

# TECHNOLOGY STRATEGIC PLAN



2024 - 2030

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# INTRODUCTION

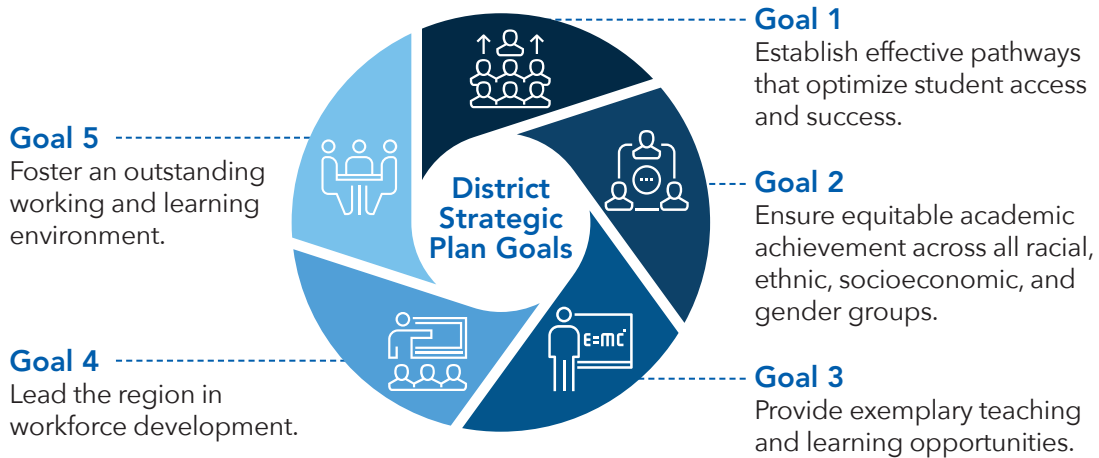
This Technology Strategy for 2024 to 2030 marks the beginning of a new phase of technology leadership for the Los Rios Community College District. Given the increase of digitization, and shifting demographics and learner preferences, the present moment offers an opportune time to define the district's technology priorities and vision for the future. The district has an exciting opportunity to further strengthen its reach and impact, while adopting emerging technologies to enhance student, faculty, and staff experiences. This comprehensive plan outlines our vision, guiding principles, strategic priorities, and signature goals for the next six years and our enduring commitment to serve students, faculty, and staff in a manner that is integrative with future direction of the district, region, and state.

At the heart of this plan is a compelling vision that underscores our commitment to technology's pivotal role in education and organizational excellence. It envisions a technology program that leads in innovation, fosters trust and reliability, and prioritizes the success of all stakeholders. Our guiding principles serve as a moral and operational compass, defining our commitment to professionalism, user-focus, security, collaboration, continuous improvement, and transparency. The strategic priorities identified in this plan reflect our dedication to ensuring that technology aligns with our vision, supports our mission, and enhances the educational experience for our students. Through this plan, we aim to fortify our digital infrastructure, drive innovation in education, promote inclusivity, and empower our technology professionals to contribute effectively to our mission and the success of our entire community.

# STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT

This Technology Strategy is designed to support the attainment of the Los Rios Community College District’s overall Strategic Plan goals, reinforcing a cohesive approach towards advancing our institution’s mission. By establishing a secure and reliable technology foundation, delivering innovative solutions, and addressing digital equity barriers, the priorities directly support the optimization of student access and success. Moreover, our focus on improving communication, fostering a skilled technology team, and cultivating a data-driven culture aligns with broader goals related to fostering an outstanding working and learning environment, equitable academic achievement, and leadership in workforce development. The following graphics illustrate the alignment between the district’s overall Strategic Plan goals with the strategic technology priorities outlined in this plan.

## LOS RIOS STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS



## TECHNOLOGY STRATEGIC PLAN PRIORITIES



**Priority 1: Establish a secure, reliable, and sustainable technology foundation.**  
Supports District Goal 1 by optimizing student access and success through a robust and dependable technological infrastructure.

**Priority 2: Deliver innovative and user-centric solutions to support teaching, learning, and student success.**  
Supports District Goal 3 by providing exemplary teaching and learning opportunities through innovative technology solutions.

**Priority 3: Increase access, improve accessibility, and address digital equity barriers.**  
Supports District Goal 1 by establishing effective pathways that optimize student access and success, while also addressing equity concerns outlined in District Goal 2.

**Priority 4: Improve IT partnership, engagement, and communication across the District and with the broader community.**  
Supports District Goal 5 by enhancing communication and engagement.

**Priority 5: Foster a skilled, dynamic, and unified team of Los Rios technology professionals.**  
Supports District Goal 4 by cultivating a skilled and unified team, ensuring the district leads in the development of our workforce.

**Priority 6: Cultivate and support a data-driven culture, encompassing systems and processes to manage and utilize data effectively.**  
Supports all Goals, but particularly District Goals 3 and 4 by providing data-driven insights for optimizing teaching, learning, and workforce development initiatives.

# TECHNOLOGY VISION

**Advance student, faculty, and staff success by being an innovative, trusted, and reliable strategic technology partner.**

This vision statement reflects a forward-looking commitment to the pivotal role of technology in education and organizational excellence. It envisions a technology function that not only keeps pace with technological advancements but actively leads in innovation, serving as a catalyst for positive change. The emphasis on trust and reliability underscores the importance of a dependable technology infrastructure, essential for the smooth functioning of our colleges. We recognize that this vision can serve a dual purpose; while it establishes an ideal toward which the technology function should strive, the vision also communicates to our students, faculty, staff, and community what it should expect from technology Leadership, holding us accountable to our own ambitious aims. Key components of the vision statement are further defined below:

## **INNOVATIVE**

Underscores our commitment to staying at the forefront of technological advancements. It implies a proactive approach to adopting and creating new technologies and solutions that can drive positive change and progress within the district.

## **TRUSTED & RELIABLE**

Implies a focus on security and dependability. It means that the technology function is dedicated to safeguarding data, ensuring system uptime, and maintaining a high level of integrity in all technology-related activities. We will also be responsive and consistent, ensuring that technology needs of our students, faculty and staff are met.

## **STRATEGIC PARTNER**

Highlights the technology function's role as an integral part of district and college strategic planning and decision-making processes. It suggests that technology is not just a support function but a strategic driver that aligns technology initiatives with the overall goals and objectives of the district.

## **ADVANCING STUDENT, FACULTY, AND STAFF SUCCESS**

The ultimate goal is to use technology to enhance the experiences and outcomes for all stakeholders—students, faculty, and staff. It implies a commitment to creating an environment where technology facilitates learning, teaching, and administrative efficiency, ultimately contributing to the success and growth of the entire district.

# GUIDING PRINCIPLES

At the core of our strategic values are the following six guiding principles that define our approach to serving the Los Rios community. These principles serve as a guiding compass, ensuring that technology initiatives align with our vision; prioritize ethical considerations and user needs; and foster a culture of responsibility, collaboration, and continuous improvement, ultimately leading to our effectiveness and overall success. We expect these principles to embody how we engage, shape our ethos, and drive our daily actions, ensuring that we deliver exceptional technology services and solutions.

## **MODEL THE WAY**

Holding ourselves to the highest standards of professionalism and ethics, demonstrating qualities like reliability, accountability, integrity, self-discipline, and a commitment to providing excellent service.

## **USER FOCUSED**

Focusing on understanding the needs, preferences, and challenges of the college community, ensuring that technology solutions are user-friendly and intuitive.

## **SECURITY MINDED**

Safeguarding data and privacy by implementing robust cybersecurity measures to ensure a safe and protected digital environment.

## **COMMITTED TO COLLABORATION**

Working hand in hand with our college community and vendor partners to collaborate beyond organizational silos and create solutions that effectively address program challenges and needs.


## **IMPROVEMENT CHAMPION**

Continuously assess our processes, services, and listen to user feedback to be responsive to evolving program and user needs and provide the best possible experience.

## **TRANSPARENT**

Committed to maintaining clear and timely communication with the college community regarding technology initiatives, updates, and any changes that may impact their technology usage.

## **COLLEGIAL CONSULTATION**

As technology initiatives are undertaken to achieve the strategic priorities and goals outlined in this plan, we are firmly committed to actively engaging faculty participatory governance on initiatives that fall within the scope of faculty responsibility and academic matters. We recognize the invaluable expertise and insights that our faculty partners contribute, and we are committed to fostering open communication and collaboration to ensure the implementation of this Technology Strategic Plan aligns closely with their academic priorities and needs. To further demonstrate this commitment, each strategic priority and goal identified in this plan that would likely impact 10+1 Academic Matters are denoted with the  icon to highlight these areas for collegial consultation.

# STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

This plan outlines areas of strategic focus for the next six years that will advance our vision and enable our district to better serve students, faculty, and staff. To realize these strategic priorities, Los Rios will continue work on several projects and undertake new signature initiatives, which build on existing strengths and demonstrate the investments that are needed to propel the district forward in completing our strategic goals. These priorities and corresponding goals are not intended to be exhaustive of all activity that has been, or will be, executed under these strategic priorities. The hope is for this plan to continue to inspire innovation among leadership and stakeholders regarding the district's future direction.

## 1. ESTABLISH A SECURE, RELIABLE, AND SUSTAINABLE TECHNOLOGY FOUNDATION

In an era defined by rapid technological advancements, we recognize the importance of fortifying our digital infrastructure, safeguarding it against emerging threats while ensuring its resilience and longevity. This priority entails investing in robust cybersecurity measures to shield our data, systems, and networks from potential breaches, assuring our students, faculty, and staff of uncompromised security. Simultaneously, we commit to building a robust, high-performance technology ecosystem that fosters efficiency and innovation. By anchoring our future in a technologically solid and sustainable foundation, we not only guarantee the continuity of our mission but also empower our organization to adapt, thrive, and lead in an ever-evolving landscape.

### **Signature Goals**

- 1.1 Protect and defend our data and systems through robust security and privacy measures:** In today's climate, where cyber threats are ever-present, safeguarding sensitive information and ensuring the integrity of our systems is paramount. By investing in robust security technologies, fostering a culture of cybersecurity awareness, and adhering to stringent privacy standards, we will demonstrate our unwavering commitment to protecting the confidentiality, availability, and reliability of our data and systems, thereby earning the trust of our stakeholders, and ensuring the resilience of our operations in an increasingly interconnected world. 🎓
- 1.2 Strengthen the performance, reliability, and resilience of our services:** As our district is increasingly reliant on technology to deliver educational services, any technology disruptions can significantly hinder our ability to serve students, faculty, and staff. These risks are amplified as our climate continues to change in dramatic and permanent ways. We will enhance organizational resilience and sustainability by fortifying our capacity to withstand and adapt to the impacts of natural disasters, climate change, and technological disruptions. Through investments in resilient infrastructure, disaster preparedness, and sustainable practices, we aim to ensure uninterrupted district operations, minimize vulnerabilities, and deliver services efficiently, effectively, and reliably to students, faculty, and staff.

**1.3 Reduce redundant and customized tools in favor of sustainable enterprise-wide solutions:** Having multiple overlapping applications in the district has several negative consequences: the technology spend is excessively increased, the buying power of the district is reduced, privacy/security risks are higher, and our students, faculty and staff have disjointed user-experiences. In support of our commitment to optimize and streamline operations, utilizing more standardized and sustainable solutions will improve privacy/security, reduce technical complexity and costs associated with maintaining multiple tools, and puts our organization in a better position for long-term success. An important consideration of this goal is preserving the ability for faculty to choose purpose-specific tools that align with their unique teaching methodologies and course requirements, ensuring an environment that promotes innovation and academic excellence.

**1.4 Utilize environmentally responsible practices in our technology operations, promoting sustainability for a greener future:** Technology utilization can have negative impacts on the environment caused by increased energy consumption and discarded devices becoming hazardous electronic waste. We will aim to minimize the negative effects of our technology operations by incorporating eco-friendly practices to reduce energy consumption, minimize electronic waste, and lower our carbon footprint. This goal not only aligns with our social responsibility but also contributes to a more sustainable and environmentally conscious approach to technology, helping create a healthier planet for future generations.

## 2. DELIVER INNOVATIVE AND USER-CENTRIC SOLUTIONS TO SUPPORT TEACHING, LEARNING, AND STUDENT SUCCESS

We are deeply committed to providing solutions that are both innovative and tailored to the needs of our students, educators, and the pursuit of academic success. Education is not a static entity but a dynamic, evolving journey, and thus, our approach reflects the ever-changing needs and aspirations of our students and educators. In this pursuit, we vow to harness modern technologies, pedagogical insights, and creative problem-solving to craft solutions that transcend the ordinary and inspire excellence in education. By placing the user—the student and teacher—at the heart of our efforts, we aim to co-create an educational ecosystem that not only facilitates learning but also nurtures it, empowering each individual to reach their full potential. 🎓

### **Signature Goals**

**2.1 Ensure technology solutions are designed from an end-user perspective:** User-centered design is an approach that places the needs, preferences, and behaviors of users at the forefront of the design process. By adopting this approach, we prioritize creating solutions that are intuitive, user-friendly, and tailored to meet the specific needs and preferences of our diverse student, faculty, and staff community, ultimately enhancing the learning experience and student success.



**2.2 Support optimization of online education and the delivery of digital student services:** Online education offers many opportunities for innovation, flexibility, and accessibility. By leveraging technology, we aim to create a seamless and engaging online learning experience that caters to the diverse needs of our students. Additionally, our commitment to efficient digital student services ensures that learners have easy access to essential resources, support, and information, improving academic planning and overall success. This goal focuses specifically on the technological support of online education and digital student services, rather than pedagogical strategies.

**2.3 Enhance the effectiveness of classroom technologies to better support a variety of modalities:** We are committed to providing an enriched learning environment that adapts to the evolving educational landscape. By leveraging technology, we aim to empower educators with the tools and resources needed to deliver engaging and interactive in-person, online and hybrid courses. This goal seeks to foster a dynamic and inclusive educational experience that optimally prepares students for success in a rapidly changing world.

**2.4 Support the safe, trustworthy, and responsible use of Artificial Intelligence:** Artificial Intelligence (AI) has the potential to transform various aspects of teaching, learning, administration, and research. While the benefits can be substantial, the technology poses challenges regarding privacy, ethical considerations, and the potential for bias. By prioritizing responsible AI practices, we aim to harness this cutting-edge technology to enhance educational experiences, streamline administrative processes, and foster innovation while ensuring privacy, fairness, and accountability.

## 3. INCREASE ACCESS, IMPROVE ACCESSIBILITY, AND ADDRESS DIGITAL EQUITY BARRIERS

We strive to create a more inclusive and equitable learning environment that provides equal opportunities for all students and stakeholders in this digital age. This entails expanding access to technological resources, ensuring digital platforms and content are accessible to the underserved or individuals with disabilities, and actively identifying and addressing disparities in digital access and skills. This priority seeks to create an environment where all members of the academic community can fully engage with technology and educational resources, regardless of their background or abilities. 🎓

### **Signature Goals**

**3.1 Expand digital equity and accessibility resources for students and employees across the district:** Despite significant growth in the use of technology, work remains to ensure all students and employees within the district have equitable access to reliable, high-speed internet and technology tools for learning and work. By expanding access to digital tools, technology, and high-speed internet, the district aims to bridge the digital divide by ensuring all individuals have equitable access to educational resources. This goal will empower students and employees to thrive in a digital learning environment, promoting inclusivity and fostering a more equitable educational experience.

**3.2 Ensure student, employee and public facing applications and websites comply with state and federal accessibility regulations:** Accessibility regulations help ensure that digital content and services are designed and maintained in a way that allows equal access and usability for individuals with disabilities, promoting inclusivity and eliminating barriers to information and services. By prioritizing accessibility, the district aims to provide equal access to information and services for all individuals, including those with disabilities. This initiative aligns with legislative requirements and reflects a commitment to inclusivity, ensuring that everyone can effectively engage with digital resources and content.

**3.3 Improve digital literacy in our community through basic technology training and education:** Digital literacy underscores our commitment to equip our community with the skills necessary for success in an increasingly digital society. Members of our community need basic technology skills to use technology to safely discover and share information, connect, and communicate effectively online and collaborate with peers. And while doing all of this, they need to be able to recognize privacy risk and practice positive online behavior. By investing in these programs, the district aims to empower individuals to navigate and utilize technology effectively, preparing them for the digital demands of the modern world.

**3.4 Champion inclusive and multilingual content design practices across all digital channels and platforms:** Content design is the process of creating and structuring digital content, such as text, images, videos, and other multimedia elements, to effectively communicate information and accommodate diverse learning styles and abilities. Good content design promotes equality by making content accessible to all, avoiding stereotypes, representing diverse perspectives, and accommodating various linguistic backgrounds. By pursuing this strategic goal, we are committed to fostering an environment where content is universally accessible and diverse audiences feel represented and empowered.

## 4. IMPROVE TECHNOLOGY PARTNERSHIP, ENGAGEMENT, AND COMMUNICATION ACROSS THE DISTRICT AND WITH THE BROADER COMMUNITY

Engagement and communication are essential for building and maintaining effective partnerships that align our technology initiatives with the district's overall goals and objectives. By strengthening collaboration with the broader community, which can include internal programs and functional areas, local organizations, technology vendors, and regional higher education partners, we can leverage external expertise and resources for the benefit of our technology ecosystem.

### ***Signature Goals***

**4.1 Improve technology engagement and partnership with college students, faculty, and staff:** We will create a more collaborative and innovative academic environment by being more intentional in engaging students, faculty, and staff in shaping technology decisions, ensuring that their needs and insights are considered in the development and implementation of technology solutions. By fostering stronger engagement and partnerships, we seek to harness the collective expertise and creativity of our community to drive technological advancements and enhance the overall educational experience.

- 4.2 Maximize the effective use of technology through regular end-user training and development programs:** Effective use of our technology applications and systems is only possible when users are given the proper skills and support to sustain adoption. By investing in ongoing training and development, we aim to empower our students, faculty, and staff to confidently and proficiently engage with technology, thereby enhancing the educational experience and overall efficiency of operations.
- 4.3 Implement enterprise processes that enable transparent, program-driven decision-making and task prioritization:** With increasing demands being put on limited technology resources, it is important to have processes in place to optimize resource allocation and align decisions and priorities with specific programmatic objectives. This approach ensures that resources are directed toward projects that directly support our district and college mission and strategic goals. Additionally, these processes foster more transparency, accountability, and maximize the value we derive from our technology investments. 🎓
- 4.4 Engage in state and local partnerships and collaborative opportunities:** Forging strategic alliances with local and state entities, educational institutions, and community organizations help strengthen the role of our district within the state and help identify areas of opportunities that benefit our students, faculty, and staff. This collaborative approach fosters a stronger sense of community and enables our organization to address complex challenges more effectively while maximizing the impact of our efforts.

## 5. FOSTER A SKILLED, DYNAMIC, AND UNIFIED TEAM OF LOS RIOS TECHNOLOGY PROFESSIONALS

Building a highly capable and cohesive workforce of technology professionals is essential to ensure we can effectively leverage technology to support our educational mission, adapt to changing technological landscapes, and provide seamless and innovative solutions to meet the diverse needs of our stakeholders. This involves nurturing the skills, expertise, and adaptability of our technology professionals to keep pace with evolving trends and the unique needs of our colleges. By fostering a unified and dynamic team, we aim to ensure that our technology professionals can effectively collaborate, innovate, and support the district's mission, contributing to a thriving technology ecosystem that benefits students, faculty, and staff.

### ***Signature Goals***

- 5.1 Improve collaboration and knowledge sharing amongst technology partners across the district:** Enhancing communication and engagement among technology teams and technology partners across the district seeks to break down silos and promote the exchange of knowledge and best practices, ultimately leading to more efficient and effective technology operations. By fostering collaboration and information sharing, we aim to harness our collective expertise to drive innovation, solve complex problems, and better serve the technology needs of our students, faculty, and staff.

**5.2 Foster a culture of innovation and strengthen the technological expertise of Los Rios IT staff through continued professional development:** Cultivating an environment that encourages exploration of new ideas, embraces innovation, and continuously enhances skills will bolster the technological expertise of our technology professionals. Through ongoing professional development and collaborative knowledge sharing we aim to harness the creative potential of our technology professionals and implement more efficient and forward-thinking technology solutions.

**5.3 Unify technical functions and overlapping responsibilities across the district:** Optimizing technical responsibilities across the district involves identifying areas where different departments or teams may have redundant functions or overlapping responsibilities related to technology, and then creating a unified and coordinated approach to streamline these functions. We aim to enhance efficiency, reduce duplication of efforts, and improve resource allocation, ultimately creating a more efficient and effective organization that provides consistent user experience for our students, faculty, and staff.

**5.4 Attract and retain highly skilled IT Staff to effectively deliver technology services and provide exceptional support:** Hiring and retaining a talented and dedicated workforce can be challenging in today's highly competitive job market. We will create an environment that attracts top-tier technology professionals and encourages them to stay through clear career growth and improvement opportunities. By doing so, we aim to ensure that we have the necessary expertise and commitment to consistently deliver high-quality technology services to meet the evolving needs of our colleges.

## 6. CULTIVATE AND SUPPORT A DATA-DRIVEN CULTURE, ENCOMPASSING SYSTEMS AND PROCESSES TO MANAGE AND UTILIZE DATA EFFECTIVELY

An organization with a data-driven culture is dedicated to making sound data-informed decisions in support of the district's mission, treating data as an asset, and using data to tell stories that drive action. By establishing robust systems and processes for collecting, storing, analyzing, and sharing data across our district, we will enable data-driven insights to guide both short-term and long-term strategies and actions.

### *Signature Goals*

**6.1 Establish a comprehensive data management framework that ensures data integrity, accuracy, and compliance:** Data management is an organized system designed to manage data resources in the most efficient and effective way. We will create structured processes, policies, and protocols for data collection, storage, retention, and usage to maintain data quality and protect against unauthorized access. By establishing robust data management practices, we aim to enhance data-driven decision-making, ensure regulatory adherence, and strengthen the overall trustworthiness of our data assets.

**6.2 Provide secure, on-demand access to data by aligning technology infrastructure with data-related needs:** Aligning the district's technology infrastructure with our data requirements helps ensure that data can be accessed securely and efficiently whenever it is needed. By doing so, we aim to create a robust and flexible infrastructure that supports data accessibility, reliability, and security, enabling seamless and reliable access to critical information for informed decision-making and operational efficiency.

**6.3 Foster data literacy and data-related skills of program level staff across the district through training and professional development:** Data literacy is preparing employees with the skills necessary to engage with data relevant to their role within the district. It extends beyond mere analysis to include the ability to communicate effectively about data to others. Empowering classified staff with the necessary knowledge and resources to proficiently collect, interpret, and leverage data is aimed at cultivating a culture driven by data and bolstering evidence-based practices for program enhancement.

**6.4 Establish data sharing partnerships with industry organizations, research institutions, and other higher education entities for benchmarking and collaborative analytics opportunities:** Data provides maximum value when we form collaborative relationships with external partners to share information for mutual benefit. By forging partnerships, we seek to leverage the collective knowledge and resources of our higher education peers, research institutions, and other public sector organizations to access valuable data sources, benchmark our performance, and engage in collaborative analytics, ultimately enhancing our ability to make informed strategic decisions.