

Albemarle County Public Schools' Digital Learning Initiative

We envision that all learners in our schools “believe in their power to embrace learning, to excel, and to own their future.” The Digital Learning Initiative supports our Vision by enabling learners to meet the challenges of the digital world, serving as a strategic catalyst to advance and achieve the Division’s priorities.

This initiative will strengthen and expand learning experiences through the interactive use of technologies inside and outside of school. Digital learning empowers young people to develop personal responsibility for learning by providing options to:

- Select from a range of digital content that support curricula.
- Create products and projects that show content mastery through a variety of media.
- Choose technologies that best match learning tasks, accessing learning resources instantaneously.
- Work at home, in the community, and at school, individually and with others.
- Learn asynchronously and synchronously; as time to learn may vary based on individual needs.

The Division cherishes the cultivation of life-long learning competencies within the young people whom we serve. In this second decade of the 21st century, we recognize the need to provide technological opportunities, contemporary learning spaces, and well-trained educators who can open doors for learners to an increasingly digital educational environment. We believe this is essential to preparing them for their future as adult citizens, community participants, employers and employees, and post-secondary learners.

This initiative will support young people to engage digitally with curricula through authentic and challenging opportunities. Over time, our staff will scale both virtual and blended learning options. A blended approach, as defined by the Alliance for Excellent Education, occurs “any time a student learns, at least in part, at a supervised brick-and-mortar location away from home and, at least in part, through online delivery with some element of student control over time, place, path, and/or pace.”

The success of digital learning depends upon educators who effectively implement curricula, instruction, and assessment while integrating best practices and technology applications that deepen and extend personalized learning in both “face-to-face” and virtual environments. The Department of Instruction in collaboration with The Department of Accountability, Research, and Technology leads and supports Albemarle Educators to meet the needs of today’s learners. Teachers, Instructional Coaches, and Lead Coaches have begun to actively develop digital curriculum for use in both face-to-face and virtual environments. The strategic development of virtual and blended learning and ongoing professional training will reinforce the Division’s commitment to excellence and, in turn, ensure an innovative digital-rich learning environment for all learners.

Additionally, infrastructure and support mechanisms have been developed to maintain the demands of an innovative digital learning environment. The Department of Accountability, Research and Technology has modified its service model and worked with schools to develop student-led service in order to support the digital learner. The wireless capabilities within our schools are robust enough to support active learners using technologies in each of its learning spaces concurrently.

Conditions in the school division are optimal for the transition to digital learning, and we are prepared to move forward into the next phase of planning which will include coordinated provision of comprehensive training, student access to technology devices inside and outside of school, and digital learning resources.

Billy Haun
Assistant Superintendent for Student Learning

Vince Scheivert
Chief Information Officer