

Wayne 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.

Wayne County K-12 Education

- Ohio Department of Education, www.ode.state.oh.us
- Chippewa Local Schools, www.chippewa.k12.oh.us
- Dalton Local Schools, www.dalton.k12.oh.us
- Green Local Schools, www.green-local.k12.oh.us
- North Central Local Schools, www.northcentral.k12.oh.us
- Northwestern Local Schools, www.northwestern-wayne.k12.oh.us
- Orrville City Schools, www.orrville.k12.oh.us
- Rittman Exempted Village Local Schools, www.rittman.k12.oh.us
- Southeast Local Schools, www.southeast.k12.oh.us
- Triway Local Schools, www.triway.k12.oh.us
- Wooster City Schools, www.wooster.k12.oh.us
- Tri County Computer Services Association, www.tccsa.net
- InfOhio, www.infohio.org
- MCOECN, www.mcoecn.org

Where Are We Today?

Wayne County had an enrollment of approximately 16,683 students in the Wayne County public school districts for the 2007-2008 school year. The county had an attendance rate of 94.5% and graduation rate of 94.45%, higher than the state graduation rate of 86.9%. The districts within Wayne County are:

District Name	Address	Attendance	Graduation
Chippewa Local Schools	56 North Portage Street Doylestown OH, 44230	95%	95%
Dalton Locals Schools	177 North Mill Street Dalton, OH 44618	96%	95%
Green Local Schools	484 North Main Street P.O. Box 438 Smithville, OH 44677	96%	95%
North Central Local Schools	350 South Main Street Creston, OH 44717	95%	94%
Northwestern Local Schools	7571 North Elyria Road West Salem, OH 44287-9707	95%	91.5%
Orrville City Schools	815 North Ella Street Orrville, OH 44667	95%	95%
Rittman Exempted Village Schools	75 North Main Street Rittman, OH 44270	94%	94%
Southeast Local Schools	9048 Dover Road Apple Creek, OH 44606	95%	95%



District Name	Address	Attendance	Graduation
Triway Local Schools	2305 Shreve Road Wooster, OH 44891	92%	95%
Wooster City Schools	144 North Market Street Wooster, OH 44691	92%	95%

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

- 89% of residents use a search engine (73% statewide average)
- 65% of residents research for schoolwork (55% statewide)
- 47% of residents contact teachers for self or others (34% statewide)
- 26% of residents take online courses (19% statewide)

The school districts in Wayne County believe technology is a priority in education, and are working to utilize it more effectively. While the districts are generally in good shape, there will always be a need to replace obsolete equipment and to stay abreast of new technology. Additionally, increased bandwidth will likely be needed at a number of locations as use of technology by teachers, administrators and students increases.

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.

The Tri County Computer Services Association serves a number of districts in Wayne County. Most

districts have adequate bandwidth at the present time, although there are schools that do not have fiber connectivity. Most schools are utilizing technology extensively, including laptops or desktops, smartboards, projectors, etc. Some districts have implemented VoIP and some are in the process of doing so. The computer to student ratio in classrooms varies by district as does the home broadband adoption rate by families.

K-12 Education Sector Assessment Overview			
Category	Current Assessment	Future Vision	Additional Comments
Networked Places	3	4	
Applications & Services	3	4	
Leadership	3	5	

The Wayne 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, Wayne 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, Wayne County is currently at stage 3 on a 0 to 5 scale. The school board sees opportunities to use the network to raise test scores and operate the school more efficiently. Teacher training on new technologies is a priority at most school districts. Schools are using consultants to take advantage of e-rate and other discounts.

Where Do We Need To Be?

The Wayne 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 3 to stage 5, all on a 0 to 5 scale. The team's vision includes:

- Broadband is available at all student homes and many families have adopted the service.
- Funding is in place to enable districts to provide one to one computing where it is deemed beneficial to do so and for ongoing sustainability funding for hardware, software, etc.
- VoIP is being utilized in all districts.
- All school buildings have fiber optic connectivity. Explore programs to make computers and broadband available to students who currently do not have access at home.
- There is increased access to online learning for students in all districts.
- 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.
- 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

- Work with existing and or new broadband providers to enable greater broadband availability at home in order to to improve teacher/student communication.
- Provide availability of licensed services to the home to enhance student instruction.
- Establish one-to-one computing in all classrooms where it makes sense to do so.
- Deploy VoIP to reduce costs.
- Provide fiber access to schools that are currently limited to T-1 connectivity, such as (2) elementary schools in the Southwest Local School District.
- Explore programs to make computers and broadband available to students who currently do not have access at home.
- Establish increased access to online learning.
- Continue support and training of technical staff and instructional staff via eTech Ohio; restore programs such as the Technical Training Academy.
- Secure funding to upgrade classrooms and purchase hardware.

Other 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.
- Create and purchase web-based instructional materials.
- Win the support of voters for increased resources for technology and training.

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

Stuart Workman, TCCSA

Larry Brown, Superintendent, Green Local Schools

Becky Furlong, Director of Technology, Wooster City Schools

Kevin Brazee, Southeast Local 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 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.