



West Chicago Elementary School District 33

312 E. Forest Avenue
West Chicago, IL 60185

TO: Board of Education
FR: Nicole Eimer, Interim Director of Technology
DA: May 21, 2026
RE: Purchase of Neo MacBooks, Neo cases, and iPad keyboard cases

This memo is:

Information only.

Information with a recommendation, and a request for Board consent.

X Information with a recommendation and a request for Board approval by vote.

Date by which a Board decision is needed: May 21, 2026

Previous Board packet(s) dated:

Basic information

Administration is recommending the purchase of 100 Apple Neo 13-inch MacBooks, 80 protective cases, and 150 iPad keyboard cases using district buyback program funds.

Background information/Considerations

The district is currently operating and supporting two separate operating systems: Apple macOS and Microsoft Windows. Maintaining two systems increases the complexity of device management, troubleshooting, software deployment, updates, cybersecurity oversight, and staff support/training.

Over the last two years, District 33 has transitioned administrative and certified staff devices to Apple MacBooks. The Technology Department is recommending continuing the transition to Apple devices for remaining staff positions to create a more consistent and efficient technology environment across the district. Standardizing staff devices will simplify technology support, device management, software deployment, and staff training while reducing overall operational complexity for the Technology Department.

Under this plan:

- Secretaries, clerical staff, and designated substitute devices would receive 100 Apple Neo 13-inch MacBooks along with a protective case.
- Existing district iPads currently in storage would be reassigned to paraprofessional staff and paired with keyboard cases to support daily job responsibilities.

Additionally, current lead times for Apple Neo 13-inch MacBooks are approximately eight weeks. Timely Board action is recommended in order to secure device availability before the 2026-2027 school year.

Key Components/Options

- District 33 currently supports both Apple macOS and Microsoft Windows operating systems.
- Supporting two operating systems increases the complexity of device management, troubleshooting, software deployment, updates, cybersecurity oversight, and staff training.
- Over the last two years, the district has transitioned administrative and certified staff devices to Apple MacBooks.

- The proposed purchase of 100 Apple Neo 13-inch MacBooks, 80 Neo protection cases, and 150 iPad keyboard cases would complete the district’s transition to a standardized Apple device environment for staff, improving consistency and simplifying technology support and management across the district.
- Existing district iPads currently in storage would be reassigned to paraprofessional staff and paired with keyboard cases for daily staff use.
- **Current lead times for Apple Neo 13-inch MacBooks are approximately eight weeks, requiring timely approval to support deployment before the 2026-2027 school year.**

Option 1: Approve the purchase of:

- 100 Apple Neo 13-inch MacBooks \$499.00 each for a total of \$49,900
- 80 Apple Neo protective cases \$18.95 each for a total of \$1,560
- 150 iPad keyboard cases \$112.00 each for a total of \$16,800
 - **The total overall cost of the project is \$68,280**

using funds generated through the district’s teacher and administrative device buyback program.

Option 2: Delay the purchase and continue supporting both Apple and Windows operating systems across district staff devices.

Administration’s recommendation

Administration recommends Option 1, approving the purchase of 100 Apple Neo 13-inch MacBooks, 80 protective cases, and 150 iPad keyboard cases using buyback program funds.

Recommended Motion/Action

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