

LAUSD EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES FRAMEWORK

Our Approach to Technology
Integration in Schools





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The Need for an Emerging Technologies Framework

In today's fast changing world, it is essential for the Los Angeles Unified School District to adopt a clear and transparent framework to guide the integration of new technologies. This framework ensures that emerging tools are selected based on their potential to support students, staff, families, and the broader community. It emphasizes the importance of safeguarding personal information and maintaining transparency in the adoption process. Recognizing the dynamic nature of technology, the District commits to regular reviews and updates to remain responsive to future advancements.



SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

Research emphasizes the need for thoughtful technology adoption. Cal Poly San Luis Obispo's Digital Transformation Hub (2021), for example, highlights the effectiveness of testing ideas quickly, focusing on real-needs of students and users, and improving through constant feedback.

What This Framework Does

This framework serves as a guide to help LAUSD make informed and responsible decisions about new technology. By implementing this framework, we reaffirm our commitment to teaching and learning, creativity, fairness, innovation, and accountability in integrating emerging technologies into our educational environment.

It ensures that:

- Technology is enhancing learning rather than replacing staff.
- All students and staff have access to technology, regardless of background.
- Staff understand how technology is used in schools.
- Personal data and privacy are protected, ensuring a secure learning environment free from inappropriate and harmful content.

This document is intended for families, students, staff, and anyone who wants to understand how LAUSD engages with new and emerging technologies. This framework will change over time as we learn more about responsible, safe, and equitable technology use. To ensure its relevance and effectiveness, we will gather feedback from a community group that includes staff, students, parents, among others, biannually, allowing us to make informed updates that reflect the evolving needs of our school communities. While this framework serves as the overarching guide for new technology adoption and use, LAUSD will develop additional guidelines for specific technologies such as Artificial Intelligence.



SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD, 2021) emphasizes that technology alone does not improve education; successful implementation requires training, research-based tools, and clear guidelines.

What Are Emerging Technologies?

Emerging technologies are new or rapidly evolving tools, such as advanced computer programs, artificial intelligence, or digital services that have the potential to transform how people learn or work. These technologies often introduce new features or capabilities which makes them both exciting, but at times, unpredictable and potentially harmful. Therefore requiring safeguards and guardrails to be in place.



Framework Alignment to LAUSD's Strategic Plan

The Los Angeles Unified School District's 2022–2026 Strategic Plan outlines targeted priorities and measurable goals to close opportunity gaps, enhance student experiences, and foster a culture of equity and inclusion across the District. This framework directly supports LAUSD's Strategic Plan five pillars:



SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

Research from the U.S. Department of Education (2022) highlights that technology works best when it aligns with clear educational goals. This framework ensures LAUSD uses technology to support its vision.



LAUSD's Mission

Realizing excellence for all students by providing the unique, rigorous, and culturally relevant education that each and every student deserves.



LAUSD's Vision

Los Angeles Unified will be the premier public school district by eliminating educational inequities to graduate ALL students ready for the world to thrive in college, career, and life.

Strategic Plan Pillar	How This Framework Supports It
Academic Excellence	LAUSD reviews technology and only adopts that which improves learning and teaching.
Joy & Wellness	LAUSD prioritizes student health and emotional wellness when evaluating and implementing digital tools.
Engagement & Collaboration	LAUSD provides training and clear communication about new technologies to its diverse community.
Operational Effectiveness	LAUSD reviews technology and only adopts that which streamlines school operations and improves efficiency.
Investing in Staff	LAUSD supports staff to effectively use technology.

LAUSD's Seven Core Principles for Using Technology

The following Core Principles guide how LAUSD selects and implements emerging technologies. These principles were informed by research on effective and ethical implementation of new technologies from state, federal, and global consortia; organizations; and educational institutions.

01

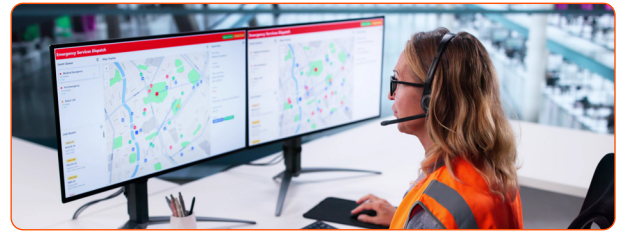
People First: Technology Empowers and Supports, Not Replaces

Emerging technologies should augment and enhance the roles and skills of staff, not replace them. Staff remain in charge of teaching and decision making.



Instructional Example

A digital reading tool might suggest a specific skill for a student to work on but the teacher still decides how to teach that skill to the student.



Operational Example

A tool might help schedule bus routes, but staff in the transportation department will fine tune the bus routes to ensure they meet student and family needs.



SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

Harvard's Graduate School of Education (2022) emphasizes that technology works best when it informs personalized learning, rather than replacing teachers.

02

Fair for All: Creating Opportunities for Everyone

Technology should be available to all students and staff, no matter their background, abilities, or learning needs.

**Instructional Example**

When introducing a new digital math tool, we will ensure it supports multiple languages and is compatible with assistive technologies, allowing students with varying abilities and language proficiencies to benefit.

**Operational Example**

When implementing a new visitor management system, we will ensure that all visitors, regardless of background or abilities, undergo a standardized and efficient check-in process, enhancing campus security and fostering an inclusive environment for everyone.

**SUPPORTING EVIDENCE**

A UNESCO study (2022) found that students in underserved communities are more likely to lack access to high-quality digital tools, widening opportunity gaps.

03

Open and Honest: Transparency and Explainability

Students, families, and staff should know how and why technology is being used in schools and that it is safe, secure, and data is protected.

**Instructional Example**

If we use a computer system to monitor homework, we will share with families which information gets stored and how it helps staff identify students who might need extra help. Where possible, we will also share how the emerging technology identifies students to receive extra help.

**Operational Example**

When using a new budget tool to improve business processes, we will train users in how to navigate the tool and interpret the data, ensuring that all users can access and comprehend how and why budget decisions are made.

**SUPPORTING EVIDENCE**

The U.S. Department of Education (2021) found that when schools clearly explain how technology is used, students and families feel safer and more confident engaging with digital tools.

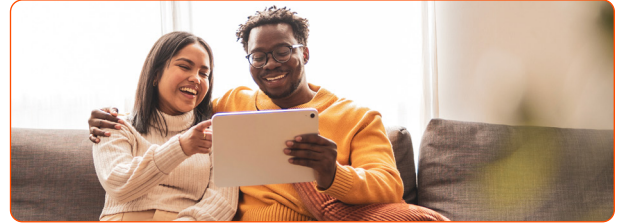
04

Learning is Key: Alignment with Learning

Technology should directly support learning and academic success. Educational technologies should engage students, enhance learning experiences, and align with education research.

**Instructional Example**

When introducing a new reading platform or software, we will ensure it is aligned with literacy goals, personalizes instruction, supports diverse learning needs, and increases student engagement.

**Operational Example**

When enhancing our parent portal, we will ensure that changes empower parents with the tools and information needed to actively engage in their child's education, supporting a collaborative approach that contributes to positive academic outcomes.

**SUPPORTING EVIDENCE**

A Stanford University study (2020) found that digital tools improve learning when they are based on proven instructional strategies and personalized to students' needs.

05

Everyone is Ready: Building Awareness and Capacity for All

To ensure equitable access to education in a digital world, all members of the school community must feel confident using technology. This requires robust training and support.

**Instructional Example**

We will hold workshops in different languages for parents, students, and staff on how to use online portals and keep track of student progress.

**Operational Example**

We will host technology labs and training days so staff can experiment with new tools before they are used more broadly, creating a space where people can ask questions and share ideas.

**SUPPORTING EVIDENCE**

The International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE, 2023) highlights that schools with strong digital literacy programs see better student engagement and safer technology use.

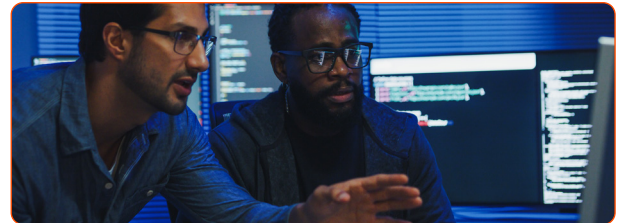
06

Safe and Secure: Ethical Use, Data Privacy, and Security

Protecting student and staff data and ensuring ethical use of technology is a top priority. LAUSD follows strict privacy laws and cybersecurity measures to safeguard student and staff information while promoting the responsible use of digital tools.

**Instructional Example**

When creating digital presentations, staff will guide students on the ethical use of AI, including avoiding plagiarism, recognizing biases in AI content, and protecting personal information.

**Operational Example**

To safeguard employee, student, and financial data, our IT department monitors unauthorized access and data breaches, conducts periodic security audits, and provides training to staff annually.

**SUPPORTING EVIDENCE**

The U.S. Federal Trade Commission (FTC, 2022) emphasizes that schools must safeguard student data and follow federal privacy laws.

07

Smart Choices: Intentional Adoption & Continuous Improvement

Before adopting new technologies, LAUSD ensures alignment with District goals and educational objectives. The District monitors the implementation and assesses the impact of these tools, utilizing data-driven systems and feedback mechanisms. The District will work with community groups and research partners to gather ongoing feedback on new technology adoption.

**Instructional Example**

Before adopting a new digital application, we will make sure strong information security and data privacy policies are in place, that it has a track record of improving skills, and that it is easy for students to use.

**Operational Example**

Before we decide to buy a tool, we will have a checklist (covering cost, impact, safety, training needs, information security, etc.) to decide if it is right for the District. We will pilot the tool and continue to review it. If it no longer meets our standards, we will stop using it.

**SUPPORTING EVIDENCE**

A study from MIT (2021) found that schools that test and review technology before adoption see higher success rates than those that adopt tools without evaluation.

IV • LAUSD's Criteria For Evaluating New Technology



Before adopting any new technologies, at minimum, LAUSD will ask the following questions:

- How does the technology align with the Strategic Plan?
- How does technology enhance the roles of staff?
- How does technology support staff and students' ability to learn, taking into account learners' diverse needs and backgrounds?
- How clearly does the technology provider define how the tool works?
- How does the new technology directly support instructional effectiveness and operational efficiency?
- How are training plans and support mechanisms included with the technology?
- How does the technology protect student and staff data and comply with strict privacy laws and cybersecurity measures?
- How is the technology cost-effective and sustainable for the District?
- How will success be measured with this technology?

V • Preparing for the Future

Technology is constantly evolving, but LAUSD's commitment to preparing students and staff ensures the District remains future-ready. The Emerging Technologies Framework is not just about adopting new tools, it's about building the skills, mindsets, and capacity needed to thrive in a dynamic digital world.

By focusing on purposeful skill development and staff support, LAUSD is laying the groundwork for a future where technology meaningfully enhances teaching and learning for all.



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Task Force Leader

Jaime Torrens

SENIOR ADVISOR TO THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Task Force Facilitator

Andrew Ko

FOUNDER, KOVEXA, AND FORMER MEMBERVA STATE BOARD
OF EDUCATION

Executive Team

Dr. Karla Estrada

DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT, INSTRUCTION

Pedro Salcido

DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT, BUSINESS

Soheil Katal

CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER

Sasha Lopez

SENIOR DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

External Advisors

Alan Arkatov

ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

Sam Canning-Kaplan

OPENAI

Dominic Delmolino

AMAZON WEB SERVICES

Dr. Amy Eguchi

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

Dr. Geri Gillespy

MICROSOFT

Dr. Isabelle Hau

STANFORD UNIVERSITY

Ron Ridderbusch

RETIRED - MICROSOFT

Anchal Sayal

CODE.ORG / TEACHAI

Sue Thotz

COMMON SENSE EDUCATION

Acknowledgements

Internal Advisors

Dr. Frances Baez
CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER

Joseph Holop
SENIOR ADMINISTRATOR, IT INFRASTRUCTURE

Dr. Smita Malhotra
CHIEF MEDICAL DIRECTOR

Richard Meraz
CHIEF INFORMATION SECURITY OFFICER

Dr. Kristen Murphy
ASSOCIATE SUPERINTENDENT, TALENT

Jane Reimers
ASSOCIATE GENERAL COUNSEL

Pia Sadaqatmal
CHIEF OF TRANSITIONAL PROGRAMS

Dr. Francisco Serrato
CHIEF HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICER

Jose Soto
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, SPECIAL EDUCATION

Dr. Alfonzo Webb
SENIOR DIRECTOR, SCHOOL CLIMATE CULTURE AND SAFETY

Planning Team

Dominic Caguioa
DIRECTOR, EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

Mary Lu Camacho
SENIOR ADMINISTRATOR, IT CUSTOMER SUPPORT (RETIRED)

Dr. Karen Mercado
SENIOR DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT INSTRUCTION

Support Team

Dr. Mollie Rudnick
SENIOR DATA STRATEGIST, OFFICE OF CHIEF STRATEGY OFFICER

Dr. Q Tien Le
SENIOR DATA STRATEGIST, OFFICE OF CHIEF STRATEGY OFFICER

Community Group

Maria Camarena
TEACHER

Blanca Cruz
PRINCIPAL, ROYBAL LEARNING CENTER

Daniel Friedlander
STUDENT

Sandra Hernandez
PARENT

Yisel Meza
TEACHER

Fernando Paniagua
PARENT

Rohya Prudhomme
INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY FACILITATOR

Cynthia Timm
PARENT AND ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY ASSESSOR

Maria Yniguez
TEACHER

Labor Partners

Adriana Salazar Avila
TEAMSTERS

Jennifer Clemente
SEIU

Hanna Haddad
UTLA

Maria Nichols
AALA

Alex Orozco
UTLA

Meredith Schafer
UTLA

Scarlett Ying
UTLA

Dina Zubia
UTLA

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