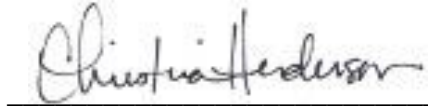




Councilmember Charles Allen



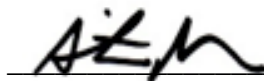
Councilmember Brianne K. Nadeau



Councilmember Christina Henderson



Councilmember Robert C. White, Jr.



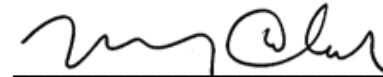
Councilmember Anita Bonds



Councilmember Janeese Lewis George



Councilmember Vincent C. Gray



Councilmember Mary M. Cheh



Councilmember Elissa Silverman

A BILL

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

To require the development of a comprehensive, multi-year technology plan for the District of Columbia Public Schools to support quality, equitable education that ensures one-to-one student and teacher device ratios; practical digital literacy training; robust remote and in-school IT support and maintenance; improved technology infrastructure; and sufficient Internet access for all to support learning in schools and at home.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this act may be cited as the "District of Columbia Public Schools Technology Equity Act of 2021".

Sec. 2. Technology equity steering committee.

(a) Every 3 years District of Columbia Public Schools ("DCPS") shall convene a steering committee to monitor, advise, and ensure DCPS successfully develops and publishes a Comprehensive Technology Equity Plan that will serve as a blueprint for DCPS.

(b) The steering committee shall consist of the following:

(1) The Chancellor of District of Columbia Public Schools or their designees;

(2) The District of Columbia's Chief Technology Officer or their designees;

(3) Educational stakeholders including DCPS parents, teachers, students, administrators, and representatives of Ward-based education council organizations; and

(4) Educational technology experts.

(c) The steering committee shall appoint such subcommittees as it deems appropriate.

Sec. 3. Duties.

(a) The technology equity steering committee ("steering committee") shall convene at least twice annually to monitor, advise, and ensure District of Columbia Public Schools ("DCPS") produces an updated technology plan every 3 years that includes:

(1) A competitive analysis of what other school systems are doing to meet the educational technology needs of students, staff, and faculty;

(2) A needs assessment of each DCPS school's technology, to include an analysis of the following:

(A) Number and type of computers available in each school, including computers for teacher use;

(B) Number and type of tablets or other equipment available in each school;

(C) Mechanisms and staffing for asset management at the school level;

(D) The quality of broadband access and bandwidth capacity to ensure secure, sufficient internet access in the school building;

(E) Last technological infrastructure upgrade for each school, including network hardware and systems needed to support wireless connectivity;

(F) Any school-wide technology related policies and projects;

(G) The effectiveness and responsiveness of information technology support provided to the school for repairing and maintaining technology;

(H) Gaps in digital literacy skills (compared to grade-level standards as established by experts), including fluency with and access to, both in and out of school, computers, tablets, other equipment, internet access, the Student Information System, and other relevant applications; and

(I) The effectiveness and relevance of professional development opportunities that are available to teachers and staff to best use available technology;

(b) DCPS shall hold at least 2 public meetings and a public comment period to collect input as part of the needs assessment compiled pursuant to subsection (a)(2) of this section.

(c) DCPS shall submit a final Comprehensive Technology Equity Plan, described in section 4, to the District of Columbia Council within 2 years of the effective date of this act and every 3 years thereafter.

Sec. 4. Comprehensive Technology Equity Plan.

At a minimum, the Comprehensive Technology Equity Plan shall include:

(1) A vision and goals for educational technology in District of Columbia Public schools;

(2) A summary of the findings of the needs assessment mandated pursuant to section 3(a)(2) and how District of Columbia Public Schools plans to address gaps identified by the needs assessment;

(3) The schedule and framework for refreshing technology for all schools, in order to maintain one-to-one student and teacher device ratios for the school system and updated classroom technology in all schools;

(4) A plan to close the gaps in digital literacy skills, including fluency with and access to computers, tablets, other equipment, internet access, the Student Information System, and other relevant applications identified in the needs assessment completed pursuant to section 3(a)(2);

(5) A delineation of District government agency roles and responsibilities related to supporting school technology and Internet access;

(6) A detailed cost estimate associated with the plan, broken out by school and program; and

(7) Identification of planned funding sources.

Sec. 5. Fiscal impact statement.

The Council adopts the fiscal impact statement in the committee report as the fiscal impact statement required by section 4a of the General Legislative Procedures Act of 1975, approved October 16, 2006 (120 Stat. 2038; D.C. Official Code § 1-301.47a).

Sec. 6. Effective date.

This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of congressional review as provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the District of Columbia Register.