

Beginning in 2015, the FCC’s E-Rate Modernization Order (FCC 14-99) completely eliminated the requirement for schools to submit a technology plan. One of the goals set out in this order was to make the application process for schools “fast, simple, and efficient.”

Previous Indiana Tech Plan

The practice that has been in place for Indiana schools was a lengthy online submission process. The form required detailed goals, strategies, and metrics to be provided (a full page of documentation) for every school in the district. In addition to similar metrics to be provided at the district level, the previous form required five tables of specific budgetary information that was neither a requirement of the FCC, nor the Indiana Code.



The IDOE supported and maintained a system (through IDOE Online) that allowed for live editing and monitoring of these plans. This system presented a yearly challenge of opening and closing access, as well as an approval process to assure that all of the questions had been sufficiently answered. All plans, and their yearly updates, were read by the Office of eLearning to ensure that districts were diligent in completing the plan. Other than this access, results were not designed to be consumed. Approval resulted in the generation of a PDF certificate which was previously needed to demonstrate to the FCC that a district had a valid plan on file. As of this year, such documentation is no longer required for the E-Rate discount.

New Indiana Tech Plan

The Indiana Tech Plan launched here will provide a substantial improvement by providing data that is actually useful to the IDOE as well as school corporations. The Tech Plan will provide a snapshot of where each corporation is with regard to integrating student technology and the infrastructure to support it. Reporting will take place in a brief survey each year, constructed in the IDOE JotForm Account: <https://form.jotform.com/53206378383964> The new model is designed for ease of use and simplicity of information gathered.



The Office of eLearning will maintain oversight of the completion of this survey. Once all responses are received, the results will populate a series of maps to house district info, and to display trends across the state. Completion of this survey will ensure district representation in these published maps and serve as the fulfillment of Indiana Code, qualifying public districts for state technology funds.