



DeKalb County Schools
Department of Information and
Instructional Technology (DIIT)

Division of Information & Instructional Technology (DIIT) Update

Accomplishments & Strategic Roadmap

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Presented To:

DeKalb County Schools Board of Education and
Dr. Norman Sauce III, Interim Superintendent

The Horizon: Master Plan and Long Term Replacement Strategy

Modern Infrastructure



Enhance network, wireless, and data center standards for scalability.

Safe & Secure Schools



Strengthen cybersecurity frameworks and physical security assets.

Instructional Access



Refine technology models to improve equity and classroom effectiveness.

Digital Operations



Enhance enterprise systems and data practices for decision-making.

Sustainability



Lifecycle governance and funding alignment.

Cybersecurity: A Culture of Safety



Equity, Access, & Digital Innovation: Empowering Our Learning Community



Teachers

- IGNITE U Professional Learning Series & AI Cohorts
- Focus on differentiation, evaluation, and assessment tools.



Students ("Digital Dreamers")

- Programs aligned to "Portrait of a Graduate".
- Equitable access to low-tech & high-tech assistive technologies.
- Focus on Digital Citizenship, ownership, and engagement.



Families/Parents

- Parent Tech Cafés & Virtual Meetings (e.g., Infinite Campus, Launchpad, Cybersecurity, Digital Citizenship).
- Digital Literacy.



Google Classroom for students and staff



Added Google Workspace Plus for enhanced technology integration



Upgraded the district website to a content management system for enhanced communication and ease of use.

Leading with AI: Governance & Innovation

The question is not whether students will use AI, but how. By integrating AI thoughtfully, teachers ensure students learn not only what AI can do, but how and when it should be used responsibly and ethically, preparing them for an increasingly AI-driven future.



Governance

- **DIIT AI Task Force:** Cross-functional group ensuring broad, inclusive perspectives.
- **Work Areas:** Balancing instructional gains with risks (bias, privacy, academic integrity).



Implementation

- **Phased rollout** with age-appropriate access.
- Focus on AI literacy, prompt engineering, and informed decision-making.

DIIT Operational Achievements

Network Stability



Transitioning the DCSD network from a critical state to a future state through 3 phases.



Cybersecurity



Transitioned from passwords to passphrases for all DCSD staff and implemented Managed Detection & Response (MDR).



Physical Safety



Continued installation and activation of intrusion alarms and door access controls.



Device Refresh & Repair





Refreshed all student and staff instructional devices and improved device turnaround repair time to an average of 4 days.






Network Infrastructure Timeline: From Critical to Stabilization




Phase 1 (2024–2025): Critical

-  **Action:** Upgrading Cabling, Switches, & Wireless Access Points.
-  **Context:** Addressing components 12+ years old.

Phase 2 (2025): Progressing

-  **Firewall:** Co-managed solution implemented.
-  **Bandwidth:** Increased from 30GB to 100GB.
-  **Redundancy:** Added Secondary Internet Circuit.

Phase 3 (2026): The Goal (Stable)

-  **Action:** Upgrade Core Sites (WBBC, Sam Moss, AIC) with generators/power.
-  **Proposal:** Network Infrastructure Redesign (Recommendation to BOE Feb 2026).
-  **Implementation:** Target July 2026.

2026–2027 Priority Projects: Beyond the Network



Telecommunications Refresh

Transitioning to hybrid softphone and cloud-based solutions.



Video Surveillance

Replacement of 8,000 aging analog cameras.



Power & Reliability

Installation of gas generators and fire suppression at core sites.



Network Infrastructure Redesign

Phase 3 Stabilization & Managed Network Implementation.

Recommendation
Feb 2026

Network Redesign: Addressing Challenges, Realizing Benefits

The Challenge: Current Vulnerabilities



DCSD Network Age:

Fiber optic network is over 20 years old.



Head-End Dependency:

16 head-end sites create single points of failure for multiple schools.



No Path Diversity:

No backup solution in case of a fiber optic cut.



No SLA:

Outsourced repairs take 8–36 hours with no Service Level Agreement.

The Benefits: Consolidated Model



Path Diversity:

Multi-route architecture minimizes school-wide outages. A single cut does not stop connectivity.



Operational Accountability:

Transition to ISP infrastructure guarantees a 4-Hour SLA for repairs (down from 36 hours).



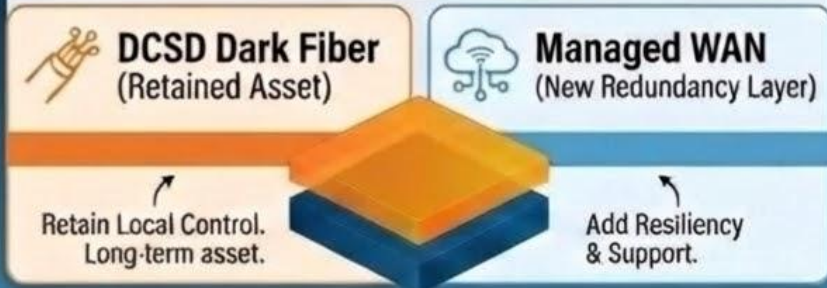
Financial Efficiency:

Leverages E-Rate funding while preserving the value of the DCSD dark-fiber asset.

PHASE 3 SOLUTION: THE HYBRID “FORWARD TOGETHER” NETWORK REDESIGN

Consolidate DCSD-owned fiber with a managed network.

NETWORK COMPONENTS & STRATEGY





STRATEGY STEPS



UNIFIED RESILIENT ARCHITECTURE



KEY BENEFITS: FORWARD TOGETHER

-  **Redundancy:** Complementary layer, not a replacement.
-  **Integration:** Single architecture for routing and failover.

FORWARD TOGETHER: DCSD FIBER + MANAGED NETWORK = ONE UNIFIED, RESILIENT NETWORK.

Impact Summary & Next Steps: Better Together



DCSD Fiber






Managed Network



One Unified,
Resilient Foundation

Better Together: Local control where it matters; managed resiliency where it counts.

Bottom-Line Impact

-  Fewer instructional disruptions.
-  Faster recovery from outages (4-hour SLA).
-  A future-ready, scalable foundation for technology integration and innovation.

Conclusion & Next Steps

February 2026 Board of Education Meeting

- **Formal Recommendation:** Network Infrastructure Redesign (Phase 3).

Questions & Discussion



Special Thanks to the DeKalb County Schools Board of Education and Interim Superintendent Dr. Norman Sauce III for the continued support!

Thanks to the DIIT team for carrying out the vision and managing daily operations.

