school board members, and higher education partners.

Members of the Committee

Name	Role	TFA 1	TFA 2	TFA 3	TFA 4	TFA 5
Anne Sharp	Board Member	x				
Bobbie Augspurger	Joplin Schools Technology Integration Coordinator		x			
Al Cade	Community Member Missouri Southern State University		x			
Danielle Yen	Joplin Schools HS teacher	x				
Eric Pitcher	Joplin Schools Network Administrator				x	x
Jason Weaver	Joplin Schools Assistant Principal	x	x			
Jane Cage	Community Member					x
Klista Rader	Joplin Schools Director of Technology	x	x	x	x	x
Mark Tyrrell	Joplin Schools HVAC Instructor	x				

Mary Johnson	Joplin Schools Teaching and Learning Coach	x	x			
Megan Wallace	Joplin Schools Teacher	x				
Rick Freeborn	Joplin Schools Technology Specialist				x	x
Sandra Cantwell	Joplin Schools Assistant Principal	x	x			
Sarah Mwangi	Joplin Schools Principal	x	x			
Al Stadler	Community Member Missouri Southern State University				x	x
Steve Reed	Joplin Schools Assistant Principal	x	x			
Susan Mathes	Joplin Schools Career Path Facilitator			x	x	
Susanne Elliott	Joplin Schools Teacher	x				
Mike McCallister	Joplin Schools Technology Specialist				x	x

Nathan Powell	Joplin Schools Data Processing			x		
Brooke Biastoch	Joplin Schools Student	x				

Leigh Biastoch	Community Parent	x				
Rick Kenkel	Joplin Schools Director of Food Services	x		x	x	
Chloe Kenkel	Joplin Schools Student	x				

Planning Process

The committee examined the following items when considering the future of Joplin Schools technology:

Data Analyzed	Source	Reviewed by
Joplin Schools Standards of Excellence	Planning Document	TFA 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Joplin Schools Technology Plan 2011-2013	Planning Document	TFA 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
NETS-S Standards	Standards	TFA 1, 2
Technology Census	Planning Document	TFA 4, 5
Board Goals and Policies	Policy Handbook	TFA 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
MAP scores	Standardized Assessment	TFA 1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Professional Development Offerings	Survey	TFA 1, 2
Student Technology Survey	Survey	TFA 1
Student:Computer Ratio by Building	Survey	TFA 1, 4
Administrative Tools ● Web filtering ● Internet and bandwidth monitoring ● Tech Ticketing System ● System Progression Tool ● Work Order System	Data Management Tools	TFA 3, 4, 5

Communication Tools • Phone Systems • Email Systems	Data Management Tools	TFA 3, 4, 5

Technology Mission Statement

Joplin Schools will enable and empower learners in a technology-based, digital learning platform by providing authentic and intentional opportunities to communicate, collaborate, think critically, and be creative.

Technology Focus Areas

1: Student Learning

The most critical area of the Department of Technology Services at Joplin Schools is that of student learning. This TFA is at the forefront of our mission and the department works closely with the Department of Instructional Services to promote instructional technology that is tied directly to the district mission, which drives student achievement.

Achievement Data: Through the analysis of achievement data, the use of technology integrated into a project-based curriculum, has been determined to be an integral component to student learning. Elementary MAP data has demonstrated instructional gains in eTEC classrooms, and high school attendance and behavior data demonstrates a 26% decrease in behavior referrals since moving towards a 1:1 laptop initiative.

Student Technology Standards:
In 2007, after seeing the instructional gains students made when using technology to support relevant learning opportunities, Joplin Schools made a goal to provide every student with an eTEC learning experience. All fifth and sixth grade classes are eTEC, providing a rigorous, technology infused curriculum for all students.

In 2011, Joplin Schools met their long-awaited goal of providing high school students with a 1:1 experience. This program has been especially unique for our students due to the fact that the resources provided to students are open source. In 2013, the 1:1 program was extended to 8th graders as well.

It has been critical for teachers to be trained in the NETS-S and NETS-T standards in our 1:1 programs due to the fact that technology changes so rapidly. Training in NETS-S is provided for all teachers through the district's Technology Leadership Academy, but a greater focus is provided to those in the eTEC program and teaching in a 1:1 environment.

The four C's of critical thinking, collaboration, creativity, and communication are at the forefront of all professional development provided to teachers in the Joplin Schools eTEC, TLA, and 1:1 programs.

2: Teacher Preparation

Professional Development:

Joplin Schools recognizes that the professional development provided to both certified and classified staff is crucial in the teaching and learning practices that take place in the classroom. Additionally, as demonstrated by research, professional development practices are most effective when embedded support through a coaching model is present. Joplin Schools is very proud that training in technology integration is provided at every level for all teachers, regardless of grade or discipline. The professional development and support of eTEC, TLA, and our 1:1 programs is provided and maintained by six instructional coaches and one technology integration specialist.

3: Administration, Management, and Communications

Communication:

Areas of communication for faculty, staff, students, and the community are offered in a variety of ways in the Joplin School District. Online communication tools include Google Apps and Skype. Google Apps allows students grades 3-12 and all staff and faculty members to communicate with email systems that include self-created groups. Additionally, the use of Google Docs, Presentations, Spreadsheets, and Forms allows users to collaboratively create content for classroom and district use.

A district owned television station, JET 14 (Joplin Eagles Television), airs student created programming 24 hours per day, 7 days per week over the city's cable station. Joplin Schools students and staff operate this station and program for online access at JET-14 On Demand and also on their YouTube Channel. This communication tool provides access that to all types of information including live Board of Education meetings, building updates, sports shows, culinary arts shows, briefings from district level administration and much more. With a commitment to continued expansion of this valuable resource, new course offerings for students have been provided for the 2014-15 school year.

The school district also provides communication to parents through the school messenger system, which provides users with the choice of emails, text messages, or phone calls to inform of district events, school closings, and school information.

4: Resource Distribution and Use

With a 2:1 student to computer ratio district wide, Joplin Schools is mostly a Macintosh Apple district, deploying Macintosh laptops to students 9-12th grades, Apple iPads to 8th graders, and providing a 1:X solution for students in grades 3-7. The 1:X solution covers a variety of classroom technology and varies in each classroom. In some classrooms, two students collaboratively work on one Macintosh desktop computer. In others, students choose from iPads, Macintosh laptops, and Macintosh desktops depending on the learning objectives that are set out by the teacher.

In 1:1 classrooms, a four-year rotation is enforced. In labs, 1:X classrooms, and offices, rotation is determined by use, but does not exceed six years. Devices are chosen based on the curricular offerings of the device, the anticipated longevity, durability, and ease of use.

5: Technical Support

Human Resources:

The following technical support staff is available in the district:
Help Desk Attendant – 1 person serving district
Technology Specialists – 7 people rotating between 16 school buildings and 1 administrative building
Computer Technician – 1 person to repair items that cannot be repaired on site and serve the 4 ancillary district service buildings
Technology Specialist Interns - 3 part time staff members that work directly with the high school 1:1 program to troubleshoot and repair devices for students
Network and System Services – 2 people to manage the network and systems (servers) for the district
Data Processing – 1 programmer/system administrator and 1 Core Data specialist
Director – 1 director for the Dept. of Technology Services who works both on the operational and educational issues in regard to technology district-wide

Online Support: All staff has access to online ticketing to submit technical issues. If they cannot submit online due to technical difficulties, they are asked to call the Help Desk for support.

CIT and eLeaders: Each building has a teacher designated as a CIT (Curriculum Instructional Technologist). The CIT is the first point of contact for teachers to provide assistance both to troubleshoot and to integrate technology. The CIT leads a group of student eLeaders that train and provide technology support to other teachers in the building.

Standards of Excellence (CSIP)

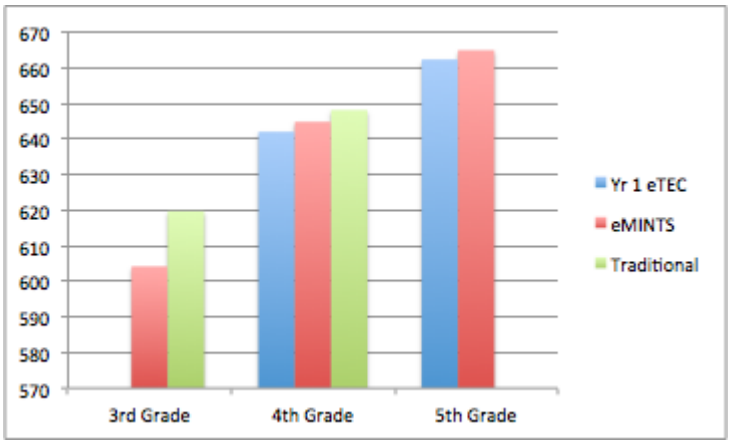
Standard 1: All areas of student achievement will be on target or exceed expectations in core academic areas.
Standard 2: Joplin Schools will graduate civic-minded, high-quality citizens who are college and career ready.
Standard 3: Joplin Schools will become the employer of choice through the recruitment and retention of high quality staff.
Standard 4: Joplin Schools will become the school district of choice in Southwest Missouri by demonstrating annual improvement in overall patron, parent, and student satisfaction.
Standard 5: Joplin Schools will demonstrate financial stability and targeted allocation of taxpayer resources to support the Board approved Standards of Excellence.

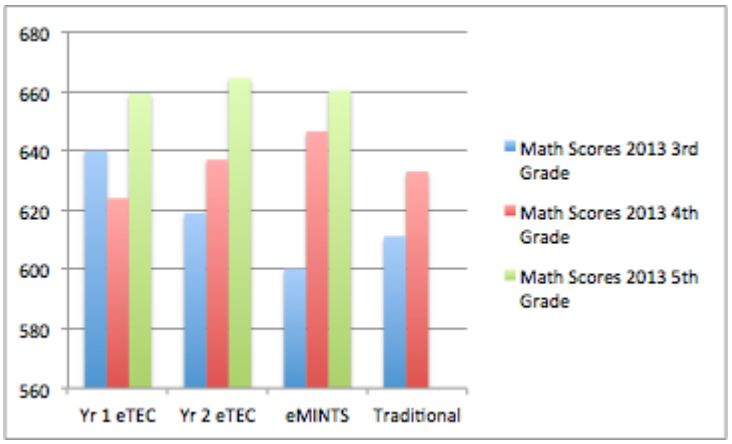
Current Status

In school year 2011-2012, Joplin Schools made the bold move to change how technology integration professional development was offered. After seeing MAP scores of teachers stagnate over a period of four years, the technology integration coordinator and assistant superintendent determined to provide professional development in a manner that met immediate needs of classroom teachers, provided voice and choice in how the session was delivered, and also choose the topics of professional development.

Prior to the release of MAP scores, this great experiment was deemed a success through observational data, when teachers began implementing technology tools in transforming manners at a quicker rate than in previous years. The comparisons of MAP data from Spring 2012 forward correlate with this observational data, showing that eTEC teachers are making gains in performance.

3-5th grade Math MAP Data





3-5th Grade Communication Arts Data