

## Knox County K-12 Education Sector

### Why Is This Important?

For our children to succeed in the New Economy, the tools of the Information Age should be as comfortable and familiar to use as a pencil and paper. The future health of the nation's economy depends on our children's literacy breadth and depth which includes strong academic skills, thinking, reasoning, teamwork skills and proficiency in the use of technology. Our schools must equip every student, regardless of family income, with the ability to use these tools. Equally important is the use of these tools in the educational process itself. The interactive nature of the Web provides a richer learning experience that engages and motivates students to explore and learn.

In Ohio, Internet applications used in elementary and secondary schools continue to develop. Typically, the Internet is a communication tool for teachers and parents to remain up-to-date with regard to classroom activities. Everything from homework assignments to scheduled activities and pictures can be found on classroom websites, keeping everyone connected to educational resources. Elementary and secondary schools provide students with the opportunity to learn more about computer technology and explore the Internet with computers in the classroom and school computer labs. The Management Council of the Ohio Education Computer Network is committed to protecting students and maintaining a safe educational environment. Schools monitor and restrict Internet access of students to ensure the highest quality resources are being viewed, thus ensuring the safety of our children.

#### Knox County K-12 Education

- Ohio Department of Education, [www.ode.state.oh.us](http://www.ode.state.oh.us)
- Management Council Ohio Education Computer Network, [www.mcoecn.org](http://www.mcoecn.org)
- Centerburg Local Schools, [www.centerburgschools.org](http://www.centerburgschools.org)
- Mount Vernon City Schools, [www.mt-vernon.k12.oh.us](http://www.mt-vernon.k12.oh.us)
- Danville Local Schools, [www.danville.k12.oh.us](http://www.danville.k12.oh.us)
- Fredericktown Local Schools, [www.fredricktown.net/schools](http://www.fredricktown.net/schools)
- East Knox Local Schools, [www.eastknox.k12.oh.us](http://www.eastknox.k12.oh.us)
- Knox County ESC, [www.kccsc.org](http://www.kccsc.org)

## Where Are We Today?

Knox County had an enrollment of approximately 8,300 students in the Knox County public school districts for the 2006-2007 school year. The county had an attendance rate of 94.8% and graduation rate of 94.2%, greater than the state graduation rate of 86.2%. The districts within Greene County are listed below:

<b>District Name</b>	<b>Address</b>	<b>Attendance</b>	<b>Graduation</b>
Centerburg Local schools	175 Union Street Centerburg, OH 43011	94.7%	95.0%
Danville Local Schools	405 S. Market Street Danville, OH 4314	95.0%	95.0%
East Knox Local Schools	23201 Coshocton Road Howard, OH 43028	94.0%	93.1%
Fredericktown Local Schools	120 W. High Street Mount Vernon, OH 43050	94.9%	95.0%
Mount Vernon City Schools	300 Newark Road Mount Vernon, OH 43050	95.0%	93.9%

Knox County residents use the Internet to assist with education needs at a rate comparable or slightly greater than the state average. The following is how Knox County residents who have the Internet at home are using it in education today:

- 82% of residents use a search engine (73% statewide average)
- 57% of residents research for schoolwork (55% statewide)
- 35% of residents contact teachers for self or others (34% statewide)
- 30% of residents take online courses (19% statewide)

The Knox County School Districts believe technology is a priority in education, and are working to utilize it more effectively. All locations have fiber connectivity, VoIP access, flat panel displays, whiteboards,

projectors, Internet 2, and video capabilities. The student to computer ratio at Mount Vernon Schools is 5 to 1 and Fredericktown Schools is 4 to 1. All parents have online access to their children's grades, assignments and homework. Schools currently offer after school use of computer labs.

The Ohio Department of Education, [www.ode.state.oh.us](http://www.ode.state.oh.us), believes a quality education is the fundamental right of every child in Ohio. The Department provides many services, and it is their responsibility to ensure equal, safe and quality learning opportunities for all students, pre-kindergarten through 12th grade. Therefore, their mission is to help teachers teach and children learn. The way children learn is changing every day and Ohio educators are committed to using technology in the classroom. Ohio is working to involve parents and community leaders to ensure that students are equipped with the skills necessary for higher levels of education, the world of work and lifelong learning.

The Ohio Virtual Academy (OHVA), [www.ohva.org](http://www.ohva.org), enables students in grades K-12, to have a high-quality, tuition free, online public school education option.

K-12 Education Sector Assessment Overview			
Category	Current Assessment	Future Vision	Additional Comments
Networked Places	4	5	
Applications & Services	4	5	
Leadership	4	5	

The Knox County eCommunity Leadership Team found that the K-12 education sector is on track for enhancing access and using technology and its applications. The team plans to continue to make significant progress in making technology a priority.

- **Networked Places** – In the category of Networked Places, Knox County's K-12 education sector is currently at stage 4 on a 0 to 5 scale. Some high school students are provided their own laptop computers at school. Many classroom teachers have access to digital projection capabilities. Most middle and high schools have video programs that allow students to produce and share shows on a public network. Some schools use wireless sensors to monitor energy consumption.
- **Applications & Services** – In the category of technology Applications & Services, the K-12 education sector is currently at stage 4 on a 0 to 5 scale. Many schools have an interactive website

that offers access to homework assignments and communication with teachers and administrators. All teachers meet National Educational Technology Standards. Most students meet National Educational Technology Standards. Parents and family members are encouraged to participate in student learning via email and online application.

- **Leadership** – In terms of technology Leadership within the K-12 education community, Knox County is currently at stage 4 on a 0 to 5 scale. All schools have comprehensive plans for learning activities utilizing technology in the classroom. School districts actively promote information technology literacy to drive positive impacts on economic performance, skills and innovation in the classroom. The school system plays a vital role in raising the skill level and awareness of community and family members.

### Where Do We Need To Be?

The Knox County eCommunity Leadership Team recognizes that the school districts have made technology a priority, and the team has outlined a clear vision for enhanced technology usage and application in the classroom. The team sees great potential for the use of technology but understands technology is an educational tool and limited in its resources and ability to implement changes within a brief period. The team has set goals to move Networked Places from stage 4 to stage 5, Applications and Services from stage 4 to stage 5, and Leadership from stage 4 to stage 5, all on a 0 - 5 scale. The leadership team, wishes to expand sharing of teacher resources via distance learning, further utilize distance learning at home and between schools and expand vocational opportunities through the use of Broadband and related technology. The team's vision includes:

- Many classrooms have large, flat-panel displays or projectors for video-based instruction. Most schools have converted their phone system to VoIP to save money. Most high schools have one-to-one computing for their students.
- Schools use the network to connect students, teachers and parents, improve learning via online resources, and manage administrative responsibilities more efficiently. All students meet grade level requirements in the National Educational Technology Standards. Technology training is offered in the community. Many high school students use online teachers and experts to explore subjects and execute individual learning plans.
- School districts see themselves as a vital partner in the community's economic development strategy

and have formed partnerships with local businesses to provide skilled technology workers and innovative solutions. School districts actively promote information technology literacy to drive positive impacts on economic performance, skills, and innovation in the classroom.

## How Do We Get There?

### Project Ideas

- Establish stable and consistent funding to enable schools to keep up to date with Broadband bandwidth needs, hardware, operating systems and software. Leverage potential federal stimulus funding targeted for creation of "21st Century Classrooms" when the opportunity is available.
- Continued focus and advocacy to get K-12 leadership to understand and embrace distance learning and online course work.
- Develop programs to improve Broadband access, specifically the availability of wireless Broadband access at home, to enable expansion of online course and distance learning.
- Support the work currently being done by the Ohio Board of Regents to enhance the pre-service education of teachers in the areas of Broadband and technology.

### Other Potential Projects

- Promote activities to increase awareness of online services in education.
- Encourage faculty to web-enhance classes.
- Develop small groups to focus on technology problem areas.
- Win the support of voters for increased resources for technology and training.
- Develop strategies for bridging the digital divide, such as after school programs, community centers, etc.

The eCommunity Leaders within the K-12 Education sector include:

Marialice Kollar, Frederickton Local School District

Bruce Hawkins, CEO, Management Council Ohio Education Computer Network

Sally Sperry, Mount Vernon City Schools

In working toward the implementation of the sector-specific goals, Connect Ohio will recommend specific



additional participants be brought into the process, who may include technology providers, subject matter experts, other community organizations, funding sources, government agencies, and the resources of agencies and commercial providers of products and services to the K-12 education sector.

Dave Davidson, Northeast State Operations Manager for Connect Ohio will continue to work with the sector leaders to advance selected projects toward their completion. By leveraging Connect Ohio's project management process, its research information, and its partners, projects will be defined, developed, and reviewed to help assure that the local teams are equipped to execute them. Connect Ohio will assist in the identification of funding sources, introducing technical resources, and helping to define the measurable goals and timelines that will ensure that the projects are actionable, measurable, and valuable.