

Technology Applications (Computer Literacy), Grades 6-8

(a) General requirements. Districts have the flexibility of offering technology applications (computer literacy) in a variety of settings, including a specific class or integrated into other subject areas.

(1) The technology applications curriculum has four strands: foundations, information acquisition, work in solving problems, and communication.

(2) Through the study of technology applications foundations, including technology-related terms, concepts, and data input strategies, students learn to make informed decisions about technologies and their applications. The efficient acquisition of information includes the identification of task requirements; the plan for using search strategies; and the use of technology to access, analyze, and evaluate the acquired information. By using technology as a tool that supports the work of individuals and groups in solving problems, students will select the technology appropriate for the task, synthesize knowledge, create a solution, and evaluate the results. Students communicate information in different formats and to diverse audiences. A variety of technologies will be used. Students will analyze and evaluate the results.

(6-8.1) Foundations. The student demonstrates knowledge and appropriate use of hardware components, software programs, and their connections. The student is expected to:

(A) demonstrate knowledge and appropriate use of operating systems, software applications, and communication and networking components;

(B) compare, contrast, and appropriately use the various input, processing, output, and primary/secondary storage devices;

(C) demonstrate the ability to select and use software for a defined task according to quality, appropriateness, effectiveness, and efficiency;

(D) delineate and make necessary adjustments regarding compatibility issues including, but not limited to, digital file formats and cross platform connectivity;

(E) use technology terminology appropriate to the task;

(F) perform basic software application functions including, but not limited to, opening an application program and creating, modifying, printing, and saving documents;

(G) compare the differences between analog (older technology) and digital technology systems and give examples of each;

(H) use terminology related to the Internet appropriately including, but not limited to, electronic mail (e-mail), Uniform Resource Locators (URLs), electronic bookmarks, local area networks (LANs), wide area networks (WANs), World Wide Web (WWW) page, and HyperText Markup Language (HTML); and

(I) compare and contrast LANs, WANs, Internet, and intranet.

(6-8.2) Foundations. The student uses data input skills appropriate to the task. The student is expected to:

(A) demonstrate proficiency in the use of a variety of input devices such as mouse/track pad, keyboard, microphone, digital camera, printer, scanner, disk/disc, modem, CD-ROM, or joystick; as well as a calculator

(B) demonstrate keyboarding proficiency in technique and posture while building speed;

(C) use digital keyboarding standards for data input such as one space after punctuation, the use of em/en dashes, and smart quotation marks; and

(D) develop strategies for saving digital files while conserving memory and retaining image quality.

(6-8.3) Foundations. The student complies with the laws and examines the issues regarding the use of technology in society. The student is expected to:

(A) discuss copyright laws/issues and model ethical acquisition and use of digital information, citing sources using established methods;

(B) demonstrate proper etiquette and knowledge of acceptable use while in an individual classroom, lab, or on the Internet and intranet;

(C) describe the consequences regarding copyright violations including, but not limited to, computer hacking, computer piracy, intentional virus setting, and invasion of privacy;

(D) identify the impact of technology applications on society through research, interviews, and personal observation; and

(E) demonstrate knowledge of the relevancy of technology to future careers, life-long learning, and daily living for individuals of all ages.

(6-8.4) Information acquisition. The student uses a variety of strategies to acquire information from electronic resources, with appropriate supervision. The student is expected to:

(A) use strategies to locate and acquire desired information on local networks, including the Internet, intranet, and collaborative software; and

(B) apply appropriate electronic search strategies in the acquisition of information including keyword search strategies.

(6-8.5) Information acquisition. The student acquires electronic information in a variety of formats, with appropriate supervision. The student is expected to:
(A) identify, create, and use files in various formats such as text, bitmapped/vector graphics, image, video, and audio files;
(B) demonstrate the ability to access, operate, and manipulate information from secondary storage and remote devices including flashdrives and on-line catalogs; and
(C) use on-line help and other documentation.
(6-8.6) Information acquisition. The student evaluates the acquired electronic information. The student is expected to:
(A) determine and employ methods to evaluate the electronic information for accuracy and validity;
(B) resolve information conflicts and validate information through accessing, researching, and comparing data;
(C) demonstrate the ability to identify the source, location, media type, relevancy, and content validity of available information.
(6-8.7) Solving problems. The student uses appropriate computer-based productivity tools to create and modify solutions to problems. The student is expected to:
(A) plan, create, and edit documents created with a word processor using readable fonts, alignment, page setup, tabs, and ruler settings;
(B) create and edit spreadsheet documents using all data types, formulas and functions, and chart information;
(C) plan, create, and edit databases by defining fields, entering data, and designing layouts appropriate for reporting (computer lit. course obj. only)
(D) demonstrate proficiency in the use of multimedia authoring programs by creating linear or non-linear projects incorporating text, audio, video, and graphics;
(E) create a document using desktop publishing techniques including, but not limited to, the creation of multi-column or multi-section documents with a variety of text-wrapped frame formats;
(G) integrate two or more productivity tools into a document including, but not limited to, tables, charts and graphs, graphics from paint or draw programs, and mail merge;
(H) use interactive virtual environments, appropriate to level, such as virtual reality or simulations;
(J) use foundation and enrichment curricula in the creation of products.
(6-8.8) Solving problems. The student uses research skills and electronic communication, with appropriate supervision, to create new knowledge. The student is expected to:
(A) participate with electronic communities as a learner, initiator, contributor, and teacher/mentor;
(B) complete tasks using technological collaboration such as sharing information through on-line communications;
(C) use collaborative software, and productivity tools to create products;
(D) use technology in self-directed activities by sharing products for defined audiences; and
(E) integrate acquired technology applications skills, strategies, and use of the word processor, database, spreadsheet, telecommunications, draw, paint, and utility programs into the foundation and enrichment curricula.
(6-8.9) Solving problems. The student uses technology applications to facilitate evaluation of work, both process and product. The student is expected to:
(A) design and implement procedures to track trends, set timelines, and review/evaluate progress for continual improvement in process and product; and
(B) resolve information conflicts and validate information through research and comparison of data.
(6-8.10) Communication. The student formats digital information for appropriate and effective communication. The student is expected to:
(A) use productivity tools to create effective document files for defined audiences such as slide shows, posters, multimedia presentations, newsletters, brochures, or reports;
(B) demonstrate the use of a variety of layouts in a database to communicate information appropriately including horizontal and vertical layouts;
(C) create a variety of spreadsheet layouts containing descriptive labels and page settings;
(D) demonstrate appropriate use of fonts, styles, and sizes, as well as effective use of graphics and page design to effectively communicate; and
(E) match the chart style to the data when creating and labeling charts.
(6-8.11) Communication. The student delivers the product electronically in a variety of media, with appropriate supervision. The student is expected to:
(A) publish information in a variety of ways including, but not limited to, printed copy, monitor display, Internet documents, and video;
(B) design and create interdisciplinary multimedia presentations for defined audiences including audio, video, text, and graphics; and

(6-8.12) Communication. The student uses technology applications to facilitate evaluation of communication, both process and product. The student is expected to:

(A) design and implement procedures to track trends, set timelines, and review and evaluate the product using technology tools such as database managers, daily/monthly planners, and project management tools;

(B) determine and employ technology specifications to evaluate projects for design, content delivery, purpose, and audience, demonstrating that process and product can be evaluated using established criteria or rubrics;

(C) select representative products to be collected and stored in an electronic evaluation tool; and

(D) evaluate the product for relevance to the assignment or task.