



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

August 29, 2014

Dear Superintendent,

As one of more than 16,000 superintendents leading school districts across the nation, you are on the forefront of the transformation of public education. Technology now allows for personalized digital learning for every student in the nation so long as leaders have the technological infrastructure and human capacity in place to ensure success.

The *Future Ready District Pledge* is designed to set out a roadmap to achieve that success and to commit districts to move as quickly as possible towards our shared vision of preparing students for success in college, careers and citizenship. The U.S. Department of Education seeks to encourage and support superintendents who commit to taking a leadership role in this transition with recognition and resources to help facilitate this transition to digital learning.

In June of 2013, the President launched the [ConnectED Initiative](#) to provide 99% of students in the nation with access to high-speed Internet connectivity at the classroom level. Coupled with two billion dollars from the [federal E-Rate program](#), [increased flexibility in the use of federal funds](#), and [billions of dollars in additional commitments from the private sector](#), progress towards improving the nation's physical infrastructure has already been dramatically accelerated.

However, in order for these resources to leverage their maximum impact on student learning, schools and districts must develop the human capacity, digital materials, and device access to use the new bandwidth wisely and effectively. The *Future Ready District Pledge* establishes a framework for achieving those goals and will be followed by providing district leaders with additional implementation guidance, online resources, and other support they need to transition to effective digital learning and achieve tangible outcomes for the students they serve.

Secretary Duncan and The U.S. Department of Education are calling on superintendents like you who lead district, charter, and private schools to join us in taking the *Future Ready District Pledge* and working to develop, implement, and share your technology plan with other districts so they can learn from your successes and challenges along the way.

Thank you for all you are already doing to improve the education for our nation's students. Do not hesitate to reach out to us for support. We stand ready to help you become a Future Ready district.

Richard Culatta

Director, Office of Educational Technology
Office of the Secretary

Seth Andrew

Senior Advisor & Superintendent in Residence
Office of the Secretary

For more information visit www.tech.ed.gov/futurereadypledge

Future Ready District Pledge

I, Donna M. Hargens, Ed.D., Superintendent of Jefferson County Public Schools do hereby affirm the commitment of this district to work with students, educators, families, and members of our community to become Future Ready by engaging in a wide range of activities such as:

❖ **Fostering and leading a culture of digital learning within our schools.**

Future Ready district leadership teams work collaboratively to transform teaching and learning using the power of technology to help drive continuous improvement. We work together to protect student privacy and to teach students to become responsible, engaged, and contributing digital citizens.

❖ **Helping schools and families transition to high-speed connectivity.**

Future Ready districts conduct comprehensive diagnostic assessments of the district's technology infrastructure and develop a sustainable plan to ensure broadband classroom connectivity and wireless access. Future Ready districts work with community partners to leverage local, state, and federal resources to support home Internet access outside of traditional school hours.

❖ **Empowering educators through professional learning opportunities.**

Future Ready districts strive to provide everyone with access to personalized learning opportunities and instructional experts that give teachers and leaders the individual support they need, when they need it. Future Ready districts provide tools to help teachers effectively leverage learning data to make better instructional decisions.

❖ **Accelerating progress toward universal access for all students to quality devices.**

Future Ready districts work with necessary stakeholders to ensure that all students and educators across the district have regular access to devices for learning. Future Ready districts develop tools to support a robust infrastructure for managing and optimizing safe and effective use of technology, so students have opportunities to be active learners, creating and sharing content, not just consuming it.

❖ **Providing access to quality digital content.**

Future Ready districts align, curate, create, and consistently improve digital materials and apps used in the support of learning. Future Ready districts use carefully selected high quality digital content that is aligned to college and career ready standards as an essential part of daily teaching and learning. Teachers are able to share, discover, and adapt openly-licensed materials and teaching plans.

❖ **Offering digital tools to help students and families #ReachHigher.**

Future Ready districts make digital resources available that help access expanded college, career, and citizenship opportunities. Future Ready districts promote ways to leverage technology to expand equity through digital activities such as completion of the FAFSA online, virtual counseling services, college scholarship search tools, and online advising access, all of which help to return America to the nation in the world with the highest college completion rate by 2020.

❖ **Mentoring other districts and helping them transition to digital learning.**

Future Ready districts work to design, implement, and share their technology plans. Future Ready districts join regional summits, participate in an online Connected Superintendents' community of practice, and publish their Future Ready technology plan at a site such as www.MyDistrict.org/FutureReady.

Signed _____

Date _____

District Jefferson County Public School District

State Kentucky

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