

Logan 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.

Logan County K-12 Education

- Ohio Department of Education, www.ode.state.oh.us
- Bellefontaine City Schools, www.bellefontaine.k12.oh.us
- Benjamin Logan Local School District, www.benlogan.k12.oh.us
- Indian Lake Local Schools, www.indianlake.k12.oh.us
- Logan County Educational Service Center, www.loganesc.k12.oh.us
- Logan Elm Local Schools, www.loganelmschools.com
- Ohio Hi-Point JVSD, www.ohp.k12.oh.us
- Riverside Local School District, www.riverside.k12.oh.us
- INFOhio, www.infohio.org
- MCOECN, www.mcoecn.org

Where Are We Today?

Logan County had an enrollment of approximately 7,783 students in the Logan County public school districts for the 2007-2008 school year. The county had an attendance rate of 94.7% and graduation rate of 92.9%, higher than the state graduation rate of 86.9%. The districts within Logan County are:

District Name	Address	Attendance	Graduation
Bellefontaine	820 Ludlow Road Bellefontaine, OH 43311	95%	95%
Benjamin Logan	4626 County Road 26 Bellefontaine, OH 43311	95%	95%
Indian Lake	6210 State Route 235 N. Lewistown, OH 43333	95%	84.7%
Logan Elm	9579 Tarlton Road Circleville, OH 43113	94.2	95%
Riverside	2096 County Road 24 S. DeGraff, OH 43318	94.7	95%

Logan County residents use the Internet to assist with education needs at a rate comparable or slightly higher than the state average with the exception of taking online courses. The following is how Logan County residents who have the Internet at home are using it in education today:

- 76% of residents use a search engine (73% statewide average)
- 61% of residents research for schoolwork (55% statewide)
- 34% of residents contact teachers for self or others (34% statewide)
- 17% of residents take online courses (19% statewide)

The K12 leadership team noted that local Internet providers are unwilling to provide high-speed connections at a reasonable cost. Time Warner Cable will provide 10 times the speed at less than 50% of



the cost of Embarq or Charter. They expressed that Embarq and Charter Cable are inflexible and expensive. Further, they do not anticipate that schools will adopt VoIP within the next 2 years or be able to achieve a 1 to 1 ratio.

The Logan County Educational Service Center (ESC) is somewhat different from comprehensive K-12 school districts. However, technology/computers are utilized in all ESC classrooms and administrative offices and functions. The Logan County ESC has a Virtual Learning Academy that enrolls approximately 75 students per year. The Logan County ESC would love to coordinate, operate, and oversee a "Logan County Learning Center" that would be used by K-12 students and adults in our county! Tutoring online classes, both comprehensive school and college level, could be accessed with assistance provided by an onsite teacher for students and adults. K-12 students could use the lab for both remediation and acceleration of coursework and adults could use the class for professional growth opportunities, job searches, information and continuing education (including college courses).

The Ohio Department of Education, 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, 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	3+	4	
Leadership	4	4	

The Logan 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, Logan 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 3 on a 0 to 5 scale. Some schools have an interactive website that offers access to homework assignments and communication with teachers and administrators. Many experienced teachers know how to incorporate Internet information into the curriculum. Many teachers welcome email from parents and students.
- **Leadership** – In terms of technology leadership within the K-12 education community, Logan 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 Logan 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 & Services from stage 3 to stage 4, and Leadership from stage 4 to stage 4, all on a 0 to 5 scale. 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. Some school computer labs have been made available to the public.
- 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.
- 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.

How Do We Get There?

Potential Projects

- Upgrade and share video conferencing equipment to help deliver additional curriculum to more students.
- 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.
- Create and purchase web-based instructional materials.
- 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:

Larry Anderson, Bellefontaine City Schools
Maria Borba, Bellefontaine City Schools
John Case, Ohio Hi-Point Career Center
Kim Davis, Ohio Hi-Point Career Center
Vicci Elder, Adriel School
Beth Harman, Bellefontaine City Schools
William McGlothlin, Indian Lake Local Schools
Stan Mounts, Benjamin Logan Local Schools
Bernie Pachmayer, Riverside Local Schools
Joyce Roberts, Logan County ECS
Ken Sims, Bellefontaine 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.

Brad McMillen, Northwest 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.