

# Top 5 Ways to Cut Costs in Technology At Your School

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1. **Replace those old computers.** Most old computers need lots of '*care and feeding*' and since most of them were donated and are long since obsolete (most likely they were obsolete when they were donated), you waste a lot of time searching for replacement parts. Can't replace them all at once? Do it over three-to-five years.
2. **Have dedicated IT staff.** Not practical? What's worse? Taking time away from your students to fix computers which are long overdue for replacement or asking your under-trained over-worked educators to work even longer hours because you've saddled them with outdated hardware and software while your state and federal government load them up with even more "unfunded mandates" while pushing unenforceable restrictions on your students and insisting that they enforce the new rules? The fact that our educators need to worry about whether the tools their students need will be available or not is the real tragedy.
3. **Manage your software licenses.** Maybe you don't need the most recent release of popular software but if you are two releases (or two years) out of date on your software, then it's time to upgrade. You don't always need licenses for all of your seats but you need sufficient licenses to meet the basic needs of your educators and their students. Well-scheduled classes can reduce your licensing needs further. Real-time license monitoring tools can also reduce your dependence upon per-seat licensing.
4. **Manage your software build.** There are many tools available which permit the development and distribution of software based upon build *images*. With remote distribution tools, once a build image is developed the number of workstations you are delivering it to becomes irrelevant. Whether it's 100 computers or 1,000, it's the number of unique images that impacts software maintenance — not the number of workstations.

5. **Paper and Toner do not belong in IT budgets.** But aren't these real costs? Sure they are but are they legitimate IT costs? Not necessarily. These costs tend to go up, not down, when Education IT budgets are not used efficiently. Further, the paper and toner costs of one high-speed printer over one year could buy ten to thirty new computers! Which is the better investment? By isolating this budget item, the real cost of unnecessary printing reveals itself quickly.

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