NSW Department of Education

Schools Digital Strategy 2019 – 2026

What is this?

The world is turning truly digital. To become Australia's best education system and one of the finest in the world, we need to engage students and schools in learning the digital skills they need right now and in the future.

The Schools Digital Strategy (SDS) is our pathway to improving digital literacy and efficacy across the board. The SDS has been developed by listening to our schools and our business, and builds on the Department's Executive priorities.

Where we are

Right now, we have a range of digital opportunities to leverage:

- Improved and automated systems for schools offer an opportunity to free up valuable time for school leaders, teachers and administration staff.
- Teachers and schools have firsthand experience to recognising student needs and innovation opportunities within the learning experience.
- Customer interactions are well-served in places, and could be connected to form a seamless customer experience.
- Schools who have taken the lead on digital maturity provide important lessons to learn and share.
- A wealth of student and school data is being collected, and presents an opportunity to help make more informed decisions.

Where we need to be

In the future, schools will be empowered to chart their own digital course to best deliver on customer needs, supported by the Department.

This includes:

- Educational equity, facilitated by the Department.
- School staff, leaders and teachers freed up to focus on students by automated school processes, student administration and teaching and learning systems.
- All parties making better, more informed decisions through a unified record of student data.
- Seamless customer experience for parents/guardians and students, thanks to digital systems and processes.

Our considerations

- Schools are best placed to take charge of their own digital journey, and innovate based on their needs.
- Teachers' digital literacy is a powerful lever to pull in improving digital maturity and improving the learning experience.
- The Department is best placed to provide support to schools on their digital journey, and leverage their network perspective for innovation.
- Real time feedback and collaboration within the learning environment will improve student outcomes.
- The digital playing field needs to be levelled across the state to ensure equity of opportunity for all students.

Our Digital Vision

To be an education leader in a digital world.

Our Strategy

1. Empower schools to shape their digital journey

- Enable digital maturity assessment and benchmarking.
- Enable schools to plan and implement new capabilities and measure their success.

2. Build our schools digital equity and capability

- Deliver digital teaching and learning.
- Improve student administration and school management.
- Drive collaboration and communication.
- Enhance our data, analytics and reporting capabilities.
- Strengthen our digital and equity foundations.

3. Align the department to support schools

- Re-orient the service model to better support teaching and learning, and empower the edge.
- Scale continuous innovation at the edge.

Our Roadmap

The SDS requires investment in 4 key areas:
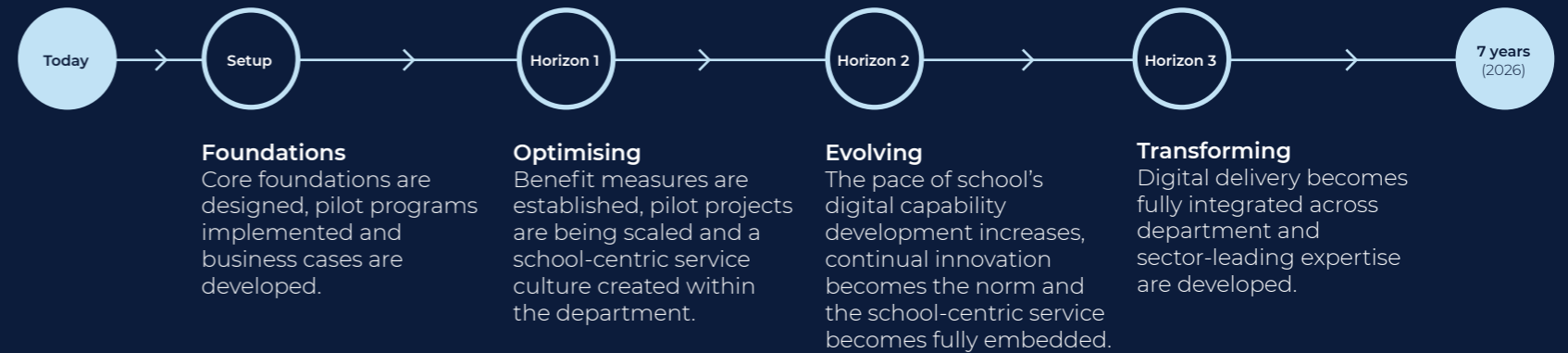
- Digital maturity and user capacity
- Digital content, experience and data
- Digital devices, network and infrastructure
- Digital support and innovation

Building the digital maturity of schools

The SDS will be implemented over three horizons, spanning seven years.

Today → Setup → Horizon 1 → Horizon 2 → Horizon 3 → 7 years (2026)

Foundations
Core foundations are designed, pilot programs implemented and business cases are developed.

Optimising
Benefit measures are established, pilot projects are being scaled and a school-centric service culture created within the department.

Evolving
The pace of school's digital capability development increases, continual innovation becomes the norm and the school-centric service becomes fully embedded.

Transforming
Digital delivery becomes fully integrated across department and sector-leading expertise are developed.

Our Future

The future of education will see students learn on their own terms. Their teachers, empowered to innovate, will continuously improve the learning environment. Outcomes and impacts will be measured to affirm growth.

School leaders and staff will be supported by efficient administration and management processes, and parents, carers and school communities will enjoy seamless digital interactions as they engage with schools.

Our schools will be a connected network, backed by the department.

Key benefits:

- Students are engaged and prepared for jobs of the future
- Improved equity access to digital devices and learning opportunities
- Data-driven student outcomes
- Improved customer experience for everyone interacting with schools
- Improved school and student management efficiency

Outcomes

Digital will deliver equitable opportunities for our students and teachers, enhance learning outcomes and improve the experience of all those that interact with the department.

Students
2021
Online learning resources.

2026
Personalised learning and performance tracking.

Teachers
2021
Greater ability to integrate digital devices into the learning experience.

2026
Skills to integrate digital into any learning experience and measure impact.

Parents and carers
2021
Centralised hub for child's school records and administration.

2026
Real time visibility into child's learning journey and seamless connection to teachers and school.

School leadership and management
2021
Framework to assess digital maturity of school and service catalogue to guide digital device / resource purchases.

2026
Predictive and behavioural analytics to guide decision making.

Student admin and support staff
2021
Increased efficiency in school administrative processes.

2026
Advanced analytics to guide decision making.

NSW GOVERNMENT