Information and Technology Literacy has significant value for students to support learning across all content areas. Our students are living in a digital world where communication skills, critical thinking skills, collaboration, and creativity are necessary to solve real-world problems. These are the skills and characteristics all students need to be career and college ready. Equitable access is vital to allow educators across the state to leverage digital tools and resources to personalize learning, engage students, and empower them to take ownership of their classroom experiences.

Wisconsin has refreshed the state Digital Learning Plan (2016) to support digital learning strategic goals for student learning. These goals ensure equitable access to learning opportunities for all students that are applied, engaged, and personalized. The Plan identifies key elements for districts to create a shared vision to support digital learning experiences for all students that includes broadband and robust infrastructure, data privacy and security, and high-quality professional learning that is innovative and empowers digital leadership.

To clearly identify what students should be able to know and do across all content areas with information, media and digital literacy; the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction has created the Wisconsin Standards for Information and Technology Literacy (ITL). These new ITL standards provide local districts a framework for integration across curriculum, instructional practices, and assessment strategies. This integration is best supported by a district and building-level collaborative team using a planning and support model to ensure the equitable access of learning for all students.

The integration of information, media, and literacy into schools creates learning experiences for all students that are relevant, rigorous, and authentic. We need to ensure students gain the skills and knowledge needed to be successful, contributing members of a global society. The adoption of these standards will contribute to an enhanced learning experience for all students by allowing them to take ownership of their learning to make learning more meaningful.

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