The Guide to Implementing
Digital Learning

powered by SETDA

The State Educational Technology Directors Association (SETDA) is proud to share the Guide to Implementing Digital Learning (GIDL), a web-based resource to help states and districts consider a broad range of issues related to implementing digital learning.

Most school districts have made a substantial investment in technology equipment, bandwidth and networking, training teachers and supporting both the technology and those using it. Many are looking at upgrading and expanding their use of technology either because of a specific initiative such as online assessment or for a broader push to a 1-to-1 program to accomplish specific school improvement goals. No matter the reason for the investment, comprehensive planning addressing all aspects of implementing digital learning is necessary to ensure the investments bring positive results.

The GIDL includes six topic areas: planning, professional learning, content and software, broadband, devices and tech support. Each topic's section includes background information, key considerations for implementation, resources and exemplary digital learning in action.

Planning

The full scope of teaching, learning and operational needs that call upon technology in today's schools demands a thoughtful mix of devices and infrastructure in order to achieve a broad range of goals.

Professional Learning

An educational environment that includes more and more technology for students and educators demands systemic professional learning to support teachers throughout their careers.

Content & Software

School districts must carefully navigate digital content and software options to best meet the academic needs of the students.

Broadband

Easy access to reliable, robust, and cost-effective broadband and wi-fi provides the opportunity for engaging teaching and learning opportunities.

Devices

Choosing the correct device is critical to the success of a digital learning environment. Schools and districts vary in their approach to deployment of devices depending on budget considerations and needs assessments.

Tech Support

Rapid changes in the ways technology is used for learning require an approach to technology support ("tech support") that reduces downtime and provides a fast, consistent, reliable experience for administrators, educators and students.

About SETDA

SETDA is a national non-profit, membership association that serves, supports and represents the interests of the educational technology leadership of state education agencies in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, American Samoa, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. SETDA's mission is to build and increase the capacity of state and national leaders to improve education through technology policy and practice. For more information, visit http://setda.org.

What is the purpose of GIDL?

- The purpose of GIDL is to provide a comprehensive guide for states and school districts to plan and implement successful digital age learning environments.

Who is the audience?

- State and district education leaders, state and district policy makers, teachers and parents can benefit from referring to the guide throughout the planning and continuous improvement cycle for digital learning.

How can GIDL support your work?

- Regardless of the level of implementation, state and district leaders need to consistently plan, assess and improve digital learning implementation. GIDL includes recommendations regarding needs assessment, key considerations and exemplars for each of the topics. The resources consist of white papers, case studies, exemplars, templates and checklists from a variety of sources including the federal government, state departments of education, school districts and a variety of national education associations and higher education institutions.

How was GIDL developed?

- GIDL was developed through the input of state educational technology leaders who collaborated across state lines to develop guidance and aggregate resources for, and examples of, effective digital learning implementation. Representatives from SETDA's Private Sector Partners also provided suggestions and resources.

Can I share the resources with others?

- Yes, GIDL is licensed under a Creative Commons 3.0 Attribution 3.0 United States License, meaning that anyone can use, remix, and republish the SETDA-developed content with attribution. Many of the resources cited, however, do not carry this license and are copyrighted. Please check the copyright of all resources.

How can I provide feedback or add a resource?

- If you have a non-commercial resource or example you would like SETDA to consider adding, please email the title, author and URL or name of state/district, location and description of a program to setda@setda.org.