NORTHEASTERN WAYNE SCHOOLS

Fountain City, Indiana

DISTRICT TECHNOLOGY PLAN

Three-Year Plan: 2026 through 2029

1. Introduction and Purpose

Northeastern Wayne Schools (NWS) serves approximately 1,330 students in grades PK–12 across three schools in a rural agricultural community of roughly 70 square miles in northeastern Wayne County. The district is committed to providing equitable, secure, and purposeful technology that supports high-quality instruction, student achievement, digital literacy, and readiness for postsecondary success.

This three-year Technology Plan satisfies the requirements of Indiana Code 20-20-13-7 and positions the district to remain eligible for technology-related funding, including Common School Fund advances, education fund expenditures for technology equipment, and related state grants. It also addresses emerging state expectations regarding appropriate device use and parental controls (SB 159 and SEA 78).

The plan is intentionally practical for a small rural district with limited staffing and resources while remaining ambitious in its focus on student outcomes.

2. Vision Statement

Northeastern Wayne Schools will use technology as a purposeful tool to enhance teaching and learning, close opportunity gaps, develop digital citizenship and computer science competencies, and prepare every student for success in college, career, and life—while maintaining fiscal responsibility and strong community partnerships.

3. Goals (2026–2029)

1. Complete a secure, manageable 1:1 Chromebook environment that supports writing, research, assessment, and computer science instruction.
2. Ensure all staff receive ongoing, job-embedded professional development in effective digital pedagogy.
3. Maintain reliable infrastructure and a predictable device replacement cycle timed near the end of this plan period.
4. Comply fully with state requirements for wireless device policies, Internet use policies, and parental controls.
5. Integrate computer science standards (K–8) and meet the high-school computer science graduation requirement beginning with the Class of 2029.
6. Promote digital equity, student safety, and appropriate use of technology both in school and at home.

4. Current Technology Status (Baseline – Fall 2026)

- **Student Devices:** Transition from 1:1 iPads to Chromebooks approved and underway for the 2026–27 school year. Approximately 1,250 9th-generation iPads were declared surplus and sold.
- **Staffing:** Two Technology Support Specialists and one Technology Assistant support the entire corporation.
- **eLearning:** eLearning days retained for inclement weather based on stakeholder feedback and equity considerations.
- **Policies:** Cell-phone restrictions already in practice; formal Wireless Communication Device Policy and updated Internet Use Policy required under new state law.
- **Challenges:** Limited tech staffing relative to device count, home internet access variability, enrollment pressure on budgets, and the need for stronger filtering/parental controls on take-home devices.

5. Required Plan Elements (IC 20-20-13-7)

5.1 Intent to Integrate Technology into the Curriculum

Technology will be integrated as a purposeful instructional tool rather than an add-on. Integration priorities include:

- Supporting Indiana Academic Standards and ILEARN writing demands through keyboard-based devices.
- Implementing K–8 Computer Science standards and offering a qualifying high-school computer science course so that students in the Class of 2029 and beyond meet the graduation requirement.
- Using digital tools for differentiation, formative assessment, and high-dosage tutoring where evidence of impact exists.
- Maintaining eLearning capability for weather-related closures while monitoring digital equity.
- Developing digital citizenship, online safety, and responsible AI awareness appropriate to grade level.
- Grade-band approach: Limited and intentional device use in early elementary (drawing from successful practices of neighboring smaller districts); consistent 1:1 Chromebook access with clear instructional purpose in grades 3–12.

Classroom technology (interactive displays, document cameras, audio systems) will be prioritized based on demonstrated instructional impact.

5.2 Plan for Providing In-Service Training

Professional development will be ongoing, job-embedded, and aligned to instructional goals.

- Annual needs assessment of staff digital skills and pedagogy.
- Job-embedded coaching provided by district Technology Support Specialists, supplemented by regional cooperatives and IDOE resources.
- Core focus areas:
  - Chromebook management and Google Workspace for Education
  - Effective blended and eLearning instructional design
  - Computer science integration and digital literacy
  - Cybersecurity awareness and data privacy
  - Appropriate and ethical use of AI tools
  - Accessibility and Universal Design for Learning (UDL) principles

- New staff onboarding will include technology orientation.
- Participation and impact will be tracked and reported annually to the Board.

5.3 Schedule for Maintaining and Replacing Educational Technology Equipment

The district will complete the Chromebook transition in 2026–27 and intentionally schedule the first major student-device refresh near the end of this three-year plan period (2028–29). This approach allows the new fleet to be fully utilized through the plan years, spreads fiscal impact, and aligns large purchases with future Common School Fund loan cycles and local capital planning.

Category	Current Status (2026)	Replacement Timing	Notes
Student Chromebooks	Transition in progress 2026–27	First major refresh: 2028–29 (4–5 year cycle from new fleet)	Maintain 5–10% spare inventory; staggered purchases thereafter
Staff Devices	Mixed platforms	Evaluate and refresh primarily 2028–29	Align with instructional and administrative needs
Interactive Displays / Projectors	Varies by building	6–8 year cycle; priority replacements as needed	Prioritize high-use instructional spaces
Network Infrastructure (switches, APs, firewall)	Ongoing audit	5–7 years (E-rate Category 2 aligned)	Leverage current E-rate budget cycle
Servers / Core Network	As needed	5–7 years	Cloud migration evaluated annually
Classroom Audio / Document Cameras	As needed	5–7 years	Instructional priority basis

- Annual inventory and condition assessment will be conducted each spring.
- Surplus devices will follow a documented disposition process (buyback or secure destruction).
- Device protection plans or insurance will be evaluated to reduce unexpected replacement costs.
- Major refreshes will be planned in conjunction with Common School Fund loan application cycles and local capital planning, with the primary student-device refresh targeted for 2028–29.

5.4 Criteria Used to Select Appropriate Educational Technology Equipment

All technology purchases will be evaluated against the following criteria (in priority order):

1. Alignment with instructional goals, Indiana Academic Standards, and Computer Science requirements.
2. Security, filtering, and parental-control capabilities (CIPA-compliant, support for monitoring safety concerns, and tools that enable parent management of take-home devices).
3. Total cost of ownership (purchase price + management licenses + support + expected lifespan + energy costs).
4. Manageability by a small technology team (preferably Google Admin Console / centralized MDM).
5. Accessibility features and UDL compatibility.
6. Evidence of positive impact on student learning or teacher efficiency.
7. Compatibility with existing district systems (SIS, LMS, assessment platforms).
8. Vendor support, warranty, and local service options.

Procurement will follow all applicable state and local purchasing requirements and will maximize E-rate eligibility where appropriate.

6. Additional Plan Components for Compliance and Sustainability

6.1 Appropriate Use and Parental Controls (SB 159 / SEA 78)

- A formal Wireless Communication Device Policy will be adopted and published on the district website prior to July 1, 2026. The district will select either a “No Device” or “Storage” model and will prohibit non-educational use of school-supplied devices during the school day.
- The Internet Use / Acceptable Use Policy will be updated by January 1, 2027 to enable parents to increase filter strength, block websites/content, and limit device use when students are not in school or engaged in virtual instruction.
- Annual parent and student acknowledgments will be required.
- Clear expectations for digital citizenship will be taught at each grade band.

6.2 Infrastructure, Connectivity, and Equity

- Maintain full Wi-Fi coverage in all instructional spaces with sufficient density and bandwidth for 1:1 concurrent use.
- Pursue E-rate Category 1 and Category 2 funding aggressively within the current five-year budget cycle.
- Monitor home internet access for eLearning equity and explore targeted solutions (hotspots or community partnerships) if data indicate significant gaps.
- Conduct annual cybersecurity assessments and staff training aligned with emerging IDOE guidance.

6.3 Funding Strategy

Primary sources (in approximate priority order):

- E-rate (Category 1 connectivity and Category 2 internal connections)
- Common School Fund technology loans
- David C. Ford Educational Technology Fund / Digital Learning Grants
- Title I, Title II, Title IV, and other federal formula funds
- Local Education and Operations funds
- Capital Projects / bond proceeds when available
- Device buyback revenue and insurance recoveries

An annual technology budget projection will be prepared each spring in coordination with the Corporation Treasurer and Superintendent. The major student-device refresh planned for 2028–29 will be coordinated with Common School Fund loan timing and local capital planning to minimize impact on the operating budget.

6.4 Evaluation and Continuous Improvement

- Annual review of the plan against student achievement data, device utilization metrics, professional development impact, stakeholder surveys, and compliance status.
- Participation in the IDOE School Tech Plan Survey and Digital Readiness Dashboard.
- Formal Board update at least once per year.
- Full revision of the plan every three years or sooner if major legislative, funding, or instructional changes occur.

7. Implementation Timeline (High-Level)

2026–27

- Complete Chromebook transition and iPad disposition.
- Adopt and publish Wireless Communication Device Policy.
- Update Internet Use Policy.
- Conduct baseline needs assessment and infrastructure audit.
- Launch revised professional development plan.
- Apply for available state technology grants and Common School loans as needed for infrastructure or limited replacements.

2027–28

- Continue full utilization of the new Chromebook fleet; perform only necessary repairs and limited spares purchases.
- Deepen computer science integration and prepare for Class of 2029 graduation requirement.
- Expand cybersecurity training and parental control tools.
- Evaluate eLearning equity data and adjust supports.
- Begin planning and budgeting for the 2028–29 major device refresh (loan applications, vendor evaluation, Board updates).

2028–29

- Execute the primary student Chromebook refresh (and aligned staff device refresh as needed).
- Continue infrastructure upgrades as prioritized through E-rate and local funds.
- Full evaluation of three-year plan outcomes against goals and student achievement data.
- Develop the subsequent three-year Technology Plan for Board adoption.

8. Conclusion

This District Technology Plan provides a clear, compliant, and realistic roadmap for Northeastern Wayne Schools. It balances the instructional opportunities of modern technology with the practical realities of a small rural district, prioritizes student safety and parental involvement, and ensures continued eligibility for state and federal technology funding.

By completing the Chromebook transition early in the plan period and scheduling the first major refresh near the end of the cycle (2028–29), the district maximizes the useful life of new devices, spreads fiscal impact, and maintains instructional continuity. The plan will be reviewed annually and updated as needed to reflect changing student needs, state requirements, and available resources.