

Northwestern School Corporation
1:1 Digital Learning Initiative
Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is Northwestern School Corporation's 1:1 Digital Learning Initiative?

- With encouragement from the school board last school year, we began the journey in researching and exploring the possibilities of implementing a 1:1 digital learning project in our district.
- Over the last ten months, much has been done. In addition to researching articles, reading books and periodicals, attending conferences, seminars, and workshops, discussions with other districts, school visitations, surveys, meetings with staff and students, we have attained a wealth of information, explored different scenarios, started the planning process to arrive at the position of where we are today to move forward with the NWSC 1:1 Digital Learning Initiative.
- If approved by the Board of School Trustees, in 2013-14, every student in the school district will receive an iPad.

2. Why is Northwestern going to a 1:1 initiative?

- The mission of the NWSC 1:1 Digital Learning Initiative is to create a technology-rich environment which motivates and enriches student achievement. At NWSC, we feel that having full-time availability to technology will help transform our students into 21st century learners.
- With our limited computer labs and computers in the classroom, teachers need to share the use of technology with other staff members making access to technology a planned event and not always there when needed, when it can have the most impact on instruction and learning.
- With the 1:1 Digital Learning Initiative, students will have access to technology and pertinent educational applications anytime the teachers deem appropriate and will not need to anticipate the need and scheduling time to go to a computer lab.

3. How will the 1:1 Digital Learning Initiative be funded?

- Just as in all past technology initiatives which have included the purchase of student computer labs and laptop carts, staff tablets, network infrastructure, software, etc., funding for this initiative will come from the Capital Projects Fund. This property tax supported fund is available for the school corporation to utilize for a variety of needs including building maintenance, repairs and renovations, technology, mobile and fixed equipment, contracted services, and other large capital expenses. **These funds are not available and cannot be used for instructional salaries, fringe benefits, teaching materials and supplies, and other instructional related expenditures.** Additionally, this project will be funded by capturing money in the textbook rental and fee account to support the digital initiative. While money will be used from textbook rental and fees, parents should expect that those charges should be similar to past years bills as the school corporation transitions from current instructional practices to those utilized in a digital and electronic environment.

4. What technology will the students be getting?

- All K-2 students will receive a 16 GB iPad Mini, case and power charger.
- All 3rd grade students will receive a 16 GB iPad 2, case and power charger.
- All 4th-12th students will receive a 16 GB iPad 4, case and power charger.

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- All students will be issued the charger/cord to keep for the duration of the rental of the iPad. If one loses or damages a charger/cord during this time, one may purchase a new charger/cord if needed. Earbuds/headphones are not included. Students will need to provide their own.
5. What research did the Northwestern staff do to help with the decision-making process?
- NWSC technology leaders attended the Hoosier Educational Computer Coordinators (HECC) conference and participated in multiple discussion panels and learning sessions.
 - Technology leaders also attended the Indiana Computer Educators (ICE) conference and participated in multiple discussion panels and learning sessions.
 - 82 staff members from NWSC made separate visits to schools with existing 1:1 technology initiatives. The schools visited were Danville, Bluffton, Garrett, Eastern, and Maconaquah.
 - NWSC administrators took a separate visit to Eastern Schools to learn and discuss their current 1:1 technology setup.
 - A group of administrators and teachers attended an executive briefing at Apple's Chicago headquarters to listen to Apple representatives have pertinent discussion and experience hands-on activities.
 - A small group of NWSC technology leaders and administrators made an additional visit to Danville schools for additional observation and learning.
6. Why did the school choose the iPad for the students and teachers?
- If we are to continue to focus on increasing student achievement and engagement in a 21st century teaching and learning environment it is important that students have a mobile device to use both at school and at home.
 - Many considerations were initially discussed as potential devices for a 1:1 implementation. Pros and cons were researched and discussed.
 - While several options are available for a 1:1 Initiative, the iPad is the choice of the district replacing the need to purchase interactive white boards, language labs, graphing calculators, document cameras, computer labs, student response systems, and more.
 - We also focused on school visitations where iPads were used in a 1:1 environment. We were able to discuss the iPad experience with administrators, teachers and students.
7. Will the students be taking the iPads home?
- Yes. As part of the philosophy of NWSC and creating a blended learning environment, we want each student to have access to their learning device. Additionally, extending the learning day by using technology at home is vital in student achievement.
 - Each student will be expected to come to school each day with a charged iPad.
8. Will the students receive a protective case for their iPad?
- Yes. After careful research, the school has selected a protective case for the students.
 - The students MUST use this case and are not permitted to use their own case.
 - Each student will also receive one iPad wall charger for charging purposes.

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9. When will the students receive their iPads?

- Beginning in August 2013, students will begin learning digital etiquette and responsibility. As soon as the school leaders feel the students are ready to responsibly receive their iPad, then student iPads will be distributed.
- Our target date for distribution will be the first two weeks of school.

10. Will students be provided a Bluetooth keyboard or need to purchase one of their own?

- No. In our research and school visits, it has been proven that an external keyboard is not necessary.
- Students in all grade levels at other schools have comfortably adapted to the iPad onscreen keyboard.

11. Will there be fees for the iPad? How does that work?

- The Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) encourages school districts to transition from traditional textbooks to digital textbooks and curriculum. Digital textbooks and curriculum are less expensive (often free) and more current than traditional textbooks. A digital textbook can be updated at any time, while the content of a traditional textbook is stagnant for six years. Indiana Academic Standards are reviewed much more frequently than by the previous textbook adoption cycle. Traditional textbook adoption was a six year cycle; that once adopted quickly became outdated. Therefore, in Indiana, the Textbook Rental (TBR) fee can be assessed for traditional textbooks, digital textbooks or software, and student devices(iPads, laptops, etc.).
- The fee for the iPad will be included in the students' book fees. The Northwestern 1:1 Digital Learning Initiative should have little effect on the total amount a student pays in book fees.
- The iPad proposed fee of \$75.00 includes the following: the iPad, iPad case, iPad charger, and software applications (both basic and curricular Apps).

12. If a student receives free/reduced lunches, does that reduce the amount that they are expected to pay for textbook rental?

- Yes, if a student qualifies for free or reduced lunches, it would reduce the amount that he/she pays the same as it has in the past. NWSC is reimbursed from the state for these students.

13. Will the iPad belong to the student?

- No, the iPad remains the property of Northwestern Schools. The student will be issued an iPad just as they will be issued textbooks.

14. How long will the student keep their iPads?

- As long as the student remains at NWSC, they will keep the same iPad over a four year period with the exception of moving from 2nd Grade (iPad Mini) to 3rd Grade (iPad 2). After that time period, we are considering a number of options including trading the iPad for funds towards new ones, allowing students to purchase the iPads, or possibly selling them to the community.

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15. Will the students be able to take the iPad home over the summer?
- No. The iPads and case will be collected on the last day of school so they can be upgraded with new Apps, cleaned and repaired if needed. Students will be given the same iPad at the beginning of the next school year.
16. What happens if a student’s iPad stops working?
- Students will be provided a loaner iPad while their iPad is repaired. Once it has been repaired, the student will return the loaner and receive their iPad.
17. Will the battery last the life of the lease?
- The iPad has a 10 hour battery. The battery is designed to stay at full charge for at least 1,000 charging cycles (that typically takes 4-5 years). After that it will drop to 80% of its capacity (will be an 8 hour battery instead of 10). Batteries can also be replaced if needed. The cost for a new battery is about \$100.
18. Will insurance be provided or is there a warranty?
- iPads are covered by Apple under a 1 year warranty for any issues pertaining to hardware and software performance. Any issues after the initial 1 year warranty will be covered in house.
 - No accidental coverage is included, therefore any physical damage to the iPad, case or charger, or if any of these items are lost, there will be an associated charge which has yet to be determined. Most likely it will be a layered fee structure (as outlined below) where as 1st time issue will be a specific fee, a 2nd time issue will be a increased fee, etc.
19. What happens if a student’s iPad gets physically damaged?
- Apple will cover any items under the limited warranty coverage for the first year with the exception of physical damage. Beyond the first year, maintenance and repair issues will be provided by Northwestern Schools.
 - No accidental coverage is included, therefore any physical damage to the iPad, case or charger, or if any of these items are lost, there will be an associated charge.
 - Consideration is being given by the school corporation of the fees listed below to cover damaged and lost devices that are not covered in the first year Apple limited warranty. Failure to pay TBR (Textbook Rental Fees) will discontinue this coverage and upon any damage the full repair/replacement amount will be charged for each occurrence.

Damaged Device	Lost/Stolen Device
1 st Occurrence – Up to a \$50.00 Fee	1 st Occurrence - Full cost of the device
2 nd Occurrence - \$50.00 Fee or Repair Fee whichever is higher	
3 rd Occurrence - \$300.00 Fee or Repair Fee whichever is higher	
4 th Occurrence/+ - Full device replacement cost	

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20. What happens if the iPad is lost or stolen?
- If an iPad is lost or stolen at school the student must immediately notify a teacher or administrator. If the iPad is lost or stolen outside of school, the police must be contacted immediately and the school principal must be notified. Students/Parents bear the responsibility of full replacement costs of the lost items (iPad, case, and/or charger) if they cannot be located.
21. What safety procedures should be followed for the iPad?
- When transporting the iPad, it must be kept in the case that is provided or purchased. Screens can be wiped with a lint free cloth. Abrasive or liquid cleaners must not be used.
22. Are students allowed to use their iPad for personal use?
- Students who have an iPad in Grades 7-12 can use the iPad as they wish for their own personal use for any legal activities that comply with the NWSC Student Responsible Use Guidelines. Students can install Apps and music that they legally own as long as they have the hard drive space to support it. If a student has questions about what they can or cannot do, please contact a teacher, administrator, or a member of the NWSC Technology Department.
23. What if a student does not have Internet at home?
- Teachers are aware that not all students have Internet access at home and will provide accommodations and utilize Apple when necessary for students without home Internet access.
 - There is free public wireless Internet at any of our schools, Howard County Public Library, and area restaurants.
24. Will the students be protected while on the Internet?
- Yes, through our content filter, we are able to incorporate mobile filtering which allows us to extend our existing filtering policies to our off-network devices to ensure safe, secure 24/7 learning opportunities. The mobile filter transparently communicates Internet-browser requests from a mobile device to the content filter server back at the school.
25. What happens if a student leaves NWSC during the school year?
- Students will be required to return their assigned iPad along with the power adapter. If the iPad is found to be in good working order only showing normal wear and tear, nothing else will be needed from the student. Depending on when the student leaves, they may be eligible for a refund of the textbook rental fee minus any costs for damage. Any iPad not returned to NWSC upon leaving will be considered theft and reported to area law enforcement.