



INTEROFFICE CORRESPONDENCE
Los Angeles Unified School District
Division of Instruction - Instructional Technology Initiative

TO: All Principals **DATE:** May 28, 2020

FROM: Alison Towery, Chief Academic Officer 
Sophia Mendoza, Director, Instructional Technology Initiative 

SUBJECT: PRACTITIONER SCHOOLS 5.0: OVERVIEW

BACKGROUND:

The Instructional Technology Initiative (ITI) is committed to reimagining instructional technology support to schools as they continue making shifts in practice to cultivate effective 21st century instruction. Following the *ITI Task Force Recommendations* (TFR) in 2016, ITI developed the Practitioner Schools (PS) model to exemplify how schools can leverage digital tools to create rigorous and personalized learning environments for all learners. The 2018 *Leading with Instruction* Progress Report documents ITI's progress and success in meeting or exceeding the TFR.

The PS model has undergone four productive iterations. PS 1.0 focused on the integration and use of a learning management system (LMS), exploring the utility of the LMS in creating courses and exploring grading practices using an online gradebook. PS 2.0, under the District-wide adoption of the International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) Standards for Students, emphasized the cultivation of computational thinking as an essential form of literacy. Last year, and most recently, PS 3.0 built upon this cultivation with a focus on the ISTE Standard, *Innovative Designer*, which provided a foundation for purposeful, creative problem-solving using a variety of digital tools. PS 4.0 which connected content and skills into 21st century instruction with a focus on the *Global Collaborator* ISTE Standard, emphasized the collaboration among the school community, leadership and instructional staff for effective school-wide implementation.

PS 5.0 will focus on the rights, responsibilities and opportunities of living, learning and working in an interconnected digital world along with embedding authentic, connected content and skills into 21st century instruction with a focus on the ISTE Standards for Students, computer science education and digital citizenship.

INTRODUCING PRACTITIONER SCHOOLS 5.0

The Practitioner Schools 5.0 Program is designed to shift instructional practices and cultivate 21st century skills that are required to succeed and thrive in today's world. Participating schools will use the [Leading with Instruction Progress Report](#)

the [ISTE Standards](#), and the [Computer Science Framework](#) to strategically and systematically ensure students are granted ongoing learning opportunities to leverage digital resources and cultivate 21st century practices and practice cultivating a positive, authentic digital footprint that can be leveraged for college and career success

The intent of the Practitioner Schools 5.0 Digital Citizen Program is to strategically and systematically ensure that L.A. Unified students are granted intentional exposure to leveraging digital resources and to developing and integrating foundational 21st century practices within the K-12 classrooms. The goal is to create learning experiences that grant students opportunities to practice 21st century skills, computer science education, digital citizenship and dispositions on a daily basis.

ITI invites schools ready to systematically refine their instructional practices to apply for this program. The purpose of this program is to create a learning community of like-minded schools that collectively explore how to leverage digital resources to transform teaching and learning using the ISTE Standards for Students, digital citizenship, and to support students in developing awareness of foundational computer science concepts and practices.

In addition, by resourcing an Instructional Technology Facilitator (ITF) to the school site's Instructional Leadership Team, ITI seeks to identify, document, and showcase examples of effective implementation of the [ISTE Standards for Students](#), digital citizenship efforts and computer science education to help more schools shift into 21st century instructional practices.

In collaboration with the school site, ITI will gather data to inform future District-wide practices around teacher practice, student engagement, learning outcomes, and different innovative learning spaces and environments.

GOALS FOR PRACTITIONER SCHOOLS 5.0 PROGRAM:

The Practitioner Schools 5.0 Program is designed to promote collaboration and learner agency and to challenge teachers to continuously learn and reflect upon their instructional practices. As participants of the program, school sites will use the [ISTE Standards for Students](#) and the CA Computer Science Standards to guide their work as they actively participate in the following:

- Provide students with learning opportunities to practice 21st century skills on a daily basis, thereby granting students the ability to build proficiency in 21st century practices for success.
- Enhance and improve collaborative teaching and learning practices by strategically leveraging digital resources through 21st century lesson design by integrating cross-curricular, cross-disciplinary, interdisciplinary, transferable, noncognitive, and soft skills.

- Collaborate with other Practitioner Schools, which include inquiry group meetings centered on lesson study, action research, text-based discussions and other activities to foster common dialogues about the intentional embedding of methods in the core curriculum.
- Share promising practices with other schools and District Leaders in the District.

To learn more, please visit <http://achieve.lausd.net/iti> and review the benefits and commitments of participating in the Practitioner Schools 5.0 Program.

For more information, please contact Sophia Mendoza, Director, at sophia.mendoza@lausd.net.

Attachment A: Practitioner Schools 5.0 - Intent To Participate

Attachment B: Digital Citizen (DC) Champion Overview and Selection
Consideration

c: Austin Beutner
Local District Superintendents
Administrators of Instruction