

HELEn Initiative

What does HELEn stand for?

Highly

Engaged

Learning

Environment

What is HELEn?

The HELEn Initiative provides a clear framework for New Albany Floyd County Schools 1:1 technology initiative. Instead of focusing solely on the device, this initiative is focused on the total learning environment inside and outside of our classrooms.

What are the goals of the HELEn Initiative?

- Improve student engagement by making learning more relevant
- Improve connectivity skills
- Encourage communication among teachers and students
- Increase student choices for learning
- Teach digital citizenship

Why did we launch this initiative?

We want to ensure that every student in our district has access to knowledge and the tools of their time. Ultimately, we know our students' success will be measured by their ability to connect with information and all learners across the world through their use of technology.

How did we prepare for our current HELEn Initiative?

- Site visits to other schools
- Instructional Assessment Report to determine current use of technology
- Professional Development for our administrative team (Admin Academies)
- Professional Development for our teachers (Formation of the HELEn Cadre)
- Pilot Program for devices with teachers and students
- Informational Sessions for Parents

What is the scope of the current HELEn Initiative?

Currently, students in grades 10 and 11 have 1:1 with iPads. All teachers at the high school level are regularly involved in teacher-led professional development opportunities such as monthly collaboration training sessions. During these collaboration sessions, teachers have the opportunity to participate in learning activities centered around the following topics: (1) communicating with students and parents, (2) creating engaging lessons, (3) collecting meaningful data from summative and formative assessments, and (4) curating digital content.

What are our future plans for expansion of the HELEn Initiative?

Using what we've learned from our current HELEn Initiative, we have plans in place to expand our initiative to grades 9 and 12 during the fall of the 2016-17 school year. Furthermore, we also have plans to extend this initiative to the middle schools in our district. Beginning with a pilot group of 7th and 8th grade teachers during the second semester of the 2016-2017 school year, NAFCS will replicate the process used with the high school teachers and students. Throughout the pilot, teachers will be provided with professional development and opportunities to share ideas and collaborate with each other in digital content curation, curriculum mapping, and lesson planning. After the completion of the initial 7th and 8th grade pilot, devices will be rolled out to 7-8 students and a 5-6 grade pilot will be conducted. The focus during these periods of expansion will be on supporting teachers and students in creating and contributing to a **Highly Engaged Learning Environment**.