



The mission of the George Junior Republic Union Free School District is to provide students with a consistently safe, positive, and academically stimulating learning environment. We empower students to respect themselves, to respect others, and to develop the skills necessary to make informed decisions leading to social, emotional and academic success.

# George Junior Republic Technology Plan 2022-2025

The purpose of this plan is to meet the Commissioner's Regulations (Part 100.12) by developing and maintaining instructional technology to ensure that every child has equitable access to the highest quality educational opportunities, services, and supports in schools that provide effective instruction aligned to the state's standards, as well as positive learning environments so that each child is prepared for success in college, career, and citizenship

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## Introduction

George Junior Republic is a public special act school located in Freeville, NY that provides educational services for the children residing at the William George Agency for Children's Services and for CSE referred day school students who live in local communities. The district was specifically designed to educate at-risk children. The school may award Regents, local, or CDOS and SACC credentials or prepare students for a GED diploma. In addition to required Regents and Non-Regents courses, "The Republic" offers a work experience program consisting of 13 trades and occupations. Our students also have the opportunity to learn career skills in Culinary Arts and Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources and to develop leadership skills in our FFA Chapter. The teacher/student/teaching aide ratio is 6:1:1 in most classes. The majority of our students receive special education services. Academic support services are given to students in reading and math. Our students come from approximately 53 counties throughout NYS. We are centrally located near Tompkins Cortland Community College, SUNY Cortland, Ithaca College and Cornell University. The following is a technology plan that ensures that our students have the skills they will need to become successful and productive members of our global society, to enhance the learning potential of each student, and to provide our staff with the training and support they may need.

## Strategic Technology Planning

### District Mission:

The mission of the George Junior Republic Union Free School District is to provide students with a consistently safe, positive, and academically stimulating learning environment. We empower students to respect themselves, to respect others, and to develop the skills necessary to make informed decisions leading to social, emotional, and academic success.

### Vision Statement that Guides Instructional Technology:

The vision of the George Junior Republic Union Free School District is to provide a consistent environment enabling students to develop mutual respect, positive self-esteem and academic achievement leading to a successful adulthood.

### Planning Process to Develop Instructional Technology Plan:

This plan and the vision needed to create a viable technology blueprint for George Junior Republic Union Free School District is the product of the George Junior UFSD Technology Plan Committee Members.

The shared-decision making committee is comprised of the following:

Sonia Apker, Superintendent  
Patrick Perry, Board of Education President  
Tom Watts, Assistant Superintendent  
Chris Sanford, Curriculum Coordinator  
Alex Perkins, Director of Information Technology  
Anita Fowler, Business Official  
Stacy Bradley, Organization President and Special Education Teacher  
Catherine Wakeman, Library Media Specialist  
Earl Hardy, Instructional Coach, Mathematics  
Danial Pecoraro, Information Technology Specialist  
Blair Rosenberg, School Counselor

### Previous Plan

The current plan considered the previous goals and assessed the attainment of the previous goals. Ensuring that access to technology, training and investing in wireless and wired networks was a primary focus that has been implemented and sustained with the previous technology plan. Moving forward, a strategic process for gaining stakeholder input will be implemented. The team will develop an infographic to guide conversation and to better understand what will be necessary in order to achieve the vision.

## COVID Implications & Access to instructional technology

COVID-19 forced the district to ensure that a blended learning model was available to all students. This continues to be a possibility with the availability of every day student having access to a device and teachers having devices and technology accessible for remote instruction in the residential units. The District has also increased the use of video conferencing to allow for family communications, instructional and programmatic planning, professional development, and student instruction.

Given the small class sizes and instructional program at George Junior Republic UFSD, it is not currently the district's plan to provide students with a dedicated device in school and in their place of residence; however, all students have access to a device during class time and the district is prepared to provide necessary instructional devices in the event there is a need for remote instruction.

## Professional Development Plan:

The George Junior Republic Comprehensive District Education Plan Committee will develop an annual plan for professional development related to technology, based on an evaluation of staff interests and needs as well as an assessment of the continuing evolution of technology and of best practice.

## Action Plan

**The vision of George Junior Republic is to integrate technology into the education program in order to provide students with the skills they will need to become successful and productive members of our global society, to enhance the learning potential of each student, and to provide our staff with the training and support they may need.**

NYSED: Provide technology-enhanced culturally- and linguistically-responsive learning environments to support improved teaching and learning.

**Develop an annual plan for professional development related to technology, based on an evaluation of staff interests and needs as well as an assessment of the continuing evolution of technology and of best practice.**

NYSED: Provide access to relevant and rigorous professional development to ensure educators and leaders are proficient in the integration of learning technologies.

**Ensure that technology integration is throughout all aspects of the educational process and that our students are technologically literate, well-equipped for the work place and/or post-secondary education.**

NYSED: Increase equitable access to high-quality digital resources and standards-based, technology-rich learning experiences.

**Provide and maintain the technical infrastructure necessary to support all learning environments and provide equitable opportunities for all learners.**

NYSED: Design, implement, and sustain a robust, secure network to ensure sufficient, reliable high-speed connectivity for learners, educators & leaders.

## Action Steps

**Goal 1:** Develop an annual plan for professional development related to technology, based on an evaluation of staff needs and interests and continual monitoring of technology advancements and best practices.

Action Step		Category	Description	Responsible Stakeholder	Other Responsible Stakeholder	Anticipated Date of Completion	Anticipated Cost
Action Step 1		Planning	Create a Technology Committee	Superintendent	Director of Information Technology	2025	0
Action Step 2		Evaluation	Development of a Needs Assessment	Director of Information Technology	Curriculum Coordinator	2022	0
Action Step 3		Research	Explore learning platforms to increase student engagement	Curriculum Coordinator	Director of Information Technology  Technology Committee	2025	0
Action Step 4		Research	Explore how technology can enhance restorative practices, normative culture and consistent behavioral support/management programming in the building	Curriculum Coordinator	Director of Information Technology  Principal  Instructional Coaches  Lead TA's	2025	0

**Measurement & Evaluation:** The district will continuously evaluate instructional technology goals through the use of surveys, anecdotal evidence, district-wide technology meetings, professional development evaluations, and observation of teacher and student utilization. Additional follow-up measures will include implementing checks to ensure that budgetary monies are allocated according to the plan, professional development activities are organized and aligned appropriately, and any new initiatives are in support of the plan.

**Goal 2:** Ensure that technology integration is throughout all aspects of the educational process and that our students are technologically literate, well equipped for the work place and/or post-secondary education.

<b>Action Step</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Responsible Stakeholder</b>	<b>Other Responsible Stakeholder</b>	<b>Anticipated Date of Completion</b>	<b>Anticipated Cost</b>
Action Step 1	Planning	Ensure that all students are able to utilize technology to communicate thoughts and ideas accurately.	Classroom Teacher	Principal Director of Information technology	2025	0
Action Step 2	Curriculum	Provide students with lessons on Technology Literacy for purpose of ensuring they are responsible technology users.	Classroom Teachers Library Media Specialist	Curriculum Coordinator Principal	2025	0
Action Step 3	Evaluation	Technology will be utilized effectively in the teaching and learning process. Enriched, creative opportunities for learning skills that foster independence, leadership, critical thinking, collaboration, communication, creativity, and continuously challenge every individual will be offered for all students.	Curriculum Coordinator	Principal	2025	0
Action Step 4	Professional Development	In addition to professional development offerings related to technology utilization and integration it is imperative that advanced, follow up offerings that deepen the knowledge and confidence of staff to integrate technology into the planning, delivery, and assessment of instruction be developed, implemented, and made	Curriculum Coordinator	Director of Information Technology Instructional Coaches	2025	0

		readily accessible to all staff.				
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**Measurement & Evaluation:** It will be the responsibility of the administrative team (principal district administrators, and Director of Information Technology) to annually evaluate the effectiveness of plan implementation. Evaluation will include: · Review of technology use by staff and students by school technology committees:

- Data concerning staff proficiency in the use of technology for instructional and management functions
- Usage data such as logs of computer lab use, use of peripherals, technical assistance and troubleshooting logs, and analysis of data related to student learning
- Student data such as state and local assessments; screening, benchmarking and progress monitoring· Review of evaluation data from staff development activities
- Professional development days, workshops, and conferences
- Surveys of staff, students, and/or families as appropriate Recommendations with supporting documentation will be submitted on a regular basis to the Board of Education.

**Goal 3:** Provide and maintain the technical infrastructure necessary to support all learning environments and provide equitable opportunities for all learners.

Action Step	Category	Description	Responsible Stakeholder	Other Responsible Stakeholder	Anticipated Date of Completion	Anticipated Cost
Action Step 1	Learning Spaces	Evaluate our physical learning spaces to ensure that technology is available to support collaborative student driven instruction.	Director of Information Technology	Curriculum Coordinator	2025	0
Action Step 2	Research	Identify and provide access to high quality digital hardware and software resources to address the diverse needs of all student learners.	Director of Information Technology	Curriculum Coordinator	2025	0
Action Step 3	Evaluation	Assess our current technology resources (Interactive displays, Laptops, etc.) and how they are impacting and improving the existing learning environment. Based on outcome, how we will continue to adapt and deploy technology throughout the district.	Director of Information Technology	Curriculum Coordinator	2025	0
Action Step 4	Professional Development	Ensure that all staff and students are aware and knowledgeable of Ed-Law 2D.	Assistant Superintendent	Curriculum Coordinator	2025	0

**Measurement & Evaluation:** The district will continuously evaluate instructional technology goals through the use of surveys, anecdotal evidence, district-wide technology meetings, professional development evaluations, and observation of teacher and student utilization. Additional follow-up measures will include implementing checks to ensure that budgetary monies are allocated according to the plan, professional development activities are organized and aligned appropriately, and any new initiatives are in support of the plan.

## NYSED Initiatives Alignment

Comprehensive and sustained effort to support rigorous academic standards:

**How technology is integrated into teaching and learning throughout the district** - Through these supports and resources, the district will continue to deepen teachers' and administrators' understandings of the uses of technology to support learning and achievement.

**Explain the extent to which technology is used by teachers to facilitate their practice** - Our role is to provide guidance, oversight and support to successfully integrate technology into all aspects of teaching and learning.

**The extent to which technology is used by students to demonstrate understanding of skills and concepts** - The use of technology to support teaching and learning is no longer an option in our classrooms. For decades, we have watched as technology has been used as a reward or been used as an add-on activity when there is time in the day. This has led to mediocre, inconsistent experiences for our students.

**The extent to which technology is used to provide multiple pathways to access and participate in learning** - As such, we must look for ways to integrate technology at a deeper level moving beyond just using it to replace a traditional activity once done on paper with pencil. Instead technology gives us access to a much bigger classroom with the ability to reach out to experts outside the walls of our schools, the ability to create multimedia worlds that demonstrate creativity and understanding, the ability to share work and receive feedback with someone beyond the teacher, while maintaining our unique need for student confidentiality and safety. We can modify and redefine our traditional classroom tasks and in doing so, open doors to easy pathways to creativity, critical thinking, communication and collaboration.

### Equitable Learning:

In order to ensure equitable learning everywhere, all the time, the district plans to utilize needs assessments and evaluations of teaching, learning and professional development in order to ensure that we are providing access to appropriate devices to meet the needs of our students, as well as build the capacity of staff, students and families.

### Students with Disabilities:

Most of the students at George Junior Republic UFSD are considered students with disabilities, so all of the technology goals and instruction using technology are focused on this specific student group. This means that any and all technology devices/software that are purchased are specifically considered based on how they can serve our unique student population. This can include things like durable laptops, classroom laptop management/monitoring software, and web browser/operating system built in assistive technologies like text to speech and speech to text.