BOARDS OF COOPERATIVE EDUCATION SERVICES

Regional Technology Plan

5-YEAR 793 PLAN FOR TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

2026 - 2031

Western New York Regional Information Center
Revised: November 2025

CA BOCES
Essential Partner

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E₂CCB
Erie 2-Chautauqua-Cattaraugus BOCES

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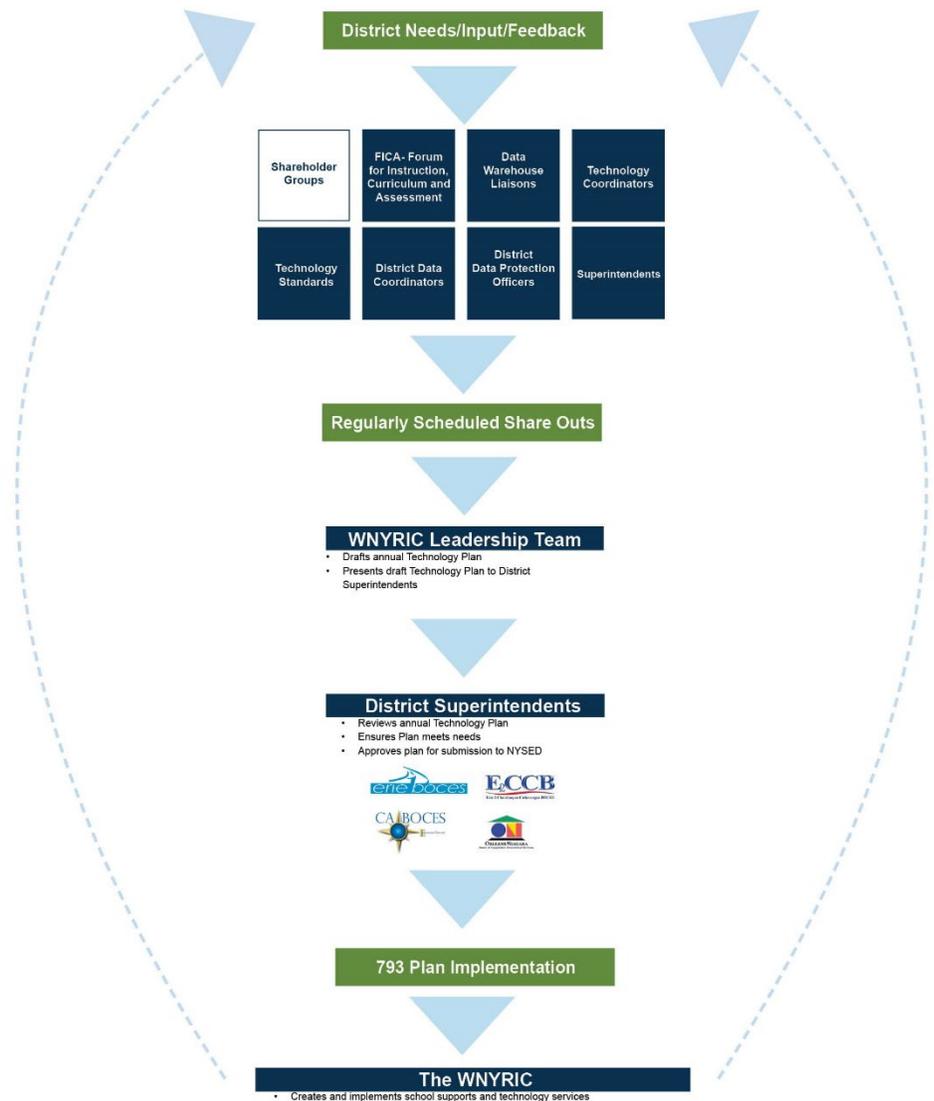# Section One: Regional Technology Planning Process

The Planning Process

The planning process guides WNYRIC by identifying information and providing insight into the needs of the school districts throughout the region.

These needs are collected by various shareholder groups comprised of leaders representing each division of WNYRIC. Shareholder groups give their input to District Superintendents for each of the BOCES we serve. Once District Superintendents review and approve these needs, WNYRIC begins to update or draft the plan.

As WNYRIC implements the plan, it is responsible for monitoring the progress of each of the goals outlined. These progress reports are distributed to shareholder groups as a tool to guide discussion about future needs and allow for feedback and input as to what can be done to better serve our schools.
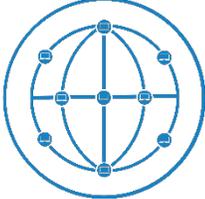

Identifying and Prioritizing Regional Needs

A range of shareholder groups and other broad-based fact-finding methods are used to gather information for the purpose of framing the challenges facing school districts in the region. Care is taken to ensure no constituent stakeholders are excluded. This results in the development of a plan that contains meaningful contributions from representatives of all school districts in the region, reflecting not only their needs, but also WNYRIC's objectives to address those needs.
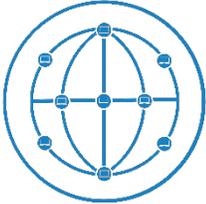
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Section Two: Current Context

Plan Scope and Regional Priorities

Plan Scope & Regional Priorities	Technology Leadership	Instructional Leadership	Data Leadership	Data Privacy and Security
	Maintain and evolve technology environments to support instructional and administrative needs.	Provide and reinforce best practices to support instruction to enhance all students' learning.	Lead, guide and support regional instructional and administrative data requirements and district needs.	Provide and maintain a robust security environment to support the protection and reliability of data.

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Section Three: Five Year Technology Plan

Scope	Goal	Objectives	NYSED Aligned Priorities
Technology Leadership	Maintain and evolve technology environments to support instructional and administrative needs.	Provide devices and access to support online learning	1/3
		Provide and support secure and cost-effective cloud offerings	3/6
		Provide and support a secure and robust network environment	6
		Plan for disaster recovery and redundancy	6
Instructional Leadership	Provide and reinforce best practices to support technology integration for instruction to enhance all students' learning.	Support districts in understanding and implementing computer science and digital fluency standards	3
		Availability of programs to support online learning	2/3
		Prepare students for college and/or careers	2/3
		Access and engagement for all students	2
		Implement tech integration strategies that align with NYS learning standards	2/3/4
Data Leadership	Lead, guide and support regional instructional and administrative data initiatives.	Provide data views and reports for use in a multiple measure data approach to assess, analyze and prescribe learning plans for all students	5
		Provide guidance and support for NYSED data collection, requirements and reporting process	5
		Implement and support new and existing data management systems that enhance regional services	5
Data Privacy and Security	Provide and maintain a robust security environment to support the protection and reliability of data.	Provide guidance regarding Ed Law 2D compliance	6
		Provide cybersecurity guidance and support	6

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Section Four: Plan Benefits

It is imperative for the school districts in WNYRIC region to remain on the cutting edge as new technology and applications develop at a rapid pace. The role of WNYRIC is to provide high quality professional development, innovative technology support, access to on-demand customer service, and secure access to district data. WNYRIC continues to enhance existing services with updated functionality, as well as offer new products to meet the needs of school districts. As a result, WNYRIC staff continue to investigate emerging technologies and their administrative and instructional uses and implications.

Digital Learning and Fluency Standards will provide the foundation for online offerings that support remote synchronous/asynchronous learning on the part of teachers, students, and school communities. WNYRIC continues to examine new technologies to provide cost effective access from any device for administrators, teachers, and learners. We ensure that legal and district policies are in place to safely and securely navigate within these environments in compliance with Ed Law 2d and Part 121 Regulations. We continue to provide new instructional technology offerings through the statewide RFP process that is conducted by WNYRIC.
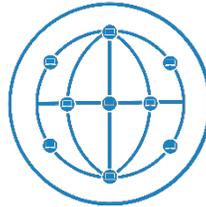
Technology contributes significantly to how data is used for instructional planning and student achievement. We provide school administrators and teachers with critical information to target resources and implement instructional strategies leading to educational success for all students. WNYRIC continues to be a leader in the collection and reporting of data that supports the tremendous impact technology has on instruction and student learning. WNYRIC staff assists school districts with formative, summative, and innovative online and authentic assessment use that aligns with Computer Based Testing needs and the expectations of the NYS Blue Ribbon Commission. This is accomplished through effective technology planning as well as providing the essential professional development needed for successful implementation. WNYRIC staff continues to operate at a high level when it comes to all data privacy and security. We research and communicate potential threats and risks to ensure the protection of student information.

Using the input of the region and recommendations from WNYRIC Standards committee, we establish a single set of service delivery standards that encompass hardware and telecommunications protocols. This allows us to provide consistent infrastructure services to all districts. WNYRIC continues to design and implement the most cost effective, secure and robust bandwidth (network connectivity), including the utilization of priority layered design. Through our partnerships with multiple vendors and facilitating competitive bidding practices, we obtain a strong price advantage.

Optimization of WNYRIC Service Desk is achieved using trend analysis to optimize services offered. We use video and centralized service tools to facilitate anytime self-service. Staff utilize the inclusive Active Directory to aid in efficient sharing of resources. For network infrastructure security enhancements, WNYRIC staff implements cost optimization methods for wide area and local area network security. We remain focused on the continual enhancement of our Disaster Recovery (DR) and Business Continuity (BC) Plans and Procedures. WNYRIC continues to update the Disaster Recovery Initiatives for our Tier 1 applications, as appropriate, and Tier 2 applications will be implemented based on time of recovery needs.

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Section Five: Results from Previous Plan

Year 3: 2024-2025

Technology Leadership

Maintain and evolve technology environments to support instructional and administrative needs.

Objectives	Outcomes
Provide and support a secure and robust network environment	• Installed new broadband switches and upgraded connections • Replaced core and edge backbone routing infrastructure. • Installing new network equipment in the datacenter enabling more flexible, extendable networking • Installing new VPN appliances and requiring MFA
Provide devices and access to support online and all learning	• Supports eAcademy, serving grades 7-12 in Erie 1 BOCES • Supports various Distance Learning activities including credit recovery, credit accrual, tutoring, and learning management systems for Erie 1, Erie 2 and CA BOCES • Supports W.A.V.E. Academy (Wisdom, Achievement, Values, and Engagement) in Erie 2 BOCES • Offers multiple generative AI options for BOCES and school districts.
Provide and support secure and cost-effective cloud offerings	• Implemented Remote Backup Service for Microsoft 365 and Google Workspace. • Ensures identity practices align with legal and regulatory standards • Transitioned appropriate identity systems to cloud platforms while also implementing Multi-Factor Authorization (MFA) and Single Sign On (SSO)
Plan for disaster recovery and redundancy	• Created redundant backup internet option service secured with firewall. • RIC One DR template provided as a resource for districts • DR discussions in DPO Meetings and Technology Coordinator Meetings

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Instructional Leadership

Provide and reinforce best practices to support technology integration for instruction to enhance all students' learning.

Objectives	Outcomes
Support districts in understanding and implementing computer science and digital fluency standards	• Host a Computer Science (CS) conference in partnership with The University at Buffalo and CS for NY • Continue IHE partnership by creating a consortium for implementing computer science and digital fluency standards across all grade bands K-12 • Course development with component districts for computer science and digital fluency standards • Aligning district course offering with SED recommended computer science and digital fluency content • Continue to train teachers and administrators on computer science and digital fluency standards
Availability of programs to support online learning	• Robust catalogue of on-line learning opportunities for teachers and administrators, 2000 plus participants • Training teachers on on-line platforms for on-line learning such as O365, Google and other learning management systems • Active member in the WNY Distance Learning and NYS Distance Learning consortiums • Provides access to hundreds of on-line classes to component districts through the consortiums • Supports the use of credit recovery products
Prepare students for college and/or careers	• Trains teachers on tech skills they can implement to their students that align with college and career readiness and Portrait of a Graduate (PoG) • Provide consortium-based opportunities that provide authentic learning and problem solving • Actively embedding PoG in all PD deliveries • Engaging with vendors in user groups related to PoG and Seals
Access and engagement for all students	• Consult districts on access to all students and support the management of devices • Research and Innovation with new and emerging technologies implemented in school in an ethical manner- AI • District and regional training opportunities in a variety of technologies to increase student engagement and interest
Implement tech integration strategies that align with NYS learning standards	• Implementation of coaching model to ensure technology is used to enhance instruction aligned to NYS Learning Standards • Integration of Computer Science and Digital Fluency standards • Collaborate with district and internal curriculum and instruction teams • Align tech integration with NYS math and literacy briefs

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Data Leadership
Lead, guide and support regional instructional and administrative data initiatives.

Objectives	Outcomes
Provide data views and reports for use in a multiple measure data approach to assess, analyze and prescribe learning plans for all students	• Teacher-level assessment reports and teacher-level security have been added to allow individual teachers to review assessment data for their current and prior year students. • In response to feedback from district and BOCES personnel, a series of reports were created that break out student assessment data by general education students and special education students. • Data Quality Report Card Data Verification reports were updated to align with updated state reporting guidelines. • Support is provided to district and BOCES personnel who have questions or issues related to Level 1 instructional reports. • Enhanced reports and visualizations have been developed to assist district and BOCES personnel in better understanding data related to students whose home language is not English. These improvements allow staff to track home language patterns over time, display home languages geographically by zip code, and ensure that books and materials are accessible in frequently spoken home languages.
Provide guidance and support for NYSED data collection, requirements and reporting process	• Training sessions are provided for WNYRIC districts on SIRS Level 0 (Navigation, Security, Reports); Level 1 Regional Data Warehouse (Navigation, Security, Visualizations, Verification Reports, Assessment reports); L2RPT (BEDS Day reports, UIAS, Verification and Certification Reports); and NYSSIS. In addition, there are quarterly District Data Coordinator meetings; a training program for new District Data Coordinators; and end of year data reporting workshops for districts who use PowerSchool, eSchoolData, ClearTrack, and Frontline. • Workshops have been conducted for district and BOCES special education directors to enhance their understanding of the state data reporting process. Emphasis is placed on how accurate and timely reporting impacts the new special education accountability calculations. Each district also received a user-friendly booklet compiling their accountability data to support interpretation of key metrics. • Instructional coaches have received targeted outreach to deepen their understanding of the data and reports available through the Data Warehouse. • Monthly newsletters are created for WNYRIC districts focusing on data reporting updates, timelines, and reports. These are also posted on the Dataview site. • Workshops have been held to support personnel at E1B, E2CCB, CA, and ON BOCES in understanding the data reporting requirements and procedures for CTE students.

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	In support of the NYSED Regionalization initiative, a report was created to assist school districts in completing the required Regionalization survey. The collected survey data was compiled into a user-friendly format to support Regionalization convenings. Additional data was provided for use in developing the Regional Plan & Recommendations.
Implement and support new and existing data management systems that enhance regional services	• In support of the NYSED Regionalization initiative, a report was created to assist school districts in completing the required Regionalization survey. The collected survey data was compiled into a user-friendly format to support Regionalization convenings. Additional data was provided for use in developing the Regional Plan & Recommendations. • Data from various applicant recruitment software systems was collected, analyzed, and compiled into actionable reports, to help stakeholders understand current and future staffing needs in schools. • Ongoing support and development continue for the web application used for collection and reporting of suspension data to participating component districts. The project has been rolled out and is actively in progress. Data is available for participating districts to review and analyze length of suspension and infraction types.

Data Privacy and Security

Provide and maintain a robust security environment to support the protection and reliability of data.

Objectives	Outcomes
Provide guidance regarding Ed Law 2D compliance	• New DPO Coach service created in 24-25 and added a district in 25-26 • Ed Law 2-d guidance provided at DPO meeting (5 per year) and at Regional Technology Coordinator Meetings held by WNYRIC • As part of RIC One information and templates are provided to districts for Ed Law 2-d guidance
Provide cybersecurity guidance and support	• Cybersecurity guidance provided at DPO meeting (5 per year) and at Regional Technology Coordinator Meetings held by WNYRIC • Enhanced Cybersecurity Service - Provides services to help improve a districts cybersecurity posture, including Vulnerability and Penetration Testing, Phishing Testing, and malicious email review. Access to cybersecurity vendors including EDR, SIEM, MDR, and Training and Awareness • As part of RIC One information and templates are provided to districts for Cybersecurity guidance • Cybersecurity information and notifications are provided to districts through the listserv

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Appendix A: Regulatory Requirements Summary

Required Element	Page(s)
A description of the regional collaborative planning process	3
A description of how the regional technology plan supports efficient and effective provision of technology services, which includes a description of major challenges to be addressed by the plan.	3
A description of how the regional technology plan addresses the technology and data priorities and needs of the state, and how such plan will increase school district access to technology and assist school districts in developing and maintaining robust information privacy, information security, and cybersecurity controls;	5-6
State Priority 1: Improving digital equity, including increasing student and teachers access to devices and broadband internet both in school buildings and in place(s) of residence;	5
State Priority 2: Increasing access to technology-enhanced, culturally- and linguistically-responsive, differentiated, and personalized learning environments to support improved teaching and learning for all students, including students with disabilities and English language learners (ELLs)	5
State Priority 3: Increasing equitable access to high-quality instruction, courses, and multi-modal learning experiences through digital technology, including but not limited to advanced courses, for all districts, including small, rural, and/or high -needs districts;	5
State Priority 4: Providing access to relevant and rigorous professional development to ensure educators and leaders are proficient in technology for both instructional and administrative purposes;	5
State Priority 5: Utilize, maintain, and continue to enhance a robust data environment, including but not limited to the multiple data collection points within the Student Information Repository System (SIRS) and all data applications within the New York State Business Application Portal, to positively impact instruction and decision-making;	5
State Priority 6: Implementing and maintaining data privacy and security controls ensuring compliance with all applicable privacy laws and regulations including, but not limited to, New York Education Law 2-d.	5
A list of regional priorities and needs that the regional technology plan will address;	4
A description of the methods used to identify and priorities needs in the region, which shall include engagement with key stakeholder groups;	3
A list of quantifiable goals and a description of how the goals will directly address the regional technology needs and improve service delivery over the next five years;	4-6
Performance objectives for the first two years of the plan;	5
A description of the procedures which will be put in place to monitor the plan's implementation;	3
An evaluation of the performance objectives for the previous two years	7
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Appendix B: Cooperative Planning Assurances

I approve the regional collaborative planning process used to develop and maintain our regional technology plan.

I assure that my BOCES participated fully in the development of this regional plan.

I assure that users, as defined in guidance, were substantively involved in the development of this plan.

I assure that all technology services offered by my BOCES and the Regional Information Center are cost-effective.

_____   _____
Scott Payne   Date
Cattaraugus/Allegany BOCES

_____   _____
Dr. Michael Capuana   Date
Erie 1 BOCES

_____   _____
Dr. David O'Rourke   Date
Erie 2/Chautauqua/Cattaraugus BOCES

_____   _____
Taweepon Farrar   Date
Orleans/Niagara BOCES

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