

School Technology Planning

Many WELS schools are making decisions regarding technology infrastructure and purchasing to support the changing landscape of education in the 21st century. Recently several tech directors shared their experience with these issues on **Episode 339** of the [WELSTech Podcast](#). The consideration points are summarized below.

Goals

The education world is being bombarded by the push to incorporate mobile devices into the classroom scene. It is very important to gather as much info as you can, take a deep breath, and do what you feel is going to benefit the students at YOUR school. Everyone loves the latest and greatest, but does it fit with how your school teaches and what your students are learning?

Why?

- Determine curriculum objectives and needed resources
- Focus on the desired learning
- What should students be doing? [ISTE Standards for Students](#)

What do you need?

- Google Apps for Education
- iPad Apps

Training - Faculty adoption

Access

- Internet Connection speed
- Wireless access – [WELSTech 327](#)
- Printing
 - Wireless
 - Google Cloud Print

Security & Acceptable Use

- Google Apps for Education allows quick and easy policy enforcement
- Firewall
- Virus Protection
- Student, Faculty and Staff Acceptable Use Policies

Devices

- Laptops vs. Desktops vs. Chromebook vs. iPads
 - Teaching staff may need more powerful devices
 - iPads implementation benefits from Apple TVs in the classroom
- Charging carts
- Server
- Potential group buying through high school association, etc.
 - Consider device continuity with association schools

Financing

- Own vs. Lease – Leasing is more expensive
- Insurance – Most say it isn't worth the cost
- Repairs
- Fees vs. Student-owned
 - Many are requiring students purchase their own & waiving tech fees

Support

- [Chrome Devices for Education Planning Guide](#)
- [WELS Google Schools](#) – Google+ Community
- Apple
 - [Deployment Overview](#)
 - [Technical Reference](#)



WELSTech Episode 339 - welstech.wels.net