

Technology

(Adopted 1994; readopted 1997; amended 2000, 2003, 2006, 2009)

WHEREAS, the ability to use technology is essential to student success in the 21st century; and

WHEREAS, the state and local boards of education recognize that advances in technology, including computerization, telecommunications, mobile technologies, and other resources, have the proven potential to significantly improve student performance through access to information and enriched educational experiences; and

WHEREAS, the effective use of virtual and distance learning can be an effective adjunct to traditional classroom instruction; and

WHEREAS, access to standards-aligned digital resources and virtual learning opportunities are being advanced through collaboration among local school systems and the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), through initiatives such as the Maryland Virtual Learning Opportunities Program (MVLO), and the MDK12 Digital Library; and

WHEREAS, Maryland adopted its first state technology plan in 1995 to ensure that students and staff realize the optimum benefits from technology in the classroom; and

WHEREAS, the state plan contains the following primary interrelated objectives:

- Improve student learning through technology;
- Improve staff's knowledge and skills to integrate technology into instruction;
- Improve decision-making, productivity, and efficiency throughout the school system through the use of technology;
- Improve equitable access to appropriate technologies among all stakeholders;
- Improve the instructional uses of technology through research and evaluation; and

WHEREAS, nearly all of Maryland's classrooms have the capability to take advantage of the internet and the state continues to make progress toward the goal of having 100% of classrooms connected to this educational resource; and

WHEREAS, the Maryland voluntary state curriculum and core learning goals include expectations for how technology may be integrated into classrooms and schools to support student learning and instruction; and

WHEREAS, challenges remain in addressing the "digital divide" to provide and promote access inside and outside the school setting for all students to the educational resources available on the internet; and

WHEREAS, school systems are expanding data-driven decision-making to improve administrative and instructional systems that promote individual student achievement, implement the state's education technology plan, and meet the data analysis and reporting requirements of the Bridge to Excellence and No Child Left Behind Acts;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Maryland Association of Boards of Education (MABE) supports state and local efforts to pursue the effective use of virtual and distance learning initiatives; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that MABE supports the Maryland State Board of Education's plan for technology in education and the elimination of the digital divide; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that MABE will advocate for sufficient state and federal funding to ensure that MSDE and local school systems can meet the state and federally mandated data analysis and reporting requirements; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that MABE will continue to support programs to maximize the effective use of technology in improving student instruction.