

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 for Taylor Elementary School is to pursue excellence in everything, accountability for learning, growth through goal-setting, leadership development, and engaging instruction.

The vision for Taylor Elementary school is to educate and train all students and staff to reach their full potential.

- ***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)?***

In the Local School Improvement Plan for Taylor Elementary there are specific annual goals for Language Arts, Math, and Behavior and Attendance. In Language Arts the goal for 1st and 2nd grade is to increase their percentage of distinguished on the District Assessment 30%. In 3rd grade increase the percentage of distinguished 40% and 4th and 5th grade increase 25%. For math 1st and 2nd grade goal is to increase their percentage of distinguished on the District Assessment 70%. In 3rd grade increase 55%, 4th grade 45% increase and 5th grade 35% increase. The goal for behavior is to have less than 100 discipline referrals during the school year. The attendance goal is to have 97% of all students miss 5 days for less of school.

- ***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?***

The LSPI for our school does not address technology specifically. At the school we always discuss technology because the best practices for Gwinnett County has technology embedded in all sections of teaching and learning. My recommendation for my school is to help with technology equity are for all students to have access to technology and be knowledgeable on how to use it. We use eClass a lot at our school through digital learning days, online homework, and in class technology lessons. We need to ensure that all students have an equal opportunity. I also would recommend that parents have information sessions for technology because when they are at home they struggle to use the technology given by the school. I think the best way to help low SES and groups of students would be to help their caregivers have more knowledge. For disabled learners, I think the best thing would be to have a goal that all teachers be knowledgeable about different forms to assistive technology that are available. Teachers don't know a lot about assistive technology so if they did we would be able to better serve disabled learners and get them what they need.

- ***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 included in the literacy section of the LSPI. My recommendation would be to include technology in student learning so that they could increase test scores. Our overall goal for Language Arts is to have 100% of students achieve proficient on the District Assessment. The District Assessment is taken online and in class we do not do our tests online. It would be good to include in our goal to do classrooms tests using technology like eClass and Schoolnet which is the testing tab on the Gwinnett

County page. We have started to do this but it would be good to add it as a goal so that teachers can start making sure to use it.

- ***Why is technology addressed (or not addressed!) as it is? For example, does school culture or history contribute to the way the SIP addresses technology?***
[Additional Field Experience option if interviewing others in the school to find this history.]

Technology is not addressed. When I discussed this with the principal she mentioned that in the past we did not add technology because it was not as prominent like it is now. She said they follow the same format they have in the past and she thinks it would be good to add technology into the goals. She also discussed that whatever the technology plan is for the county we follow that format. Right now we are still following the goal to use eClass as much as possible. We discussed the fact that best practices for Gwinnett County include technology and that at Taylor we do use technology we just need to add it as a goal. The school culture now is different than it was in the past were many students did not have technology. Now most students have technology at home so we need to change the LSPI to include these goals.

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

I am not pleased with the current treatment of technology-related issues in the LSPI. The reason I am not pleased is because our school does not have a specific goal for our technology. The Quality Plus Teaching Strategies for Gwinnett County include technology in every aspect of teaching and learning. This graphic that shows technology being so prominent is in every classroom in our school and we use technology as well as take pride in our technology use. The problem is that technology is not a specific goal. I think that if it was a goal the teachers would be more likely to be held accountable for using different forms of technology and in turn we would have better scores on online tests like the Milestones assessment and District Assessments.

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

I am not sure that the LSPI is the best place for the technology goals to be placed. I think in Gwinnett the LSPI is for academic and behavior goals. I think that technology is important to be embedded in instruction and that we should have a goal in some way. The LSPI might not be the best place but we do need some sort of goal so that teachers and students are held accountable.

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

Technology could contribute to the mission because the mission discusses engaging instruction. Technology is a great way to make instruction engaging for the students. Through eClass, videos, learning games, assistive technology and many other forms of technology there are ways to make instruction engaging and really pursue excellence like the mission states. Technology could also contribute to the vision because it states that all students should reach their full potential. Technology is a great way to challenge students. Students can learn and do research using technology which teaches them to solve problems and work with their community when usually they would not be able to on their own. If we can use technology to help students reach their full potential, then we are reaching our goal. Technology could also contribute to our learning goals in Math and Language Arts. There are so many resources out there for students to be able to practice and improve their learning at home and in the classroom. This could help raise test scores. We could also use eClass which is our learning management system to help students get extra practice at home and post resources so that parents can help their students get ready for tests and be knowledgeable of what is happening around the school.

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

Technology could be integrated into the LSPI in the future by adding in some examples about how technology could help us reach our goals. SMART goals include how you

would achieve what you are doing. They are measurable. When we say we want to improve by a certain percentage we should be mentioning how this can be done and this is where technology can be added. This is usually done in our RBES which is our individual assessments as a teacher. We set a goal which is the goal from the LSPI and then we add how we will do this and all teachers usually add in how they will use technology. We could add this into the LSPI so that it is a standard for everyone.

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?***

Gwinnett County Public Schools has 7 strategic goals:

Goal 1: Teaching and learning should be related to AKS

Goal 2: The environment for learning should be safe, secure, and orderly

Goal 3: Finances should be used proactively and responsibly to have resources that meet all needs

Goal 4: Have a staff that meets all mission and goals

Goal 5: Use technology to support performance and desired results.

Goal 6: Make sure all facilities and exemplary and are managed responsibly

Goal 7: Continuously improve how the county does business.

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

Goal number 5 is related to technology saying that the county will use technology to support performance and desired results so this means they will use technology to reach all other goals. The Quality Plus Teaching Strategies are a way that these goals are met. The graphic below shows that when using all teaching practices in the classrooms teachers should be using technology to enhance learning and meet goals. Right now on the technology website it states that the new technology plan is coming soon but the

previous technology plan included using eClass the Learning Management System to help students have a technology rich learning experience.



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

Because there is no technology plan right now I looked at the old technology plan. This plan as stated previously talks about rolling out the Learning Management system to all schools which is eClass- This has goal has been achieved. It also talks about improving technology in schools through a retrofit which has also happened. Because the district reached their goals in the past I am sure the new technology plan will be achievable. If we look at Quality Plus Teaching Strategies that say teachers should be using technology in all subjects, I also feel this is achievable. It does not mean that teachers have to exclusively use technology but it should be achievable to embed some sort of technology usage in lessons. We have eClass specialists for every school as well as Local School Technology Coordinators that help with these goals.

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

The plan is still in progress. The last plan was in 2015 so to improve the current plan would be to finish writing it and start working toward the goals.

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

Since there is no current plan I would be able to support the previous plan by using eClass in my own classroom to reach the students and parents at the school. eClass is used to post information and resources for students. As a classroom teacher I can make sure to use this to fidelity to ensure the old plan is carried out. I can also continue to help other teachers use this resource. Many teachers struggle to use eClass but if I help with professional development on how to use eClass I can help support the previous plan.

- ***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?***

Low SES, gender groups, and assistive technology are not listed in the previous technology plan. It does discuss the fact that schools need more technology. By adding more technology into schools and resources that will help with that technology we are helping low SES and gender groups. The more resources there are in all schools around the county the more students will be reached. This also goes for assistive technology. The plan was to implement the use of more technology and if we are investing more funds to technology there will be more available resources for disabled students as well.

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

Due to the fact that Taylor does not list technology in their goals the plan does not specifically tie-in to the district plan. All schools in Gwinnett County use eClass as a classroom resource and at Taylor we strive to use this resource on an everyday basis. We are always pushing to have more forms of technology to use in the classroom as well as use technology as much as possible so that we are using the Quality Plus Teaching Strategies that were given by the county.

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?***

Taylor Elementary does not have a specific technology plan. There has never been a technology plan specific to our school. We follow the county goals for technology. In the past when eClass was rolled out all schools had to goal to start implementing this in their classrooms. Now since there is no plan our goal is to keep using eClass to inform parents and students and help them have access to more resources to reach our own academic goals. It would be great if in the future we could come up with a technology plan to implement at the school. I think this is something that schools should do in the future since it is so important to use technology in this digital age.

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

N/A

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

N/A

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

- N/A