ITEC 7410: SIP Plan/Technology Plan Analysis

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Directions: Locate and review your district- or school-level Strategic Improvement Plan or other strategic planning document. Locate and review your district's Technology Plan. These documents are typically located online, but you may need to contact the Principal or Technology Director for a copy. Then, reflect on each question below and type your response below each question in this template. Provide a sufficient amount of detail (ie. minimum of 2-5 sentences per question as appropriate).

Strategic Improvement Plan Analysis:

What is your school's or district's mission/vision?

Teasley Middle School (TMS) has a posted mission statement but not vision. The TMS mission statement is "Teasley Middle School, in partnership with parents and community members, is united by one common objective: to ensure students become successful, productive, and responsible lifelong learners. Through high expectations, Teasley MS will inspire and empower academic, social, and emotional growth." The Cherokee County School District (CCSD) mission statement is "We are committed to educating the emerging generation through learning environments designed to increase the performance of all students." The CCSD Vision statement is "Together, we will prepare the emerging generation to confidently rise up to limitless learning potential and success."

What are the targeted areas for improvement (ex. fourth-grade math, improved LA scores for ESOL population, etc.) and the specific goals related to this improvement area that are set forth in the SIP (ex. % gain in CRCT scores)?

TMS has 2 goals. Each are the same goals but for different contents. The first is for ELA and the second is for Math. They target ED, ELL, and SWD students. The specific goals are:

School Improvement Goal 1: School Improvement Goal 2 Teasley MS will improve the percentage of Economically Disadvantaged Students, English Language Learners, and Students with Disabilities scoring a Level 2, 3 or 4 in ELA Milestones by 5 percentage points each year during the 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20 school years until the subgroup performance target is met.

School Improvement Goal 2: Teasley MS will improve the percentage of Economically Disadvantaged Students, English Language Learners and Students with Disabilities scoring a Level 2, 3 or 4 in Math Milestones by 5 percentage points each year during the

2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20 school years until the subgroup performance target is met.

How does your SIP address the needs of diverse populations regarding digital technology equity for low SES and gender groups (ie. females) and assistive technology for disabled learners? If it does not, what are your recommendations?

The SIP Plan states that TMS is a 1:1 school and this is to close the "digital divide" so all students have access to technology for learning. The only other thing said in relation to subgroups is continuing SIOP trainings and training from Jo Gusman. Both are targeted for ELL students and do not specifically deal with technology. Where it talks about technology trainings, I think it should specifically spell out "training to use technology to give each student an equal learning opportunity." In the SIP it does include 4 areas of technology training but only states "students" and not subgroups. Since our SIP goals are specific to 3 subgroups, I believe they should be the target of the trainings and stated in that area.

How is technology included in the SIP? In what ways is student technology literacy included as a goal in your SIP? If it is not, what are your recommendations?

Technology is almost exclusively included with teachers and trainings for MIE, Discovery Education, Instructional Trainings from the county, and Tech Tuesdays which are short emails with a tech tip of the week. Only where it says use the virtual vortex and Discovery Education does it mention students and it is inclusive to all students and says a vague increase student achievement. Since TMS is 1:1 the sip plan should talk about training students to use the computer and Canvas the LMS for the county. As a teacher we spend a lot of time doing just this and it takes away from what we can do in a student-centered activity. This also comes up a lot during virtual days which is happening more now with Covid but is stated in the SIP for snow days.

Why is technology addressed (or not addressed!) as it is? For example, does school/district culture or history contribute to the way the SIP addresses technology?

I believe because my school has been 1:1 and we have had so many trainings on using technology we just assume technology is being used to enhance learning and create equity. This may be slightly the case, but I believe that if our goal is going to be specific to raising 3 subgroups' achievement then the plan should speak directly to that. Since we are 1:1 it should speak even more on how we will use technology to reach those goals.

Are you pleased with the current treatment of technology-related issues in the SIP? Why or why not?

I am happy with what is in the SIP for technology. It describes the trainings and things we are doing currently in the school during our PLCs and PD days.

Would you like to see technology issues represented differently in future SIPs? Why?

While I do think the SIP is stating what we are doing as stated in the last question I think that there is the problem. The only trainings we have for technology are basic and are how to use something. They tend to be targeted at those who do not know how to use their computers well. They very rarely focus on how to use technology with the students to enhance their experience or bridge their gaps. If the SIP focused on that I think that is what we would see.

How might technology be integrated more effectively into your SIP in the future?

Expanding on the goals to include the subgroups and including more teacher on the planned items. For example, in the Tech Driven PD Activities only 2 of the 4 even relate to me and the tech emails tend to be things I already do or know. The last was on dual monitors and I have 3 monitors. I would like the SIP to read like a school that has had computers for 6 years. Currently I think you would read and assume we are a school new to computers.

What are your first thoughts of how technology could contribute toward achieving the mission/vision/goals set forth in the SIP?

The goals are to raise milestone scores. I think technology in the classroom can greatly help this by just getting the student comfortable using technology for assessments and solving problems. Our school and county mission/vision talk about lifelong learners, enhancing, emerging and more. This can't be done without technology.

District Technology Plan Analysis:

What are the main curriculum goals in your district's technology plan?

There are two goals I believe are main curriculum goals:

Goal 1 – **"**Students will engage in technological learning experiences providing opportunities for student achievement and academic success, development as responsible digital citizens, identification of individual interests and talents, as well as exploration of their individual capacities of inquiry and creativity."

Goal 2 – "CCSD will build an environment of support for teaching that incorporates both individual and collaborative delivery models for instruction and empower CCSD educators with access to technology resources, infrastructure and professional development that will foster innovation and improve and inspire teacher effectiveness and increase student achievement."

What strategies are outlined for achieving these goals?

The strategies for Goal 1 are summarized:

1. Invest in standards-aligned materials to improve achievement and improvement
2. Provide students access to mobile and desktops at school and 24-7 access to content
3. Adopt and implement a LMS (Canvas)
4. Appropriate assistive technologies for SWD
5. Students become Digital Age Learners
6. Increase number of hotspots for at hoe internet
7. Maintaining and improving wireless devise for students

The strategies for Goal 2 are summarized:

1. ISTE Standards adopted and incorporated into curriculum
2. PD for blended and online learning
3. PD for teachers for mobile learning
4. PD for LDS and TRL
5. PD for digital textbooks and resources
6. Increase usage of existing online resources

7. Implement technology initiatives for SIP Goals
8. Adopt and Implement a LMS (Canvas)
9. Empower teachers utilize technology for the students

Does the plan seem achievable over the designated timeline? Why?

The plan was achieved. This plan was for 2018-2020 and was continued into 2021 due to Covid-19. The one strategy I think is weak and may or may not have been met depending on the teacher is Goal 1 strategy 5. If the teacher is not effectively using technology to enhance learning as the LoTI state, the student isn't becoming a Digital Age Learner. They are just seeing how technology can become a textbook or they are not seeing it at all.

In what ways would you like to see the plan improved?

As I read over it I could place certain things we have in our school or have seen where the strategy is. Canvas is our LMS for example or the Nearpod subscriptions are another. Some teachers may look and not know where the district is meeting these goals. I think they should update it with what they are doing as they do it, so everyone knows why and how things are working out.

What could you, in your current or a future position, do to help support implementation of the plan?

By understanding what the district goals are I can target them in my class and PLC. It is hard to be a leader if you do not know your team's goals.

How does the plan address the needs of diverse populations regarding digital technology equity for low SES and gender groups (ie. females) and assistive technology for disabled learners? If it does not, what are your recommendations?

The main areas it directly addresses them is getting mobile hotspots so economically disadvantaged students can have access to content 24-7. It states to continue to acquire assistive technology and software for students with special needs but does not say

what. Acquiring and LMS for all students to have equal access is stated many times thought the plan.

In what ways does the plan tie-in to the SIP?

The plan states for Goal 2 strategy 7 that schools will make a school-based plan for technology professional development. This is located in the SIP plan and has 4 trainings detailed: Discovery Education. MIE, Bi-Weekly Tech Trainings, and Tech Tuesdays.

Do stakeholders know about the Tech Plan?

I would be surprised if many teachers that are not in technology, in their master's program, or have their master's in technology know about the plan. I base this off hearing so many teachers act surprised when the county does something that I now see in the plan.

Is it being implemented effectively? Why or why not?

I would say yes and no. If you are in the technology department you would think so. Everything is happening as it states. If you are a teacher, you may not know about it. I think this is the no. Most of this is meant to help the teacher and improve the students experience and learning. If students and especially teachers do not know the goals, they will not understand why things are done and, in most cases, push back. This slows the adoption.

What strategies could be implemented to help accelerate adoption of the plan?

I think outlining the specific outcomes and/or technologies acquired or that relate to the goal should be mentioned and updated throughout the plan. As teacher do for students, I think the why we are doing or getting something should be explained. If teacher knew why and the goal, they would be quicker to use and adopt.