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Sustainability Procurement Guidelines

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Contents

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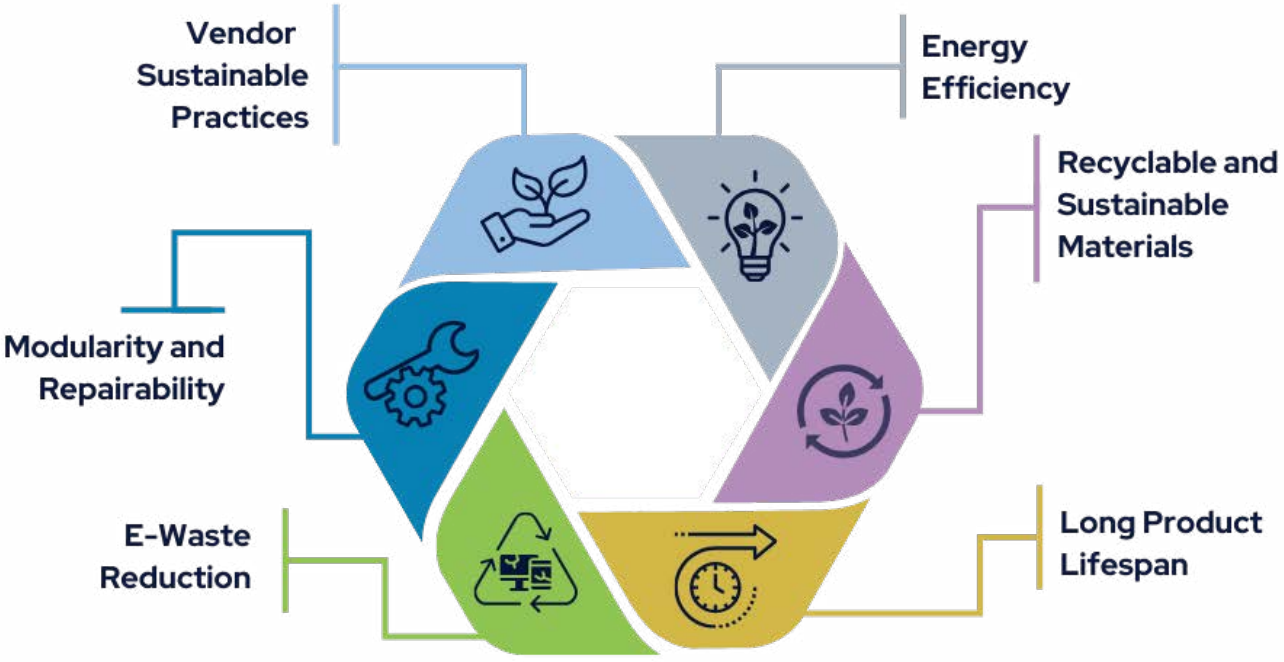
Sustainable Procurement in Education



Introduction

Sustainable procurement is not only good for the environment, it is also a smart financial strategy for school districts. As K–12 education technology spending continues to grow, reaching over $30 billion in 2024 and projected to nearly double by 2033[1], schools have an opportunity to make smart purchasing decisions that reduce long-term costs and maximize the value of their technology investments. If hardware continues to represent one-third of technology spending, districts could be spending nearly $20 billion on devices alone by the end of the decade.

By adopting sustainable practices, schools can reduce utility costs, cut down on repair and replacement expenses, and increase the long-term value of their investments. These decisions can also create healthier learning environments and demonstrate responsible leadership to students, families, and the broader community.

Although specific data on the carbon footprint of K–12 schools is limited, comparisons to higher education institutions help illustrate the potential impact. Colleges and universities account for roughly 2% of total U.S. emissions[2], with nearly 70% of those emissions coming from indirect sources such as electricity use, procurement, and transportation. Since K–12 schools share many of the same operational needs, their procurement choices significantly affect both environmental outcomes and spending.

This resource provides practical strategies to help schools make purchasing decisions that support both financial and environmental goals. By planning ahead and applying sustainable principles, districts can reduce long-term costs while supporting a cleaner and more efficient future.

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1 NetworkNurtureHub, "United States K-12 Education Technology Spend Market Size." LinkedIn, 25 May 2025, https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/united-states-k-12-education-technology-spend-market-2rlce/

2 Patrick Behrer. Education and Climate Change: The Critical Role of Adaptation Investments. World Bank Group, 16 Mar. 2024, https://blogs.worldbank.org/en/developmenttalk/education-and-climate-change-critical-role-adaptation-investments

How to Use This Resource

This resource serves as a guide for K–12 school and district leaders, procurement officers, and technology directors in making technology purchasing decisions that are both environmentally responsible and operationally effective. Rather than prescribing a one-size-fits-all approach, this guide offers a flexible framework. Procurement processes vary widely across districts, and purchasing decisions often involve collaboration among multiple departments. Recognizing these differences, the model language and examples provided are designed to be adaptable. Users can select and tailor the guidance to align with their local context, goals, and policies.

Key Categories of Sustainable Procurement

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

When procuring technology with sustainability in mind, it's important to prioritize energy efficiency. Specifying energy-efficient standards in procurement contracts helps ensure that products minimize energy consumption, reducing operational costs and environmental impact. For example, San Diego Unified School District, the eighth-largest in the nation, has saved $90 million over the past 12 years through its sustainability initiatives[3].

Energy Star certification is a widely recognized benchmark for energy efficiency and can be a strong requirement for relevant technology purchases. However, it's not always the most stringent or applicable standard for every product category. Depending on the technology, other certifications may offer better guarantees of energy performance and sustainability.

For example, the Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool[4] (EPEAT) provides a tiered rating system that evaluates energy efficiency, material use, and end-of-life management. To ensure the most sustainable choices, procurement policies should allow for multiple energy efficiency standards. Considering technical acceptability through Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP) efficiency requirements[5] can further support organizational sustainability goals.

Model Language and Examples

- Describe how the proposed products meet or exceed recognized energy efficiency and sustainability standards, including but not limited to ENERGY STAR®, EPEAT® (Gold or Silver rating), and TCO Certified. Include documentation that verifies current certification status for all applicable products.
    - [Example] *All proposed products must meet or exceed recognized energy efficiency standards to minimize environmental impact and operational costs. Products should carry certifications such as ENERGY STAR or Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT) ratings, demonstrating compliance with energy performance benchmarks. Vendors must provide documentation verifying the certification status of all products.*
- Describe how the proposed products comply with relevant Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP) efficiency requirements. Provide technical specifications and energy

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[3] McNeil, Katie. "Building Energy-Efficient Schools: Cutting Carbon and Costs." Verizon Business, 2022, https://www.verizon.com/business/resources/articles/s/building-energy-efficient-schools-can-help-cut-carbon-and-costs/

[4] Global Electronics Council. EPEAT Registry. EPEAT, https://www.epeat.net/

[5] U.S. Department of Energy, Energy-Efficient Product Procurement, https://www.energy.gov/femp/energy-efficient-product-procurement

consumption data that demonstrate compliance.
    - [Example] *Technology products must comply with Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP) efficiency requirements where applicable. Vendors should demonstrate how their offerings align with these requirements by providing technical specifications and energy consumption data. Products not meeting FEMP standards will be deemed non-compliant unless explicitly exempted by the contracting officer.*
- Describe how products not covered by ENERGY STAR meet high-efficiency performance benchmarks, such as being in the upper 25% of energy efficiency according to FEMP or similar standards. Include supporting evidence such as test results, performance metrics, or third-party evaluations.
    - [Example] *The contractor shall provide products that meet or exceed ENERGY STAR® specifications for energy efficiency. If ENERGY STAR® labels are not applicable, products must be in the upper 25% of energy efficiency as designated by the Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP). Include supporting evidence such as test results, performance metrics, or third-party evaluations.*

RECYCLABLE AND SUSTAINABLE MATERIALS

Adopting recyclable and sustainable materials in technology procurement offers significant value for school districts and vendors, advancing environmental goals and lead to measurable cost efficiencies. By specifying recycled content and renewable resources, schools can lower their environmental footprint and operational costs. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency highlights that circular economy principles in technology purchasing minimize waste and maximize resource efficiency, especially when products are designed for durability and recyclability.[6]

For school districts, selecting technology products made from recyclable or sustainable materials can reduce operational costs by up to 20 percent, as shown in recent analyses of K–12 green procurement programs.[7] Devices designed for recyclability are easier and less expensive to dispose of or repurpose at end-of-life. This leads to lower landfill fees and e-waste handling expenses. The use of sustainable materials, such as recycled plastics and bio-based components, enhances product durability and reliability, which reduces the need for frequent repairs or replacements and delivers long-term cost savings.[8]

Vendors benefit as well. Companies like Dell and Cisco report millions in annual savings by reusing

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[6] US EPA, What Is a Circular Economy?, 21 Nov. 2024, https://www.epa.gov/circulareconomy/what-circular-economy

[7] Wideman-van der Laan, Ymkje. "Cost-Effective Green Procurement for K-12 Schools: What Works and What Doesn't?" EDspaces, 13 Aug. 2024, https://ed-spaces.com/stories/cost-effective-green-procurement-for-k-12-schools-what-works-and-what-doesnt

[8] UROVO. "Sustainable Practices in Handheld Mobile Computer Manufacturing." UROVO, 8 May 2024, https://en.urovo.com/blog/mobile-computers/sustainable-practices-in-handheld-mobile-computer-manufacturing.html

and recycling materials. Cisco's Takeback and Reuse program recycles or reuses 99.6 percent of products, reducing both raw material and waste management costs.[9] These practices give vendors a competitive advantage as green-certified suppliers are favored in procurement.

By integrating these principles into procurement strategies, procurement organizations can drive sustainability while supporting a more efficient and responsible supply chain.

Model Language and Examples

- Describe the use of sustainable or renewable materials in the construction of proposed products. Include details about material sourcing, manufacturing processes, and any third-party environmental certifications.
    - [Example] *Vendors must identify and describe all sustainable or renewable materials used in their products. Responses should detail sourcing practices, percentage of sustainable content, and relevant environmental certifications (e.g., EPEAT, Energy Star, TCO Certified).*
- Describe how your organization's product design supports recyclability or reuse at the end of its life.
    - [Example] *Products should be designed for easy disassembly to support recycling and reuse. Vendors must submit documentation that outlines lifecycle management plans, including end-of-life options such as take-back, trade-in, or refurbishment programs. Preference will be given to products with modular components and other features that align with circular economy principles.*
- Describe your company's sustainability policies and practices, including any take-back, recycling, or reuse programs offered for the products being proposed.
    - [Example] *Vendors must describe their internal sustainability policies and any product recovery or recycling programs applicable to the proposed technology. Submissions should include details on collection logistics, recycling facilities, and measurable outcomes (e.g., diversion rates, materials recovered).*

LONG PRODUCT LIFESPAN

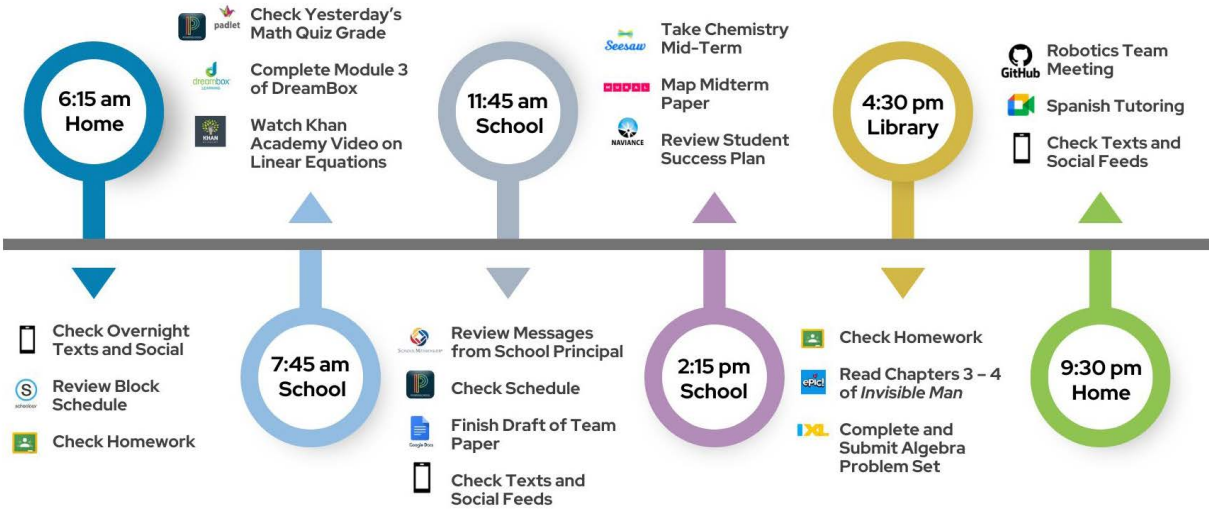
When selecting technology devices for K–12 schools, durability is a key factor that directly influences long-term cost efficiency and sustainability. School-issued devices must endure frequent handling, transport between home and classroom, and daily use by students across a wide age range and sometimes even family members. Wear and tear are unavoidable, but poor durability can drive up costs and undercut sustainability goals.

Students rely on technology throughout the day for learning, communication, and collaboration.

[9] World Economic Forum. "Will Your Next Phone Be Made from Recycled Materials? These 6 Tech Giants Are Working on It." 10 Sept. 2024, https://www.weforum.org/stories/2020/09/will-your-next-phone-be-made-from-recycled-materials-these-6-tech-giants-are-working-on-it

The average district uses hundreds of digital tools to support instruction, grading, and student engagement. From early morning to late evening, students move between school, home, libraries, and after-school programs while staying connected through a variety of apps and platforms. Figure 1 depicts how frequently students rely on technology throughout the day, reinforcing the need for durable, sustainable devices[10].

FIGURE 1: DAY IN THE LIFE OF A STUDENT



Reports indicate that K–12 schools experience an average annual device damage rate of 8% to 12%, with some districts reporting rates as high as 25%.[11] To extend device longevity and minimize repair and replacement costs, schools can take a multifaceted approach: specify durability standards during procurement, invest in protective accessories, implement structured maintenance routines, purchase extended warranties, and plan for full device lifecycles.

When schools specify recognized durability standards during procurement, such as compliance with MIL-STD-810H testing protocols or IP (Ingress Protection) ratings for water and dust resistance, they can prioritize devices designed to endure drops, spills, and general wear and tear. This approach is especially important for one-to-one device programs as 90% of middle and high schools and 84% of elementary schools in the United States provide a device for every student.[12]

Adding high-quality protective covers or cases is another proven strategy to extend device lifespan

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[10] Casey, Doug. K -12 Technology Sustainability Guidance for School and Community Leaders. 2024, https://portal.ct.gov/das/-/media/das/ctedtech/publications/2024/k12_technology_sustainability.pdf

[11] Frost, Alexandra. "Keep One-To-One Device Repair Costs within Budget." Technology Solutions That Drive Education, 2023, https://edtechmagazine.com/k12/article/2023/02/keep-one-one-device-repair-costs-within-budget

[12] Bushweller, Kevin. "What the Massive Shift to 1-To-1 Computing Means for Schools, in Charts." Education Week, 17 May 2022, https://www.edweek.org/technology/what-the-massive-shift-to-1-to-1-computing-means-for-schools-in-charts/2022/05

and reduce repair and replacement costs. For example, Learn21, a K–12 technology management organization, notes that a durable case can "mean the difference between a device lasting three years or six." Additionally, schools that implement structured storage and maintenance routines tend to see lower breakage rates and higher device retention over time.[13]

The financial savings of longer device lifespans are substantial. According to a 2023 report from the U.S. Public Interest Research Group (PIRG) Education Fund, Chromebooks used in schools have an average lifespan of four years. However, doubling this lifespan could yield an estimated $1.8 billion in savings nationally, without accounting for additional maintenance costs.[14]

In 2023, Google announced that Chromebooks released in 2021 and later will receive automatic software updates for up to 10 years. This policy significantly extends the usable life of these devices and helps schools avoid premature device obsolescence.[15] The change is expected to keep more devices in circulation, reduce procurement and environmental costs, and allow for secondary use or resale.

Prioritizing durable technology plays a crucial role in the long-term cost efficiency and sustainability of K–12 school technology programs, especially as schools face device damage rates ranging from 8% to 25% annually.[11] To extend device lifespan and reduce repair costs, schools can specify certified durability standards, invest in protective accessories, and implement structured maintenance routines.

Model Language and Examples

- Describe the durability standards met by the proposed devices, including any certifications such as MIL-STD-810H or IP ratings, and provide documentation verifying compliance.
    - [Example] *Proposed devices must meet recognized durability standards, such as MIL-STD-810H for shock, vibration, and drop resistance, or IP ratings for dust and water resistance. Vendors are required to submit documentation from the manufacturer or third-party testing agencies verifying compliance with these standards.*
- Describe how the proposed devices are designed to withstand daily student use, including transport, drops, and exposure to spills or dust in K–12 environments.
    - [Example] *All devices must be engineered to endure the physical demands of daily K–12 student use, including regular transport between home and school, handling by younger students, and exposure to common hazards such as accidental drops, spills, and dust.*

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[13] Learn21. "Maximizing Device Lifespan: A Smarter Approach to Technology Management." LinkedIn, 11 Mar. 2025, https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/maximizing-device-lifespan-smarter-approach-technology-management-1bfgc

[14] Schleuss, Jon, and Lucas Schulz. Chromebook Churn: The High Cost of the K-12 Tech Revolution. U.S. PIRG Education Fund, 2023, https://uspirg.org/edfund/resources/chromebook-churn/

[15] "Chromebooks Will Get 10 Years of Automatic Updates." Google, 14 Sept. 2023, https://blog.google/outreach-initiatives/education/automatic-update-extension-chromebook

Vendors must describe the structural design features that support these requirements.

- Describe the strategies used to extend device lifespan (e.g., reinforced design, replaceable parts, support for long-term software updates), and explain how these support sustainable device management in K-12 education.
    - [Example] *Vendors should outline product design strategies that contribute to extended device lifespan, such as reinforced chassis, replaceable keyboards or batteries, and long-term software update support (e.g., 8-10 years). Preference will be given to devices that enable sustainable, cost-effective use across multiple academic years.*
- Describe any protective accessories (e.g., rugged cases or keyboard covers) included with the proposed devices and explain how these items contribute to reduced breakage rates and longer device lifespans.
    - [Example] *Devices must include or be compatible with protective accessories, such as ruggedized cases, screen protectors, or spill-resistant keyboard covers. Vendors should describe how these accessories reduce damage incidents and contribute to the overall longevity of the device fleet. Supporting data may be included.*

E-WASTE REDUCTION

Reducing electronic waste (e-waste) is essential for sustainable technology management in schools. E-waste contains hazardous materials like lead and mercury, which can contaminate soil and water if not properly handled. Schools contribute to this growing problem by discarding thousands of obsolete or damaged devices each year. According to the Global E-waste Monitor 2024, e-waste is the world's fastest-growing waste stream, with only 22% of discarded electronics properly recycled. In the U.S., over 6.9 million tons are generated annually, but less than a quarter is responsibly recycled.[16]

E-waste reduction strategies minimize environmental harm and support fiscal responsibility. Extending device lifespans through repair, reuse, and refurbishment reduces the volume of discarded electronics. Trade-in and buyback programs are increasingly popular, enabling schools to return used devices for credit toward new purchases. For example, Parma City School District successfully leveraged a trade-in program with Tech to School, securing competitive buyback prices for thousands of Macs and iPads. The proceeds from this program directly funded new equipment purchases and facilitated a smooth technology transition.[17]

Partnering with certified e-waste recyclers—such as those holding R2 (Responsible Recycling) or e-Stewards certifications—ensures that end-of-life electronics are processed to the highest

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[16] Global E-waste Monitor 2024. International Telecommunication Union, 2024, https://ewastemonitor.info/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/GEM_2024_EN_11_NOV-web.pdf

[17] Tech to School. "Case Studies | Learning Initiatives." Tech to School, 2025, https://techtoschool.com/pages/case-studies

environmental and ethical standards, with hazardous materials safely managed and valuable resources recovered.[18] Additionally, robust data privacy protocols are critical. Leading trade-in and recycling vendors guarantee secure data destruction through disk scrubbing and provide detailed audit reports, protecting sensitive student and staff information throughout the process.

By building trade-in and certified recycling requirements into procurement contracts, districts can create a more circular system for technology use, significantly reduce environmental impact, and set a strong example of responsible resource management for students, staff, and the community.

Model Language and Examples

- Describe how your organization supports responsible recycling and e-waste reduction, including the use of certified recycling partners.
    - [Example] *Vendors must ensure that all end-of-life devices are processed through certified recycling partners holding R2 or e-Stewards certifications. Documentation confirming environmentally responsible recycling practices-including certificates of destruction or recycling-must be submitted upon request.*
- Describe the trade-in or buyback programs your organization offers for used or outdated devices, including how recovered value is applied toward new purchases.
    - [Example] *Describe the trade-in or buyback programs your organization offers for used or outdated devices, including how recovered value is applied toward new purchases.*
- Describe your process for secure data destruction on returned or recycled devices. Include any certifications or audit documentation provided.
    - [Example] *All recycled or traded-in devices must undergo secure data destruction using industry-recognized methods. Vendors must provide certificates of data destruction and audit logs detailing the method and date of service for each device*.

MODULARITY AND REPAIRABILITY

When K-12 schools invest in technology, it is essential to prioritize devices with modular designs and high repairability for both fiscal responsibility and environmental stewardship. Devices engineered for easy and affordable repairs can significantly extend their usable life, reduce electronic waste, and lower the total cost of ownership. As mentioned previously, extending the lifespan of school laptops by just one year could save U.S. districts up to $1.8 billion collectively and prevent hundreds of thousands of devices from entering the waste stream annually.

Repairability is most effective when devices feature accessible spare parts, modular components, and comprehensive repair documentation. These features empower district technology staff and trained

[18] Sustainable Electronics Recycling International (SERI). "About R2 Certification." SERI, 2025, https://sustainableelectronics.org/r2/

students to perform timely repairs, which minimizes device downtime and ensures technology remains available for learning. A report by the U.S. PIRG highlights that many phones and laptops on the market are made to be so difficult to fix they become essentially disposable.[19] This lack of repairability leads to increased maintenance costs, shorter device lifespans, and an increase in electronic waste.

A comprehensive repair strategy often includes in-house technical teams, partnerships with certified repair providers, and the creation of student-led tech squads. These initiatives not only speed up repairs but also provide valuable STEM learning opportunities for students.[20] Additionally, tracking repairs and device failures enables districts to refine technology policies, implement protective measures, and make data-driven purchasing decisions for future technology investments.

Including repairability standards in procurement contracts is now recognized as a best practice. Requirements such as guaranteed spare parts availability for at least five years, open access to repair manuals, and support for third-party repairs help protect school budgets and promote sustainability. The European Union's Ecodesign Directive[21] and the growing "right to repair" movement[22] in the United States both advocate for these standards, emphasizing their importance for institutional buyers.

By choosing modular and repairable devices and supporting robust repair strategies, districts can reduce costs, decrease e-waste, and show leadership in responsible technology management.

Model Language and Examples

- Describe the vendor's ability to supply spare parts and repair documentation for district-owned devices.
    - [Example] *Vendors must ensure the availability of key spare parts (e.g., batteries, screens, keyboards) and provide access to comprehensive repair manuals for a minimum of five (5) years from the date of purchase.*
- Describe how the proposed devices support modular design and ease of repair.
    - [Example] *Devices must feature modular components that can be easily removed and replaced using standard tools. Products with tool-less access or simplified disassembly for parts such as batteries, memory, or storage drives will receive higher evaluation scores.*
- Describe how the vendor supports school-based repair programs, including in-house or

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[19] Proctor, Nathan, and Lucas Gutterman. Failing the Fix 2025. U.S. PIRG Education Fund, Feb. 2025. https://publicinterestnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/PIRG-Failing-the-Fix-2025.pdf

[20] Schuler, Jessica. "Empowering Students with the Student Tech Team Toolkit – Digital Promise." Digital Promise, 25 Mar. 2025, https://digitalpromise.org/2025/03/25/empowering-students-with-the-student-tech-team-toolkit

[21] European Commission. "Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation." European Commission, https://commission.europa.eu/energy-climate-change-environment/standards-tools-and-labels/products-labelling-rules-and-requirements/ecodesign-sustainable-products-regulation_en

[22] "RELEASE: All 50 States Now Have Filed Right to Repair Legislation over Last 8 Years." PIRG, 24 Feb. 2025, https://pirg.org/media-center/release-all-50-states-now-have-filed-right-to-repair-legislation-over-last-8-years/

student-led tech teams.
    - [Example] *Vendors shall provide optional training resources, troubleshooting guides, and parts ordering options to support school-led repair programs. Preference will be given to vendors who provide educational or technical support to student tech squads or district IT teams.*
- Describe the vendor's policy on third-party repairs and its impact on warranty coverage.
    - [Example] *Warranties must allow for repairs conducted by district-authorized personnel or certified third-party providers without voiding coverage. Vendors must disclose any limitations regarding self-repair or third-party repair compatibility.*
- Describe the resources and processes available to support self-repair or second-party repair of devices, including how spare parts and materials can be obtained.
    - [Example] *Vendors must provide a clear process for obtaining replacement parts, including access to an online catalog with pricing and ordering instructions. Include expected delivery times for parts and available technical support.*

VENDOR SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES

Partnering with technology vendors who prioritize environmental sustainability and responsible sourcing is a key strategy for districts seeking to advance their own sustainability goals. School districts can support positive environmental outcomes by choosing vendors committed to eco-friendly operations, ensuring sustainability throughout the supply chain. Environmentally Preferred Purchasing (EPP) is a strategy that propels educational institutions toward sustainability by selecting services and products that have a reduced environmental impact.[23]

These partnerships leverage the district's purchasing power to encourage greener practices such as carbon-neutral shipping, the use of recycled and recyclable packaging, and investments in renewable energy. Organizations that adopting sustainable procurement practices can reduce their overall environmental impact by up to 30 percent.[24] Major technology companies like Apple and Dell have made significant progress in these areas, with Apple reporting that over 20% of the materials in its products are now recycled or renewable.[25]

Leading vendors often provide additional resources such as professional development workshops, support for student-led sustainability projects, and tools to help districts monitor and report on the environmental impact of their technology use. For example, Dell offers Asset Recovery Services,

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[23] Bienkowski, Kevin. "Cost-Effective Green Procurement for K-12 Schools: What Works and What Doesn't? - EDspaces." EDspaces - Pedagogy, Space & Tech, 5 Aug. 2024, https://ed-spaces.com/stories/cost-effective-green-procurement-for-k-12-schools-what-works-and-what-doesnt

[24] "The Importance of Sustainable Procurement in Education – Sustainabilitylearningcentre.com." WordPress, 25 Apr. 2025, https://sustainabilitylearningcentre.com/the-importance-of-sustainable-procurement-in-education

[25] Apple. Environmental Progress Report 2024. Apple, 2024, https://www.apple.com/environment/pdf/Apple_Environmental_Progress_Report_2024.pdf

a comprehensive take-back and recycling program that helps schools securely retire end-of-life devices, responsibly manage e-waste, and comply with environmental regulations while supporting broader sustainability goals.[26]

By building strong relationships with vendors who prioritize sustainability, districts can lead by example, inspire students and the broader community, and drive meaningful progress toward a greener future. Research shows that when schools engage in sustainable procurement, they not only reduce their environmental footprint but also foster a culture of environmental responsibility and innovation within their communities.

Model Language and Examples

- Describe your organization's approach to sustainability across the supply chain, including sourcing of materials, energy use, manufacturing practices, and efforts to minimize environmental impact during product development and delivery.
    - [Example] *Vendors must outline their sustainability policies and practices across the supply chain, including sourcing of environmentally responsible materials, reduction of carbon emissions in manufacturing, and adoption of renewable energy in operations. Proposals should include third-party certifications (e.g., ISO 14001) and evidence of progress toward sustainability goals.*
- Describe how your organization helps educational clients advance their own sustainability goals. Include services such as device take-back programs, sustainability dashboards, or student/community engagement initiatives.
    - [Example] *Vendors must offer services that assist school districts in meeting their environmental targets, including secure device recovery, e-waste recycling, and tools to measure environmental impact.*
- Describe your organization's efforts to reduce environmental impact through packaging and logistics. Include details about use of recycled or minimal packaging, carbon-neutral shipping, and returnable packaging systems, if applicable.
    - [Example] *Vendors must use recycled, recyclable, or minimal packaging for all products and employ environmentally responsible shipping practices, such as carbon-offset programs or fuel-efficient transportation methods. Proposals must describe logistics strategies that reduce waste and emissions.*

[26] "Asset Recovery Services | Dell USA." Dell, 2025, http://www.dell.com/en-us/lp/dt/ars

Conclusion

Sustainable procurement is no longer a secondary consideration for K–12 schools. It has become a strategic investment that can deliver measurable financial savings while advancing broader goals for student well-being and environmental responsibility. When districts prioritize sustainability, they reduce operational expenses, avoid unnecessary waste, and extend the useful life of their investments.

The numbers make a compelling case. Extending device lifespans by four years could save school districts across the country up to $1.8 billion[14]. Districts like San Diego Unified have already saved tens of millions of dollars through sustainable initiatives[3]. Choosing energy-efficient, durable, and repairable devices helps lower utility bills, reduce repair and replacement expenses, and stretch limited budgets further.

In addition to the financial return, sustainable procurement creates healthier learning environments, fosters a culture of responsibility, and reinforces a district's role as a leader in the community. Each decision, from selecting recyclable materials to partnering with environmentally conscious vendors, contributes to a smarter and more efficient use of public funds.

Taking action now allows school leaders to shape that future and set a standard others will follow. it's about doing what's right for students now and for the world they'll inherit later.