

Los Rios District Equity & Student Success Committee (DESSC)

Charter Submission: Digital Equity Workgroup

Overview

The abrupt transition from in-person to 100% remote instruction has shone a light on the pre-existing equity gap between students who have access to digital tools and the skills to use those tools and our most vulnerable students who may lack the tools, the skills or both.

***Digital Equity** is a condition in which all individuals and communities have the information technology capacity needed for full participation in our society, democracy and economy.
- National Digital Inclusion Alliance*

Digital Equity addresses the following three areas:

- **Technology-**
 - Hardware- Computers, laptops, cameras, speakers, microphones
 - Software- programs and applications necessary for learning and working
- **Quality Internet Access-** High Speed Wi-Fi or Broadband
- **Digital Literacy-** knowledge and information necessary to effectively use technology resources

In Spring and Summer 2020, many “rapid response” efforts were undertaken across the district to quickly establish or bolster Digital equity efforts to facilitate student success. These efforts were distributed across many areas including: Institutional equity, distance education, instruction, communications, training, library, foundation, computer labs, IT support, call center, student tech support, community resources, administration, student services, and professional development. As LRCCD continues to optimize remote instruction and remote operations with limited resources, LRCCD students will benefit from strategic coordination and collaboration across the district and greater transparency to efforts and outcomes in support of our students.

Meaningful progress on the issues below requires a comprehensive plan that identifies tactical and strategic efforts to address inequity:

- Students who don't have access to a computer at home or off campus are at a severe disadvantage when taking on-ground courses that include digital components (even including cost-effective tools like Open Educational Resources).

- Students who don't have access to a computer at home or off campus simply cannot continue their studies in a 100% remote environment.
- Students who lack broadband access at home or off campus are at a severe disadvantage when taking on-ground courses that include digital components (even including cost-effective tools like Open Educational Resources).
- Students who lack broadband access at home or off campus simply cannot continue their studies in a 100% remote environment.
- Students who lack the necessary knowledge or information resources to maximize the use of available technology resources.

Approach

Given the importance of making sure all students have access to the hardware, software and broadband access they need to address Digital Equity, Los Rios will form a districtwide workgroup to develop a comprehensive plan to advance digital equity for all students. The plan will address the following:

- A. Better understanding of student needs in the area of Digital Equity by establishing, monitoring, and sharing data and metrics
- B. Provision of services, programs, and purchases to address the Digital Equity needs of our students in the areas of technology, Quality Internet Access, and Digital Literacy
- C. Coordination across the District to promote efficiency, effectiveness, and transparency while reducing redundancy and complexity.
- D. Optimization of resources through shared services, programs, and purchases
- E. Short term and long term funding for Digital Equity efforts including resource development
- F. Advocacy at the local, state, and National level for Digital Equity issues
- G. Strategic Partnerships to support services, programs, and purchases
- H. Communications and Information Sharing

Workgroup Roles and Responsibilities

- Form Digital Equity workgroup in collaboration with Academic Senate and college leadership
- Scope of this team:
 - Provide Subject Matter Expertise to Digital Equity efforts
 - Perform tasks and contribute in activities and efforts supporting Digital Equity
 - Act as a liaison and information radiator for their respective college stakeholders
 - Engage, lead, and champion recommendations and actions

Workgroup Scope:

- Phase 1:
 - Develop a plan for Spring Semester Digital Equity Efforts
 - Establish performance management program for District Digital Equity efforts
 - Identify long term funding needs for Digital Equity Efforts
 - Develop an approach for securing long term funding for Digital Equity Efforts
 - Establish transparency portal for Digital Equity Efforts
- Phase 2:
 - Develop a plan for Fall 2021 Digital Equity Efforts
 - Collect and report on Data metrics for District Digital Equity efforts

REQUESTOR: Melanie Dixon, Associate Vice Chancellor of Educational Services and Tamara Armstrong, AVC of IT

ONGOING OR ONE-TIME: Ongoing

MEETING FREQUENCY: Monthly

WORKGROUP MEMBERSHIP: TBD through leadership recommendation and formal senate appointments.

Existing Workgroup Members:

Leads– Melanie Dixon, Paula Allison and Tamara Armstrong

Tadael Emiru

Greg Buyer

Nicole Griffin

Valerie Chueh

Victoire Chochezi

Nicholas Daily

Brandy Worsfold

Marsha Reske (Retired)

Tammy Montgomery (Retired)

Karen Tercho

Gabe Ross

Kevin Flash

Betty Glycer Culver

Kellie Butler
Hannah Blodgett
Rawan Shaban