



Netbook Fact Sheet

The EVSC school board approved the usage and rental of 1 to 1 computing through small laptop computers for all high school students the 2009-2010 school year.

What is the purpose of the use of netbooks: The purpose is to ignite a passion for learning, inspiring all students to become self-motivated, enthusiastic participants in their education. This One-To-One laptop initiative supports the district's tradition as an innovative leader by moving forward with an integrated approach to technology use. Furthermore, it reinforces technology as one of the core focus areas of the district's Strategic Plan for equity and excellence for all students.

Our goal is for all students, regardless of income or family background, to have access to a laptop computer for use at both school and home. We believe that individual ownership will help promote concepts of self-motivation and enthusiastic participation by providing all with access to a powerful technological tool to enhance learning.

Beginning the initiative in the high schools is an integral part of assisting students as they prepare for post-secondary education and careers. Since computer use is required in nearly all post-secondary programs and professions, a natural and constant access in high school will better prepare students for this inevitable future.

What is a netbook: A netbook is a small laptop computer primarily designed for web computing. It is about the size of a small textbook, and weighs significantly less than a full-sized laptop computer. The EVSC is using the Hewlett Packard (HP) 2140 Mini. The EVSC 2140s will feature a 10.1" screen, webcam, Open Office software -- a free application that includes word processing, spread sheet, design and presentation offerings similar and compatible with Microsoft Office programs. It will also be configured with wireless access to the Internet and have virus protection software.

How will the netbooks be used: The netbooks will be used as personal computers for each high school student in the EVSC. This would include students at North, Harrison, Reitz, Central, Bosse, Henry Reis, and the School of Academic and Career Development. The computers will be used in the classroom for note taking, in projects, to research information in and outside the classroom, and in general be an integral part of everyday activity in most classes and for homework purposes. Other software the EVSC has purchased will allow virtual lockers for students, where assignments and information can be stored. A student will use the same netbook for four years, turning it in during the summer for re-imaging and restoration.

How will students be protected from offensive materials: The EVSC will install blocking mechanisms on each netbook, which will prevent certain Internet sites that the school corporation has determined should not be accessible from being seen. This block will also work from locations outside the school building.

What if you do not have Internet at home: Students will be instructed how they can download materials during the school day that they will need for homework in the evening. For those times that the Internet may be necessary, the EVSC has worked closely with the Evansville Public Libraries so that students will be able to work at any of our community's libraries, where wireless Internet is provided.

What is the battery life of the computer: Approximately six hours. Students will be asked to charge their laptops at home each night. If a battery goes dead while a student is at school, charger stations in the schools, called “toasters” will be provided for batteries, where a student can turn in a dead battery and receive a charged one to use. If a student’s battery no longer holds a charge, the EVSC will replace it at no cost to the student.

What is the rental fee: The fee will be \$35 per semester. The total cost of the netbook was \$460 per computer, but funds from grants and other Technology initiatives are being used to help subsidize the rental fee. The fee will be paid as part of each student’s textbook rental. This \$460 cost includes asset tagging, imaging, case and professional development. No software other than the Windows XP Professional Operating system is included in the cost. Open Office (compatible with Microsoft Office) a free word processing, presentation, and spreadsheet software will be available on the computer, as well. Other programs might be added later as the program develops.

What if a family cannot afford the rental: For those students who qualify for free and reduced lunch prices, the cost of the computer is \$0. The state currently reimburses school for those costs for lunches and textbooks (and now computers) for these families. For those families who do not qualify, the EVSC will work with the families to establish payment plans that will be affordable for their particular situations.

Who is responsible for repair fees or replacement: The EVSC will be responsible for repair or replacement, though the cost may revert to the student/parent if the reason is negligence, theft, etc. There will be a location in each school to take damaged netbooks.

Optional insurance is available for students, faculty and staff, through Student Insurance Partners to provide laptop/tablet insurance which will provide replacement cost coverage and protect the laptop worldwide.

There are two policy options:

- Yearly premium of \$44, with a deductible of \$50. Coverage amount -- \$460
- Yearly premium of \$48, with a deductible of \$25. Coverage amount -- \$460

Both policies provide 12 months of protection against: accidental damage (like drops and spills); theft or vandalism; fire, flood or natural disasters; and power surges due to lightning. For an additional fee of \$5, the policy will also cover other items that a student, staff or faculty member may own - but not necessarily use at school, including the policy holder’s cell phone, iPod, MP3 player, PDA, digital camera, calculator, musical instruments and textbooks. Information on this insurance option for families and a Student Insurance Partner order form will be available when computers are picked up by students. For additional information, contact Blake Barth at 405-269-4378 or go to www.studentinsurancepartners.com

Will students/parents be faced with costs for computers associated with normal wear and tear repair: Normal functionality issues will not be a cost parents will incur. Those costs will only be associated with damages to the computer through negligence. The cost of replacing a computer that malfunctions due to no fault of a student will be borne by the EVSC. If a computer needs to be replaced due to negligent behavior, the cost would be borne by the student/parent, just as it would be if it was a textbook that needed to be replaced. The replacement cost would never be more than the original purchase price of the computer.

If the netbook is being repaired, will a replacement be provided for the student: Yes, the EVSC will have spare netbooks for students to use while their netbook is in repair.

What if newer models of computer become available: The long-range plan of the EVSC is to eventually have laptop computers for use at all levels of its schools. These initial HP 2140 Mini netbooks will be used for four years. In the world of technology, advances move very quickly and new models are introduced at a rapid rate. In fact, there is already a newer model of HP mini, than what was purchased by the EVSC. At the time of the request for proposals, HP and the EVSC agreed that the HP Mini 2140 was the best fit for its high school students. The HP Mini 2140 is the second-generation, full-function mini-note PC from HP and has won industry accolades and has strong customer satisfaction.

In fact, the model became so popular that demand exceeded supply. HP then accelerated the delivery of the next version of the mini, the HP Mini 5101. The HP Mini 2140 and the HP 5101 feature the same Intel Atom processor and Intel graphics solution and supports up to 2GB or SDRAM. The main difference is that the HP 5101 has a different cosmetic design and a 3% larger keyboard. HP will support the HP 2140 for the next five years as EVSC moves forward with its digital computing plan for its students.

Do students have to lease a netbook? Can they use one that they have from home: The netbook will become an integral part of the educational process, and all students must have one to participate in classroom activities that require it. It will be a tool that students will be expected to use and incorporate into their daily learning experiences. Students cannot use their own laptops in school because of the extensive work that would be required for each computer to block sites that should not be accessed – both in school, and at home; prevent viruses from getting onto the EVSC network; and to configure the computer for use with the EVSC’s use of ANGEL, a course management and portal software program.

The netbooks the students receive will be ready to use and configured with everything needed. In addition, EVSC personnel will be trained to work on these computers and it would be very costly to have to deal with issues on a variety of different computers and platforms.

Will the students be required to take the netbooks home each night: The netbooks are a tool for students to help students with their homework – just as you might take home a protractor or compass for a geometry class. Will they be “required” to take the computer home – no. But as technology is a core component of how people learn and access information today, and since EVSC students have homework as a basic part of their learning activities, it is important to allow them to take the netbooks home with them.

Will the netbooks be traceable? Are they specifically assigned to a student: Each student’s netbook will have both an EVSC asset tag and an HP serial number, both of which will be assigned to that student and be part of the Destiny textbook system and the RDS fixed assets system. So, just as textbooks are barcoded and can be tracked from school to school and if one is found the EVSC knows who it belongs to – the netbooks will also be treated in the same manner.

Will parents/students be allowed to install tracking software or other software: No. No one besides authorized EVSC personnel will be allowed to install any devices or software on these computers.

Who is funding the cost of computers for those students participating in the free and reduced lunch price program: This comes from the subsidy from the state that pays for textbook rental fees for free/reduced lunch students.

How is the netbook program being subsidized: Through textbook rental funds, reduced shipping costs in book fund, and other areas in technology funds – Capital Projects and Common School Fund.

For this fall, will the fee for the netbooks eliminate other textbook rental costs: For the first year, it will be an additional cost. For subsequent years, the EVSC will look closely at each subject area that is up for adoption and determine which do and do not need a textbook for each student. We do not anticipate that EVERY textbook will be eliminated. Some teachers may opt for a classroom set of textbooks and develop online curriculum for students to use. There is also a plethora of other digital curriculum that the EVSC will be reviewing.

Will digital versions of textbooks be added to the netbooks at some point in the future: The idea is not to replace a print textbook with a digital version of that same textbook. The cost to do this, in most cases, is identical to the cost of a printed text, and, textbooks are static and the information is outdated quickly, sometimes as soon as they go to print. The EVSC will provide teachers and students with digital resources, both those that can be purchased and also those we will develop ourselves.

If these digital resources are online, how can students access them if they don't have the Internet: if there are resources that are on specific Internet sites that a teacher wants a student to use, students will be informed of ways to "cache" (or save) that information on their computer for future use when Internet use is not available to them.

Are teachers required to use the netbooks in their class curriculum: The EVSC is providing professional development (PD) ongoing each year for teachers and building administrators so more can be learned about how to incorporate this and other technologies into classroom instruction. Technology PD has been an ongoing part of the EVSC for many years. There are also e-learning coaches in every high school building who will work to develop digital curriculum and to help teachers with ways to integrate the use of the netbook in engaging students in their classes.

In order to assure safety of the netbooks, will there be limits on the number of books a student must carry from class to class: This will be a school-based decision and may vary at each school.

What procedures or precautions will be taken to assure the safety of netbooks when students must attend after-school functions: The netbook policy which all students will receive and have available to them online expects students to either have their computer with them, or locked in their locker. At no time is it to be left unattended.