

NINE WAYS THAT CoSN ANSWERS YOUR KEY QUESTIONS

LEADERSHIP AND VISION

- 1 How can I build a pathway to leadership?
- 2 What do I need to know about policy and why is it important?
- 3 How can building a learning community help me define a strategic vision?

EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT

- 4 Is my district assessment ready?
- 5 What can I do to help remove department silos and improve alignment?
- 6 What are innovative districts doing and how can I learn from my peers?

- 7 How can I demonstrate the value of investment?
- 8 Where can I get information to help me successfully implement technology initiatives?
- 9 How can emerging technologies improve learning in my district?

MANAGING TECHNOLOGY



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Overworked Chief Technology Officers (CTOs) need answers to the key challenges they face. CoSN provides an extensive range of resources linked to the *Framework of Essential Skills of the K-12 CTO* and focused on leadership, understanding the educational environment, and managing technology.

LEADERSHIP AND VISION

1 How can I build a pathway to leadership? What skills do I need to succeed as a school system technology leader? How do I find a place in the district cabinet/leadership?

- The *Framework of Essential Skills* defines the core competencies of high performing school district CTOs—this is the body of knowledge a CTO needs.
- The *CETL Certification Program* is an aspirational credential which tests your knowledge of the *Framework*. [Learn how to prepare for the CETL and communicate its value to your superintendent and cabinet members.](#)
- *CoSN's Annual IT Leadership Survey* reveals the trends and priorities within your field.
- The CTO Forum report, *Demonstrating Your Value to the Superintendent and the District*, and the *Administrators Guide* outlines what needs to occur to build an effective district technology team.

2 What do I need to know about policy and why it is important? What is the policy context shaping technology today? How do I stay current?

- CoSN's annual school district network infrastructure survey provides the latest in understanding priorities and challenges for district technology leaders.
- Policy statements and advocacy alerts through the [CoSN Advocacy Network](#) allow your voice to be heard on our priorities—E-rate, funding, assessment readiness, and privacy.
- CoSN's monthly Washington Update (member only) policy newsletter, keeps you in the know.

3 How can building a learning community help me to define a strategic vision? Where can I connect with my peers and learn about leading practices?

- [State chapters](#) are a great way to connect with local peers.
- CoSN Annual Conference brings ed tech district leaders together -- visit <http://cosnconference.org> for full info.
- [CTO Clinics](#) held around the U.S. in conjunction with state chapters are outstanding professional development and networking opportunities.
- CTO Forums take place twice a year and focus on timely and relevant topics.

EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT

4 **Is my district assessment ready?** How do I get IT ready for online high stakes assessments? Does my school district infrastructure enable robust digital learning?

- *Raising the BAR: Becoming Assessment Ready suite of resources* includes white paper, readiness recommendations and checklists, school district case studies, and FAQs. The complimentary member webinar is archived.

5 **What can I do to help remove department silos and improve alignment?** How can technology move from being another department in the district to enabling collaboration across the school system?

- *Rethinking Equity in a Digital Era: Forging a Strong Partnership Between District Title I and Technology* toolkit in collaboration with National Title I Association
- CTO Forum Reports often focus on the theme of breaking down silos:
 - » *The Technology Department Landscape. That was Then, This is Now!*
 - » *Building a Powerful Team for Blended Learning*
 - » *Common Core Standards—How Technology Services & Curriculum Can Work Together When We Think Differently*

6 **What are innovative districts doing and how can I learn from my peers?**

- Online and blended communities of practice are leveraged in CoSN's *Teaming for Transformation and Collaboration for Innovation*.
- *CoSN Awards recognize leaders and innovators and honor excellence*

MANAGING TECHNOLOGY

7 **How can I demonstrate the value of investment?** How do I validate the value of investing in technology in an era of limited resources?

- SmartIT initiative identifies strategies for understanding total cost of ownership, showing value of investment, saving money with green technologies, and identifying key performance indicators.

8 **Where can I get information to help me successfully implement technology initiatives in my district?**

- *Smart Education Networks by Design* provides Design Guidelines and Checklist
- *Leadership for Mobile Learning* offers Administrator's Guide, Infographic, and Insights from pioneering leaders
- *Protecting Privacy in Connected Learning* Toolkit contains a decision matrix for FERPA and COPPA compliance, examples, and checklists
- *Using Data to Inform Instruction* has a professional development toolkit, SIS/LMS selection and implementation templates, reports and case studies
- *Empowering the 21st Century Superintendent* helps superintendents build their knowledge to be effective technology leaders.
- *Connected Learning* is a framework dealing with opportunities and challenges of digital media:
 - » *Rethinking Acceptable Use Policies to Enable Digital Learning: A Guide for School Districts*
 - » *Making Progress: Rethinking State and School District Policies Concerning Mobile Technologies and Social Media*
 - » *7 Keys to Unlocking School Transformation with Digital Media*

9 **How can emerging technologies improve learning in my district?** How can these new technologies address education problems and to prepare students for success in college, career, and life?

- The Annual *New Media Consortium/CoSN Horizon K-12 Report* highlights emerging technologies for learning
- Complimentary Webinars are for members:include
 - » *Can School Systems Leverage "Hybrid Innovation" Strategies to Improve Learning?*
 - » *Can Learning Analytics Enable Personalized Learning?*
- EdTechNext reports on key emerging technologies include :
 - » *Small Screens, Big Plans*
 - » *Flexible Mobile Platforms*

