

## ITEC 7410: SIP Plan/Technology Plan Analysis

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Type your answers below (ie. minimum of 2-5 sentences per question as appropriate).

### ***School Improvement Plan Analysis:***

- *What is your school's mission/vision?*

The **Mission of McConnell Middle School** is to provide a **positive, stimulating, safe** environment which focuses on **learning**, the **application of knowledge**, and the acquisition of **lifelong skills**.

- *What are the targeted areas for improvement (ex. fourth-grade math, improved LA scores for ESOL population, etc.) and the specific goals related to this improvement area that are set forth in the SIP (ex. % gain in CRCT scores)?*

For the coming year McConnell Middle School will increase academic performance for all students in **Science** on county and school- based common assessments to a level which exceeds that of the GCPS average by 4 percentage points first semester and second semester. McConnell Middle School will also increase academic performance for all students in **Mathematics** on county assessments to a level which exceeds that of the GCPS average by 4 percentage points first semester and 6 percentage points second semester. McConnell Middle School will increase academic performance for all students in **LA** on county assessments to a level which exceeds that of the GCPS average by 2 percentage points first semester and 3 percentage points second semester. McConnell Middle School's **Social Studies** students will achieve an average score of 4 percentage points higher than the county average first and second semester.

- *How does your SIP address the needs of diverse populations regarding digital technology equity for **low SES and gender groups (ie. females)** and assistive technology for disabled learners? If it does not, what are your recommendations?*

All technology-related items are embedded in our technology vision publication which I have not yet completed for the coming year so I will have to refer to my vision statement from last year. At that time we called for greater than 50 percent of every academic course's content to be available 24-7 online. We also called for a well-maintained public web presence with an embedded, up-to-date homework calendar for every teacher. This would be in addition to their eClass (D2L) course content. Extensive surveys told us two years ago that an average of 4 students per classroom are unable to provide a device suitable for use on our BYOD network. Therefore, we pledged to increase classroom devices to insure a minimum of 5 Chromebooks and 4 Nexus 7 tablets were available per classroom. 39% of McConnell's student population is on a free or reduced lunch program. In spite of this, our research tells us fewer than 25 (out of ~1,700) of our student's households lack internet access. We will continue to use DVDs to deliver content to these students as needed.

My plan for the coming year will include a section devoted to assistive technology as research I conducted last year told me that our county's AT department was doing not doing as good a job as the could.

- *How is technology included in the SIP? In what ways is student technology literacy included as a goal in your SIP? If it is not, what are your recommendations?*

Technology is not formally included in the LSIC or SIP plans although I am a member of the improvement team. The reason for this is that we have begun to see technology as a tool rather than a core area and I and the rest of the admin team prefer to keep the focus on academics.

- *Why is technology is addressed (or not addressed!) as it is?*

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Again, I am no longer a fan of expending the local school improvement committee's valuable time on focusing on a specific tool. There was a time when it was necessary to address technology in these areas as a strategy to build technology use and even awareness. However, in my humble opinion, technology is now completely intertwined with everyone and everything in our building. I am always there to address anything the team needs with regards to technology in order to address the real goal which is the education of all of our students.

- *Are you pleased with the current treatment of technology-related issues in the SIP? Why or why not?*

I am pleased with the treatment in the SIP level. That being said, I am never satisfied with what my department does and so we build specific tools into pilots and initiatives. We target technology in many other areas that may or may not be codified in the SIP. However, the commonality in every area is that the technology is there to serve a specific purpose and does not exist for its own sake. (I can remember a time not so long ago when we often used technology for no other reason than to use technology.)

- *Would you like to see technology issues represented differently in future SIPs? Why?*

While I don't see us changing our attitude at the SIP level, I am trying to increase teacher involvement in all technology decisions. Each year I take part of our budget and ask for a group of teacher volunteers to help me target a few specific areas. We look at goals and available products and devise pilots to try something new with the understanding that they will need to collect a great deal of data and commit for the year. I try and float a minimum of two such projects every year.

- *What are your first thoughts of how technology could contribute toward achieving the mission/vision/goals set forth in your school improvement plan?*

That is pretty much the definition of the school technology vision plan. The single biggest contribution I believe that my department can make for coming year is to increase available online content to 75 percent for every teacher and turn this requirement into habit for our teachers. My personal goal is to make this as easy on my teachers as possible.

- *How might technology be integrated more effectively into your SIP in the future?*

Well, I don't foresee us changing our practice as my principal is not a fan of complexity or excessive verbiage when it comes to goals or statements of any kind. However, I will certainly ask my teacher members for any concerns they may have with our approach.

### ***District Technology Plan Analysis:***

(Note: Most districts do have a plan. Contact district-level personnel for a copy if needed.)

- *What are the three main curriculum goals in your district's technology plan?*

GCPS will meet the continuing and changing demand for essential information through technological systems and processes that support effective performance and desired results.

Guide students to use appropriate technology to solve mathematical problems.

Working closely with Title I Parent Instruction School Coordinators at local schools, IMD continues to support the parent education classes in various computer related skills. These classes give parents information on the applications used by students; educates parents on the advantages of computers; and provides parents with access to the GCPS portal.

- *What strategies are outlined for achieving these goals?*

In order to develop digitally literate and ethically aware students, we will continue to provide them with the literacy skills necessary to navigate their way in the digital age.

- *Does the plan seem achievable over the designated timeline? Why?*

Okay, here's what I find in very large school systems that are very successful (GCPS in other words) at a well-crafted PR campaign where the message is carefully controlled: externally available documents are going to exclusively focus on what they either know will be achieved or what has already been achieved. They will address specific questions with specific though generic answers. There is little to nothing left to chance.

- *In what ways would you like to see the plan improved?*

I would love to see more imaginative plans and strategies to support loftier goals. But, then, I have a very different leadership style and GCPS has been way more successful at marketing than I have.

- *What could you, in your current or a future position, do to help support implementation of the plan?*

I have made no secret that the only way I would ever return to the central office would be as an executive director or the CIO. As I hinted at earlier, my style is much more to swing for the fences and fail rather than carefully avoid controversy. They are probably wise to not offer me those positions (I have

applied for both at least once) as I would probably destroy the house they have built.

- *How does the plan address the needs of diverse populations regarding digital technology equity **for low SES and gender groups (ie. females)** and assistive technology for disabled learners? If it does not, what are your recommendations?*

There is nothing on these items in the district's technology plan I referenced. If I were made an executive director or superintendent tomorrow, AT and Title Nine would be two of my top priorities. I had two lunch meetings this year with the executive director of special education in my system to share my findings on the incorrect prescription of AT devices and AT evaluations for my students. She was very concerned and responsive. As she is a former boss of mine with whom I enjoyed a very good working relationship with the conversation was not as stressful or dangerous to my career as it might sound and she promised action.

- *In what ways does the plan tie-in to your local SIP?*

Well, it doesn't really but there are similarities to our technology vision plan.

### ***School Tech Plan Status:***

(Note: Most schools will not have a tech plan. In this case students can only answer question one and maybe elaborate on why there is no plan and if there ever was a history of tech planning at that school at all.)

- *Is there a technology plan that is separate from the SIP at your school? If so, when and how was it created?*

Yes. It is my responsibility and I write it with input from a local school technology committee and the input of various curriculum chairs and invited subject matter experts whenever appropriate.

- *Do members of the school community know about the tech plan?*

Yes, it is made available on our intranet site and is included in orientation documents I place in my New Staff digital classroom as well as my eClass (D2L) training page. It is not published for the community at large although I have provided it on occasion to interested parties.

- *Is it being implemented effectively? Why or why not?*

I like to think it is. Of course, there is always room for improvement and I tend to be my harshest critic.

- *What strategies could be implemented to help accelerate adoption of the plan?*

Wow. Well that's the question I ask myself every day when I am doing my job correctly. I think I have a pretty good set for the coming year. The level of excitement generated last year with Google's Virtual Field Trips, teacher successes with GoFundMe projects and the classroom Chromebook labs has been key to keeping the creative juices flowing in my staff. Honestly, if I do my job right by providing them with unique opportunities, solid coaching and support them with kindness and enthusiasm, they do the hard work for me and my plans write themselves.