

ILLINOIS PK-12 TECHNOLOGY PERSONNEL

**Work Environment, Benefits,
and Satisfaction Report**

2021

Summary

PK-12 school technology personnel that lead technology initiatives, maintain infrastructure and systems, and support end-users are essential to the educational and operational success of districts and schools.

Although some regional or small-group surveys have previously collected information regarding the working environment and salary of technology personnel, a statewide survey has never been conducted. To this end, the Learning Technology Center (LTC) of Illinois administered a study to identify trends in areas like demographics, working environments, responsibilities, benefits, and job satisfaction. In particular, we were looking to better understand these key elements:

- The demographic makeup of IT personnel in Illinois;
- Rates of job satisfaction;
- Differences in contractual expectations and compensation between different geographic areas and district sizes; and
- Generalities about salary, benefits, and work environments.

The results of the study will inform the LTC's work around equity and opportunities and, we believe, empower technology personnel who seek to understand their role, expectations, and career opportunities. The LTC intends to administer versions of this survey on an annual basis. Suggestions or comments regarding future studies can be sent to support@ltcillinois.org.

Methodology

On February 8, 2021, the LTC sent email invitations to approximately 1,200 school district technology staff that were identified as having technology-related roles or job titles. The survey closed 20 days later on February 28, 2021. Prior to launch, survey questions were reviewed by district representatives to determine relevance and impact. A total of 185 individuals responded to all or a portion of the survey with the understanding that the report of findings would contain no personally identifiable information. Therefore, readers must consider the data descriptive and not necessarily representative of all technology staff.

In our analysis, results are often separated by “Technology Leader” and “Technology Support” to increase relevance. Although some job titles, like Chief Technology Office, clearly indicate that the role is a leadership role, many districts use job titles like “technology coordinator” to indicate both a leadership role or a support role. Therefore, multiple data points contributed to the grouping of jobs into the two main categories, such as number of employees supervised versus number of technology staff in the district. Of those who responded to the survey, 73% identified themselves as having technology leadership roles (i.e., Chief Technology Officers, Technology Directors, etc.) and 27% as technology support roles (i.e., Network Administrators, User Support Specialists, etc.).

Profile of Technology Personnel

27.61% of technology leaders who responded identified themselves as female, while 31.25% of technology support personnel reported as being female. The average age of both technology leaders and support personnel who responded was 46.1. The youngest respondent was 20 while the oldest was 68 years old. The majority of technology leaders (96.21%) and support personnel (89.36%) indicated a race/ethnicity of white.

Most technology leaders and support personnel reported a bachelor's degree (37.4%) or master's degree (39.6%) as their highest earned degree, while 1.6% hold a doctorate degree.

Key Findings

- Females make up only 28.4% of the surveyed K-12 educational technology workforce in Illinois.
- Whites make up a disproportionate 94% of the surveyed K-12 educational technology workforce in Illinois.

Table 1: Demographics

	Technology Leader		Technology Support	
	%	n	%	n
Gender/Sex				
Female	27.61%	37	31.25%	15
Male	71.64%	96	68.75%	33
Prefer not to say	.76%	1	0%	0
Race/Ethnicity				
American Indian	0%	0	0%	0
Asian	2.27%	3	0%	0
Black or African American	1.52%	2	2.13%	1
Hispanic or Latino/Latina	0%	0	0%	0
Native Hawaiiin or Pacific Islander	0%	0	4.26%	2

White	96.21%	127	89.36%	42
Two or more races	0%	0	4.26%	2
District Type				
Public	92.54%	124	93.88%	46
Private	7.46%	10	6.12%	3
Grade Level				
Elementary School District	36.92%	48	33.33%	16
Middle School District	.77%	1	2.08%	1
Middle School & High School District	2.31%	3	14.58%	7
High School District	12.31%	16	10.42%	5
Unit District	47.69%	62	39.58%	19
Buildings				
1	18.75%	24	22.92%	11.00
2-5	53.13%	68	50%	24.00
6-10	14.06%	18	12.50%	6.00
11-20	8.59%	11	8.33%	4.00
21 or more	5.47%	7	6.25%	3.00
Student Population				
Under 200	4.62%	6	8.33%	4
200 - 1,000	36.15%	47	43.75%	21
1,001 - 5,000	46.92%	61	29.17%	14
5,001 - 10,000	7.69%	10	12.50%	6
10,001 - 15,000	3.08%	4	4.17%	2
More than 15,000	1.54%	2	2.08%	1

n= Sample Size

Experience

Technology leaders have an average of 17.6 years of technology experience at any district or company and 12 years of experience in their current position. Technology support personnel have an average of 16.9 years of technology experience total and 10.2 years in their current district.

Key Findings

- Technology personnel stay in a district approximately 9-12 years, on average.
- Regardless of responsibility level, technology personnel have an average of 17 years of experience in the field.
- While most technology personnel are in their mid-40's, there is a substantial range in age.
- Most technology personnel (74.50%) have advanced certifications.

Table 2: Experience

	Group	n	M	SD	Range
Years in current district	TL	134	12	7.6	1-33
	TS	48	9	6.4	1-31
Years of technology experience	TL	133	17	8.7	1-30
	TS	48	17	9.9	2-41
Current age	TL	134	46	9.5	20-55
	TS	43	45	10.5	29-68

TL = Technology Leaders | TS = Technology Support | n= Sample Size | M = Mean | SD = Standard Deviation

Table 3: Education

	Technology Leader		Technology Support	
	%	n	%	n
District Type				
High School	11.19%	15	12.50%	5
Associates	35.82%	48	35.00%	14
Some College	2.24%	3	2.50%	1
Bachelors	2.99%	4	35.00%	14
Masters	41.79%	56	12.50%	5
Doctorate	5.22%	7	0%	0
Advanced Certifications				
Cloud Certification(s)	4.48%	6	7.50%	3
Google Certification(s)	38.06%	51	32.50%	13
Microsoft Certification(s)	13.43%	18	27.50%	11
Network Certification(s)	14.93%	20	30.00%	12
Project Management Certification(s)	2.99%	4	5.00%	2
Security Certification(s)	6.72%	9	5.00%	2
Certified Educational Technology Leader (CETL)	8.96%	12	2.50%	1
Teacher License (Professional Educator License)	32.09%	43	25.00%	10
Teacher Leader Endorsement	0.75%	1	0.00%	0
Principal/Admin Endorsement	19.40%	26	5.00%	2
Chief School Business Official (CSBO) Endorsement	2.99%	4	2.50%	1
Superintendent Endorsement	2.99%	4	0.00%	0
Other	24.63%	33	25.00%	10

n= Sample Size

Contractual Responsibilities

Contractual responsibilities focus on the high-level expectations and responsibilities identified at a contractual level. While performance responsibilities such as managing networks or developing a technology vision are equally important, we did not collect this information because the breadth of possible options makes a comparison challenging.

Key Findings

- The majority of technology leaders (97.73%) and technology support personnel (97.92%) are full-time employees on 12-month contracts.
- Most technology leaders have at least some influence over their budget (95.49%).
- Technology leaders typically supervise 2-5 employees (34.11%), though this varies greatly based on the number of students in the district and location of the district.

Table 4: Contractual Responsibilities

	Technology Leader		Technology Support	
	%	n	%	n
Type of Employment				
At-Will or Hourly	0.76%	1	2.08%	1
Full-Time	97.73%	129	97.92%	47
Part-Time	1.52%	2		
Number of People Supervised				
None	28.68%	37	78.72%	37
1	11.63%	15	21.28%	10
2 - 5	34.11%	44	0%	0
6 - 10	10.85%	14	0%	0
11-15	7.75%	10	0%	0
16-20	3.88%	5	0%	0
21-25	0.78%	1	0%	0
26-30	0.78%	1	0%	0

More than 35	1.55%	2	0%	0
Months Worked Per Year				
9	3.01%	4	14.89%	7
10	8.27%	11	8.51%	4
11	5.26%	7	8.51%	4
12	83.46%	111	68.09%	32
Hours Worked Per Week				
20 or Less	1.50%	2	4.17%	2
21 - 40	16.54%	22	47.92%	23
41 - 50	66.17%	88	39.58%	19
More than 50	15.79%	21	8.33%	4
Control Over Budget				
No Influence	4.51%	6	31.25%	15
Some Influence	20.30%	27	43.75%	21
Partial Control	36.84%	49	20.83%	10
Complete Control	38.35%	51	4.17%	2
Utilizes 3rd Party Vendors to Support Technology				
Never/Rarely	33.83%	45	46.94%	23
Only for specific needs	51.13%	68	44.90%	22
We have an ongoing, monthly contract	12.03%	16	8.16%	4
We solely use contractual help for technical support and services	3.01%	4	0%	0

n= Sample Size

Technology Leader Salaries

A number of factors influence salary for both technology leaders and technology support personnel, with location, district size, and the number of staff that are supervised being the largest influencers.

Key Findings

- Salaries for technology leaders have a span of approximately \$120,000, with the lowest being \$43,000 and the highest being \$182,000.
- Over 68% of technology leaders in northeast Illinois earn more than \$100,000 per year.
- While the highest salaries, on average, occur in northeast Illinois, the lowest salaries reported are in southeast Illinois.
- Respondents that identified themselves as female, on average, earn more than men. It should be noted that only 27.61% of respondents identified themselves as female.
- There is a strong correlation between the number of staff supervised and salary.

Table 5: Salaries of Technology Leaders

	Under \$50,000	\$50,001 - \$60,000	\$60,001 - \$70,000	\$70,001 - \$80,000	\$80,001 - \$90,000	\$90,001 - \$100,000	\$100,001 - \$120,000	\$120,001 - \$140,000	More than \$140,000
District Type									
Public	11.11%	10.19%	12.96%	14.81%	5.56%	11.11%	20.37%	5.56%	8.33%
Other & Private		12.50%	12.50%	12.50%	25.00%	12.50%	12.50%		12.50%
District Level									
Elementary School District	14.29%	11.90%	4.76%	16.67%	7.14%	11.90%	21.43%	2.38%	9.52%
Middle School District							100.00%		
Middle School & High School District			66.67%		33.33%				
High School District	7.69%	15.38%	7.69%	15.38%	15.38%		23.08%	7.69%	7.69%
Unit District	8.77%	8.77%	17.54%	14.04%	3.51%	14.04%	17.54%	7.02%	8.77%
Area of the State									
Area 1: Northeast Illinois	2.22%	4.44%	2.22%	4.44%	4.44%	13.33%	35.56%	11.11%	22.22%
Area 2: Northwest Illinois	17.65%	5.88%	35.29%	17.65%		17.65%	5.88%		
Area 3: West Central Illinois	8.33%	25.00%	16.67%	25.00%	16.67%			8.33%	
Area 4: East Central Illinois	5.26%	10.53%	21.05%	21.05%	21.05%	5.26%	15.79%		
Area 5: Southwest Illinois	17.65%	17.65%	11.76%	17.65%		17.65%	17.65%		
Area 6: Southeast Illinois	50.00%	16.67%		33.33%					

Student Population									
Under 200	20.00%			20.00%	20.00%	20.00%	20.00%		
200 - 1,000	7.50%	2.50%	15.00%	17.50%	7.50%	10.00%	20.00%	5.00%	15.00%
1,001 - 5,000	12.73%	16.36%	10.91%	14.55%	5.45%	9.09%	20.00%	3.64%	7.27%
5,001 - 10,000	14.29%		14.29%			28.57%	42.86%		
10,001 - 15,000		25.00%		25.00%				50.00%	
More than 15,000		50.00%	50.00%						
Years of Technology Experience									
1-3 Years		16.67%	16.67%	16.67%		16.67%	16.67%		16.67%
4-7 Years		15.38%	15.38%		15.38%	15.38%	23.08%		15.38%
8-15 Years	17.24%		10.34%	20.69%	6.90%	13.79%	20.69%	6.90%	3.45%
16-20 Years	4.35%	17.39%	17.39%	21.74%	4.35%		21.74%	8.70%	4.35%
21 or More Years	14.63%	12.20%	9.76%	12.20%	4.88%	12.20%	17.07%	4.88%	12.20%
Contract Length									
9 Months	50.00%			50.00%					
10 Months	25.00%	37.50%	37.50%						
11 Months		50.00%	16.67%	16.67%			16.67%		
12 Months	7.53%	6.45%	10.75%	15.05%	7.53%	12.90%	22.58%	6.45%	10.75%
Gender/Sex									

Female	3.45%	10.34%	13.79%	13.79%	6.90%	3.45%	34.48%	3.45%	10.34%
Male	13.41%	9.76%	12.20%	15.85%	6.10%	13.41%	14.63%	6.10%	8.54%
Highest Degree Earned									
High School	100.00%								
Some College		9.09%	9.09%	18.18%	9.09%	9.09%	18.18%	9.09%	18.18%
Associates	8.33%	8.33%	25.00%	16.67%		8.33%	16.67%		16.67%
Bachelors	16.67%	19.05%	9.52%	19.05%	9.52%	14.29%	11.90%		
Masters	6.98%		13.95%	11.63%	4.65%	9.30%	30.23%	11.63%	11.63%
Doctorate		100.00%							
Number of Employees Supervised									
None	34.48%	17.24%	24.14%	20.69%			3.45%		
1	7.69%	15.38%	15.38%	23.08%	15.38%	23.08%			
2 - 5		11.11%	8.33%	13.89%	13.89%	13.89%	30.56%	5.56%	2.78%
6 - 10						15.38%	53.85%	23.08%	7.69%
11-15				14.29%		14.29%	14.29%	14.29%	42.86%
16-20						20.00%			80.00%
26-30				100.00%					
More than 35				50.00%			50.00%		

n= Sample Size

Technology Support Salaries

Key Findings

- Respondents that identified themselves as female, on average, earn more than men. It should be noted that only 27.61% of respondents identified themselves as female.
- Technology support staff at private schools or other institutions (i.e., special education cooperatives, regional offices of education, etc.) earn less than their public school counterparts.

Table 6: Salaries of Technology Support Personnel

	Under \$50,000	\$50,001 - \$60,000	\$60,001 - \$70,000	\$70,001 - \$80,000	\$80,001 - \$90,000
District Type					
Public	37.84%	5.41%	24.32%	21.62%	10.81%
Other & Private	66.67%		33.33%		
District Level					
Elementary School District	46.67%		20.00%	20.00%	13.33%
Middle School District			100.00%		
Middle School & High School District	40.00%	40.00%	20.00%		
High School District	50.00%		25.00%	25.00%	
Unit District	33.33%		26.67%	26.67%	13.33%
Area of the State					
Area 1: Northeast Illinois	27.78%		27.78%	27.78%	16.67%
Area 2: Northwest Illinois	20.00%	40.00%	20.00%	20.00%	
Area 3: West Central Illinois	57.14%		14.29%	28.57%	
Area 4: East Central Illinois	75.00%		25.00%		
Area 5: Southwest Illinois	33.33%		66.67%		
Area 6: Southeast Illinois	66.67%				33.33%

Student Population					
Under 200	50.00%	25.00%	25.00%		
200 - 1,000	37.50%	6.25%	25.00%	25.00%	6.25%
1,001 - 5,000	35.71%		21.43%	21.43%	21.43%
5,001 - 10,000	66.67%		33.33%		
10,001 - 15,000				100.00%	
More than 15,000			100.00%		
Years of Technology Experience					
1-3 Years	50.00%		50.00%		
4-7 Years	50.00%			33.33%	16.67%
8-15 Years	20.00%		60.00%		20.00%
16-20 Years	40.00%		10.00%	40.00%	10.00%
21 or More Years	45.45%	18.18%	18.18%	18.18%	
Contract Length					
9 Months	50.00%		16.67%	33.33%	
10 Months	66.67%				33.33%
11 Months	33.33%		66.67%		
12 Months	33.33%	7.41%	25.93%	22.22%	11.11%
Sex/Gender					
Female	37.50%		25.00%	12.50%	25.00%
Male	38.71%	6.45%	25.81%	22.58%	6.45%
Highest Degree Earned					
High School	33.33%		33.33%		33.33%
Some College	50.00%			50.00%	
Associates	75.00%			25.00%	
Bachelors	25.00%	16.67%	25.00%	33.33%	
Masters	35.29%		35.29%	11.76%	17.65%

Doctorate	100.00%				
Number of Employees Supervised					
None	36.67%	6.67%	26.67%	20.00%	10.00%
1	37.50%		25.00%	25.00%	12.50%

n= Sample Size

Benefits

Most technology leaders (70.9%) and technology personnel (36.73%) indicate that they are part of the IMRF Retirement Plan. Approximately 60% of technology leaders and support personnel are expected to work during times when students are not in session, such as spring break.

Table 7: Benefits

	Technology Leader		Technology Support	
	%	n	%	n
Benefits Offered				
Health Insurance	97.01%	130	87.76%	43
Dental Insurance	65.67%	88	59.18%	29
Vision Insurance	52.99%	71	51.02%	25
Life Insurance	76.12%	102	55.10%	27
Health Savings Account	41.79%	56	22.45%	11
Paid Time Off	68.66%	92	63.27%	31
TRS Retirement Plan	32.84%	44	22.45%	11
IMRF Retirement Plan	70.90%	95	36.73%	18
401(k)	14.18%	19	24.49%	12
Tuition Reimbursement	34.33%	46	20.41%	10
Flexible Schedule	18.66%	25	12.24%	6
Other	3.73%	5	8.16%	4
Extended Work				
Are you required to work during times when students are not in session (Winter Break, Spring Break, Snowdays, etc.)				
Yes	59.70%	80	59.57%	28
No	9.70%	13	21.28%	10
If Needed	30.60%	41	19.15%	9

Satisfaction

Technology leaders and support personnel reported on their level of satisfaction with various aspects of their job. The highest level of satisfaction for technology leaders is with their relationships with district leaders, while the highest level of satisfaction from technology coaches is with their relationships with teachers.

Table 8: Satisfaction

	Highly dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Neutral	Satisfied	Highly satisfied
Technology Leaders					
Relationship with District Leadership	3.73%	2.99%	10.45%	36.57%	46.27%
Relationship with Teachers	0.75%	3.01%	15.04%	48.87%	32.33%
Relationships with Community	0%	2.99%	26.12%	44.03%	26.87%
Professional Development/Growth Opportunities	2.99%	4.48%	28.36%	44.03%	20.15%
Financial Resources Available	3.03%	9.85%	19.70%	41.67%	25.76%
Impact on Student Learning		2.99%	26.12%	47.01%	23.88%
Overall Job Satisfaction	2.24%	3.73%	13.43%	50.75%	29.85%
Technology Support					
Relationship with District Leadership	0%	8.33%	20.83%	43.75%	27.08%
Relationship with Teachers	0%	4.17%	6.25%	52.08%	37.50%
Relationships with Community	0%	0%	27.08%	52.08%	20.83%
Professional Development/Growth Opportunities	4.17%	16.67%	22.92%	33.33%	22.92%
Financial Resources Available	4.26%	12.77%	21.28%	42.55%	19.15%
Impact on Student Learning	0%	10.42%	16.67%	58.33%	14.58%
Overall Job Satisfaction	0%	8.33%	16.67%	52.08%	22.92%

Conclusion

The survey data provides a unique high-level perspective of technology personnel in Illinois schools. It is obvious that a variety of factors contribute to responsibilities, salaries, and benefits, including the location in the state, experience in technology, educational level achieved, and the number of people supervised. Notably, job satisfaction does not vary significantly by location.

A key interest of the LTC is the diversity of our workforce. While we can conclude that there are more males in educational technology than females, and significantly more people who identify as having a race/ethnicity of white, the survey's limited sample size makes it challenging to draw additional conclusions about the causes of disproportionate representations and possible solutions. However, we know that there is more work to be done to further understand and support a diverse educational technology workforce.

Thank you to the district and school personnel who completed the survey and provided additional insights regarding the breadth of job expectations. Just as it is clear that technology facilitates many of our modern educational initiatives, it is equally clear that the job of planning, implementing, maintaining, and leading technology within education is a complex responsibility that requires knowledge, dedication, and a strong belief in the mission of educating our students.