

Program Overview

Utah has a powerful opportunity to act, and to harness technology as an extraordinary tool to our benefit. Information technology can help Utah construct an economy that overcomes the obstacle of distance and the constraints of climate. Technology powered learning engages students and enhances learning. Our aim is to leverage Utah's great strengths toward even greater gains for learners across our state. Our schools in Utah have a rich history of successful initiatives and forward thinking movements. At the same time, we realize that there is more to be done to help prepare our students for jobs that do not exist today and to help them thrive in an ever changing world. We must prepare our future workforce for the demands of a world in which everyone will be required to use and create knowledge and leverage technology as a powerful tool to aid in this preparation.

To move all students to high levels of learning powered by technology, all students will need access to infrastructure, devices, and applications that can be most effectively incorporated into learning. While we have some schools doing amazing things, it is imperative that all schools give students the opportunities and tools that they need to succeed in today's global economy. With teachers serving as architects of learning combined with the knowledge to effectively integrate technology, schools can provide students with a pipeline to explore real world concepts, interact with real world experts, and analyze and solve real world problems. Connected technology offers the potential to keep classroom resources and materials current with the contemporary world to an extent that is unprecedented. Technology also offers opportunities for self-directed, personalized learning projects that can tailor the curriculum to student interests and engagement, and allow teachers to facilitate active student learning rather than merely the rote transfer of information. We know that the right technology in schools – learning technology – done the right way can provide these tremendous boosts to teaching and learning. The world is changing whether we will it or not; technology is here whether we embrace it or not. Embracing technology – and making Utah's schools and students the best in America at using it – can establish Utah as a leader and an innovator. If Utah can move to where the opportunities are going to be, our goals will follow. If Utah has the most technologically capable workforce and the most technology-savvy schools in the country, we are confident the economic benefits will follow.