**K-12**
**BLUEPRINT**

# Infrastructure Considerations

There are many factors to consider when building an infrastructure to support learning. But the most important factor is just that: it must support learning! This is why giving educators a voice in the process is so crucial: this ensures that the educational technology employed is rooted in practical research and classroom realities.

The first question is to ask why technology is being incorporated in the first place? What is the overall goal?

An infrastructure should never be intended to replace a teacher. Instead, it should support and empower them by helping to relieve administration hassles, deepen their relationship with students, help to make assessment a regular part of the curriculum, and to make learning more personal.

Ease of integration is also important, with technology seamlessly integrating into classroom learning as well as a school's existing infrastructure. Lack of high-speed access is a considerable roadblock for educators: if technology is frustrating, it is a barrier to learning and has no place in the classroom.

Full infrastructure and administrative support is vital to a successful 1:1 implementation. A dedicated infrastructure team can make all the difference: ideally, led by a network manager along with a student database administrator and a data entry clerk.

Before implementing a technology implementation plan, you need a thorough understanding of school or district technology readiness. To get a clear picture, gather information from parents, students, educators, and administrators on technology and learning readiness.

For example, data collected could show that the necessary infrastructure is in place, but that additional professional development for teachers is needed. This data will serve as the compass for digital transformation: engaging stakeholders and allowing them to have a voice in the process.

A staggered deployment can also help in terms of professional development, technical management, and instructional support.

Above all, an infrastructure should support tools that fill a true need in the classroom. Access should be immediate and appropriate for all stakeholders, with every aspect of implementation centered on the learner.