

Ms. Luisa Santos, Board Member

Co-Sponsors: Ms. Maria Teresa Rojas, Chair
Ms. Monica Colucci, Vice Chair
Mr. Roberto J. Alonso
Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall
Ms. Mary Blanco
Mr. Danny Espino
Dr. Steve Gallon III

}
A
D
D
E
D

**SUBJECT: EQUITABLE DIGITAL EXPERIENCE FRAMEWORK 2025
UPDATE**

COMMITTEE: ACADEMICS, INNOVATION, EVALUATION & TECHNOLOGY

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN: RELEVANT, RIGOROUS, & INNOVATIVE ACADEMICS

At the School Board Meeting of October 20, 2021, the School Board unanimously approved School Board Agenda Item H-8, *Addressing the Digital Divide through the Equitable Digital Experience Framework*. As set forth in Item H-8, “The Equitable Digital Experience Framework” has four pillars:

1. **Reliable Internet Connectivity:** Students and staff must have access to fast and reliable wireless internet connection throughout the community and at school.
2. **Capable Devices and Technology:** Devices and technology must be able to handle the modern student and workforce workload.
3. **Digital Literacy:** A curriculum embedded throughout grades K- 12 that prepares students, teachers, and families to actively interact with and ultimately create digital texts, tools, and spaces to facilitate 21st century learning.
4. **Establishing Technology Career Pathways:** Accessible industry partnerships, career-focused curriculum, and workplace opportunities with the tech industry in our county.

To advance this framework, Item H-8 and the subsequent Item, H-10, *Equitable Digital Experience Framework Update*, directed the Superintendent to conduct various analyses on the state of the M-DCPS network, school bandwidth, and status of student devices and present all related outcomes at a Board workshop. Since the presentation of this material at the School Board workshops on March 30, 2022, and May 24, 2023, M-DCPS’ digital landscape has continued to evolve. The M-DCPS Strategic Plan was amended to include Pilar V, Priority 2, Objective 1, “Provide school sites and district facilities with network upgrades for enhanced performance and improved cybersecurity.”¹ Staff has conducted additional detailed analysis, created a live device dashboard, procured additional technology, launched a pilot guest Wi-Fi at select locations, made significant investments to comprehensively implement the Board’s vision, and has actively sought partnerships with key technology players such as Google, Apple, Microsoft, and others. Additionally, as a result of Item H-10, *Establishment Of A School Board-Level Committee To Advise And Inform The Board On All Matters Regarding Technology And Cybersecurity*, proffered by Board Chair Rojas on April 21, 2021, the

¹ *Dadeschools*. 2023 Strategic Plan Annual Report - Final. (2024, March 11).
<https://api.dadeschools.net/WMSFiles/346/Report/2023-Strategic-Plan-Annual-Report-Final.pdf>

Technology Advisory Committee (TAC) was established to engage industry experts in advising the District on various technology-related initiatives.

Alongside the administration, School Board Members have remained highly invested in the adoption of this framework and its success. The Board has continued to demonstrate its support by passing various items that align with the framework's goals, including the before-mentioned Item H-10, proffered by Board Chair Rojas on April 21, 2021, Item H-3, *Artificial Intelligence (AI)*, proffered by Vice Chair Colucci on March 13, 2024 (the TAC report concerning Item H-3 detailing the results at the June 12, 2024 Academics, Innovation, Evaluation & Technology Committee meeting), Item H-9, *Review of District's Current Data Infrastructure and Data Management Practices*, proffered by Board Member Alonso on May 15, 2024, and Item H-5, *Ethical and Responsible Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) for High School for Students*, proffered by Board Member Alonso on September 2024. Additionally, there have been multiple discussions at committee and School Board meetings, further showcasing the Board's commitment to ensuring safe and equitable access to technology for all stakeholders.

This item seeks to direct the Superintendent to conduct a Board workshop no later than January 31, 2025, to provide the School Board with an update two years after the Board's adoption of Item H-8, *Addressing the Digital Divide through the Equitable Digital Experience Framework*. This update will guide future efforts in implementing the Equitable Digital Experience Framework and provide an opportunity for all School Board Members to receive an overview of our technology landscape.

This item has been reviewed and approved by the Office of the General Counsel as to form and legal sufficiency.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
MS. LUISA SANTOS:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, reaffirm its commitment to addressing the digital divide and implementing the "Equitable Digital Experience Framework" by directing the Superintendent to provide an update on current and past 3-year trends on:

1. Classroom technology data including but not limited to staff laptops, desktops, instructional mobile devices, interactive panels, and HyFlex classrooms;
2. The current state of the M-DCPS network including but not limited to bandwidth upgrades, wireless hardware, network routers, uninterrupted power supply units, network switches, and Voice Over IP systems;
3. The current bandwidth usage by work location and trends;
4. The calculation of necessary long-term regular financial investments for ongoing upgrades and necessary replenishments of technology infrastructure (e.g., 25% student device refresh every year for full turnover every four years or other sustainable models such as leases, DaaS, etc., that can provide consistent budgetary projections);
5. The status of all recommendations from the Technology Advisory Committee report transmitted to the School Board on November 13, 2023, including but not limited to:

- a. Current staffing efforts to improve the recruitment and retention of qualified staff in a competitive job market, including exploring managed resources to fill gaps;
 - b. The progress in establishing technology standards every five years to ensure alignment with the latest advancements and best practices;
 - c. Staffing and support for managing mobile devices and other school technology initiatives on-site, using data-driven insights to guide improvements; and
6. Present all of the above-requested updates at a School Board workshop to be scheduled no later than January 31, 2025.