In alliance with state school technology goals, the board is committed to establishing and supporting 21st century information and communications technology systems to foster globally competitive, healthy, and responsible students. The board recognizes the benefits of digital and technology-enabled teaching and learning resources that provide the ability to easily customize curriculum, provide access to current information, and enable access to quality materials at a lower cost than traditional materials. To that end, the board intends to move to classroom digital and technology-enabled teaching and learning resources that are aligned with the current statewide instructional standards as they become available. In addition, to the extent funding permits, the board will endeavor to ensure that all students have access to personal digital and technology-enabled teaching and learning devices to foster the 21st century skills necessary for future-ready learners.

The board expects that information and communications technologies will be integrated across the curriculum and used to support student achievement. Such technologies will also be used to support programs and activities that promote safe schools and healthy and responsible students. The curriculum committee should provide suggestions in the curriculum guides referenced in policy 3115, Curriculum and Instructional Guides, for integrating technological resources (as defined in Section A below) into the educational program. School administrators and teachers are encouraged to develop additional strategies for integrating technological resources across the curriculum and utilizing the power of technology to improve learning outcomes while making more efficient use of resources. The strategies should be included in the school improvement plan if they require the transfer of funds or otherwise relate to any mandatory or optional components of the school improvement plan.

The superintendent shall integrate digital planning to support teaching and learning needs into school system strategic planning efforts and include various stakeholders such as curriculum leaders, teachers, administrators, and representatives from technology services, instructional technology, finance, and other departments as required.

The superintendent shall establish relationships with businesses and seek grants and other funding sources in an effort to acquire technological resources for the educational program.

A.   SELECTION OF TECHNOLOGICAL RESOURCES

        Technological resources include, but are not limited to, the following: (1) hardware, including both fixed and mobile technologies and devices such as desktop computers, laptops, netbooks, tablets, e-readers, PDAs, smartphones, and gaming devices; (2) software; (3) network and telecommunications systems and services; (4) Internet access; (5) multimedia equipped classrooms; (6) computer classrooms and laboratories; and (7) other existing or emerging mobile communications systems. All technological resources must be purchased and used in a manner consistent with applicable law and board policy, including laws and policies related to copyright, public records, bidding, and other

purchase requirements, accessibility for students with disabilities, staff duties, and standards for student behavior.

Technological resources must meet or exceed the following standards before they may be considered for implementation.

1.   Technological resources must support the current statewide instructional standards or the programs of the school system.

2.   Technological resources must support the current use of learning and instructional management technologies in the school.

3.   Technological resources must be compatible with the condition of the network and other infrastructure resources. The technology director shall set minimum standards for technological resources that are purchased or donated. Upgrading, hardware conditions, and similar requirements must be maintained to the highest standards.

4.   There must be sufficient staff to operate and maintain the technological equipment, programs, and systems.

5.   There must be adequate funds budgeted to implement and support the technological resources and to train instructional staff to use the resources to improve educational outcomes.

B.   **DEPLOYMENT OF TECHNOLOGY TO SCHOOLS**

The superintendent shall oversee the development of the school system's technology deployment plan. The plan will be designed to ensure organized, effective, and efficient means of deploying new information and communications technologies. The superintendent shall develop procedures that outline the strategy of the technology deployment plan.

C.   **BRING YOUR OWN TECHNOLOGY (BYOT) INITIATIVE**

Teachers and staff may bring personal computing devices for instructional use in the classroom. Staff members are personally and solely responsible for the security of their personal devices. The school system is not responsible for the theft, loss, damage, maintenance of a personal computing device or any costs relating to the use of personal devices. Staff may connect personal devices, which meet the technological minimum requirements, to the network using their school issued user account, after a written agreement for the use of personal technology devices is approved by the superintendent or designee. Asheboro City Schools reserves the right to suspend use of the network by personal devices during periods of high use, including online testing windows. Access will be subject to content filtering as deployed by Asheboro City Schools.

To connect to the Asheboro City Schools Network, personal devices must meet the following minimum requirements: a 5.0 GHZ wireless card and malware free. Software purchased with district or school funds may not be installed on personal computing devices. Teachers and staff shall comply with the requirements of policy 3225/4312/7320, Technology Responsible Use, when using a personal computing device.

The superintendent is authorized to investigate and develop a plan to allow staff and students the option to use their personal electronic devices in place of or along with their school system assigned devices. The plan should address, at a minimum, the instructional use of personal devices, compatibility requirements, access limitations or requirements, content filtering, security and other issues as recommended by the technology director. The plan should assign personal responsibility to the user for repair and replacement of damaged or stolen devices and for any data or other charges arising from use of a personal device. The plan should require a written agreement for the use of personal technology devices from each student who wishes to participate in the BYOT initiative. The plan should ensure that students who are unable to bring in outside technology will be able to access and utilize school equipment so that no student is excluded from instruction due to lack of access to technology.

D.   **ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION AND OTHER COLLABORATIVE TOOLS**

The superintendent is authorized to permit instructional personnel to incorporate email, social networking sites, blogs, wikis, video sharing sites, podcasts, video conferencing, online collaborations, PDAs, IMing, texting, virtual learning environments, and/or other forms of direct electronic communications or Web 2.0 applications for educational purposes to the extent the superintendent deems appropriate and in accordance with policy 7335, Employee Use of Social Media. The superintendent shall establish parameters and rules for use of these tools and shall require instruction for students in how to use such tools in a safe, effective, and appropriate way. Instructional personnel shall make all reasonable attempts to monitor student online activity and shall otherwise comply with the requirements of policy 3225/4312/7320, Technology Responsible Use, when using these tools.

E.   **TECHNOLOGY-RELATED PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

The superintendent shall plan a program of technology-enabled professional development that prepares the instructional staff for utilizing digital tools and resources. Professional development shall emphasize technology integration and continuous improvement, including the use of ongoing technology-integrated online-learning activities throughout the course of study. Professional development shall also address the ethical, legal, and practical issues related to social networking and mobile devices in the classroom and other topics deemed necessary by the superintendent or technology director. School improvement teams should identify any staff development appropriations for technology-related professional development in their school improvement plans. The superintendent and technology director should assist schools in coordinating staff development needs as provided in policy 1610/7800, Professional and Staff Development.

Legal References: G.S. 115C-522; 147-33.111; State Board of Education Policy TCS-C-018

Cross References: Professional and Staff Development (policy 1610/7800), Curriculum and Instructional Guides (policy 3115), Technology Responsible Use (policy 3225/4312/7320), Internet Safety (policy 3226/4205), Copyright Compliance (policy 3230/7330), School Improvement Plan (policy 3430), Integrity and Civility (policy 4310), Public Records – Retention, Release, and Disposition (policy 5070/7350), Network Security (policy 6524), Staff Responsibilities (policy 7300), Employee Use of Social Media (policy 7335), Gifts and Bequests (policy 8220)

Other References: North Carolina State School Technology Plan (Division of Instructional Technology) (current version)

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