

# Overview of the Schools Digital Strategy

*To be an education leader in a digital world.*



Digital innovation is reshaping our world. The workforce of the future will require people who have received the highest quality education, regardless of circumstance. This is a fundamental goal for the NSW Department of Education.

Our vision is to be Australia's best education system and one of the world's finest. To achieve this, it's essential that our schools, staff and students have access to the highest quality teaching and learning resources.

Digital technology has a key role to play in this. They can improve equity of access, enrich teaching and learning experiences, enhance our capacity to collaborate across and between schools and build stronger partnerships with parents, carers and school communities.

Many of our schools are already using digital tools and learning management solutions to improve student outcomes. The benefits of these new, digitally-enabled approaches are evident wherever they have been applied.

These benefits, however, are not being realised uniformly due to uneven levels of awareness, access, experience and expertise.

Built together with schools, teachers and students, the Schools Digital Strategy is a plan for achieving an education system that maximises the impact and value of digital innovation.

## What will success look like?

Improving our digital maturity will deliver significant benefits for students, teachers, parents, carers and school communities, school leaders and school support staff:

- Students will benefit from more personalised learning and tailored support. They will be able to track their learning progression and interact with their teachers, parents and carers and peers on their learning journey
- Teachers will have professional development, support and resources to help them apply digital tools within the learning environment, with access to real-time data on student progress and models to improve engagement
- Parents, carers and school communities will have greater opportunities to engage and partner with schools through a service channel of their choice
- School leaders will be able to choose the digital journey that suits their schools, with easy access to the systems and services that will enable data-driven decision making, and
- School support staff will have tools and training to help simplify and streamline school management and student administration processes.

## The Strategy at a glance

- 1 Empower schools to shape their digital journey** – by providing resources to help them assess and understand their current digital maturity and plan their development path
- 2 Build our schools' digital equity, experience and capability** – by strengthening our digital foundations, improving device access ratios and raising the quality and availability of digital resources
- 3 Deliver effective digital support** – through a service model that provides training, guidance and direct assistance in integrating digital tools and techniques, and
- 4 Track our outcomes** – by building an evidence base to measure efficacy and progress.

*Digital will deliver equitable opportunities for our students and teachers, enhance learning outcomes and improve the experience of all those that interact with the Department.*

## Immediate focus areas include:

- Improving access to digital resources anywhere in the system and strengthening our support, cybersecurity and cyber safety infrastructure
- Scaling key collaboration and communication tools to support seamless interaction across and between schools, with school communities and wider audiences
- Streamlining and automating school management and student administration processes and delivering intuitive platforms to aid leadership and teacher efficiency
- Delivering guidance and support for schools in planning their digital progression through a practical digital maturity framework aligned to the Schools Excellence Framework (SEF)
- Providing support, training and resources to build new digital capabilities and champion their adoption across and between schools
- Leveraging our data assets and ensuring that each child's learning plans, progression, uptake of tailored resources and student record follows them within and between schools
- Building a service catalogue of high quality digital resources for use across NSW, with advice on the latest innovations taking place in schools, the education sector and industry market
- Providing digital capabilities in learning spaces for real-time evaluation and feedback
- Integrating digital, where appropriate, into personalised learning and formative assessment programs and initiatives such as the Disability Strategy, Bump It Up program, and the High Potential and Gifted programs.

## Implementation

The strategy will be implemented over seven years as an integrated set of initiatives delivered by teams from across the department.

An immediate priority will be to leverage the many valuable assets that are already in use in schools, and make these available across NSW.

Building on this foundation, the ongoing approach to implementation will be to:

- Understand and describe the existing digital assets (from PD, to processes, to platforms) that are active exemplars in NSW schools, forming the basis of the service catalogue
- Use these as the basis for pilots across groups of schools, learning from this experience and adjusting for different school types, and
- Scaling the outcomes of these pilots for use across school networks, measuring benefits and impact and refining plans and resources.

In order to accelerate system-wide change, a digital service catalogue will be published and maintained. It will contain the best proven resources for digital School Management, Student Administration and Teaching and Learning, including:

- The digital resources available to any school in the state, aligned to the Schools Excellence Framework
- Case studies and experiences from other schools, arranged in multivariate models to assist and aid with matching schools, implementation and adoption, and
- Guides for schools on how to innovate and develop new approaches which in turn will be added to the service catalogue for the benefit of other schools.

## Want to get involved?

Principals, teachers, admin and support staff, students, parents and carers and school communities have all been involved in developing the ideas and initiatives that comprise the Schools Digital Strategy.

As well as the pilots mentioned above there will be ongoing opportunities for schools to test and provide feedback on all aspects of the Schools Digital Strategy.

To stay updated visit: [education.nsw.gov.au/schools-digital-strategy](https://education.nsw.gov.au/schools-digital-strategy)

**To read the Schools Digital Strategy or for more information:**

Visit: [education.nsw.gov.au/schools-digital-strategy](https://education.nsw.gov.au/schools-digital-strategy)

Email: [schoolsdigitalstrategy@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:schoolsdigitalstrategy@det.nsw.edu.au)