

Madison 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.

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.

Madison County K-12 Education

- Ohio Department of Education, www.ode.state.oh.us
- Jefferson Local Schools, www.west-jefferson.k12.oh.us
- Jonathan Alder Local Schools, www.alder.k12.oh.us
- London City Schools, www.london.k12.oh.us
- Madison Plains Local Schools, www.madison-plains.k12.oh.us
- INFOhio, www.infohio.org
- MCOECN, www.mcoecn.org

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

Where Are We Today?

Madison County had an enrollment of approximately 6,627 students in the Madison County public school districts for the 2007-2008 school year. The county had an attendance rate of 95% and graduation rate of 92.3%, higher than the state graduation rate of 86.9%. The districts within Madison County are:

District Name	Address	Attendance	Graduation
Jefferson Local Schools	906 West Main Street West Jefferson, Oh 43162	94.9%	95%
Jonathan Alder Local Schools	9200 U.S. Route 42 Plain City, OH 43064	95.7%	95%
London City Schools	60 South Walnut Street London, OH 43140	94.9%	84.3%
Madison-Plains Local Schools	55 Linson Road London, OH 43130	94.8%	95%

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

- 77% of residents use a search engine (73% statewide average)
- 47% of residents research for schoolwork (55% statewide)

- 24% of residents contact teachers for self or others (34% statewide)
- 8% of residents take online courses (19% statewide)

The Madison County School Districts believe technology is a priority in education, and are working to utilize it more effectively. The technology department for Madison County schools is responsible for servicing over 500 computers as well as 4 servers, numerous types of software, printers, projectors and other multimedia components. The mission of the technology department is to help teachers and students make the most of everything technology has to offer.

While the Madison County School District is in very good shape, there will always be a need to replace obsolete equipment and to stay abreast of new technology. Additionally, increased bandwidth is needed at each school as use of technology by teachers, administrators and students increases.

The Tolles Career and Technology Center enjoys a fiber connection that provides a 100 MB connection. There are PCs in every classroom and projection options in many of the classrooms. Tolles has plans to add VoIP services, a wireless local area network, an interactive website, and a course management server to provide online content.

K-12 Education Sector Assessment Overview			
Category	Current Assessment	Future Vision	Additional Comments
Networked Places	3	4	
Applications & Services	3	4	
Leadership	4	4	

The Madison 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, Madison County’s K-12 education sector is currently at stage 3 on a 0 to 5 scale. Schools provide at least one computer for every four students in grades K-12. Most classrooms have computers for student use. Some teachers use computer-based presentation tools and projectors for their lessons.

- **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, Madison 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 Madison 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 3 to stage 4, 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:

- 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.
- 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.

Project Ideas

- Create adult education classes for community.
- Add staff to implement more technically advanced services.
- Expand Broadband coverage throughout the county to enable affordable access.

Other Potential Projects

- Upgrade and share video conferencing equipment to 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.

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

Richard Doerr, Tolles Technical Center

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 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.