NOVEMBER 2026

# Statewide Technology Plan

## 2026

NITC | Nebraska Information Technology Commission

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# LETTER FROM THE CIO



## Dr. Matthew McCarville

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER

The Nebraska Information Technology Commission (NITC) has helped Nebraska harness technology to strengthen government, education, and communities. As technology continues to evolve, Nebraska has an opportunity to build on this foundation and advance a more connected, secure, and accessible future.

The 2026–2028 Statewide Technology Plan identifies four strategic initiatives that will guide Nebraska's technology priorities over the next two years. These initiatives focus on strengthening cybersecurity, expanding reliable connectivity, advancing geospatial capabilities, and improving access to technology and digital resources across the state.

Together, Network Nebraska, Geospatial Nebraska, Digital Education, and Community Digital Access reflect Nebraska's commitment to using technology to improve services, support economic opportunity, and ensure that communities across the state can fully participate in an increasingly digital world.

This Plan reflects the expertise and dedication of the NITC Commissioners, advisory group members, and facilitators who continue to move Nebraska forward. We look forward to building on this work and creating new opportunities for Nebraskans through technology in the years ahead.

Driving transformation in government, education, and communities for the future

NITC | Nebraska Information Technology Commission

NEBRASKA

OFFICE OF THE CIO

# NITC COMMISSIONERS

- Dr. Mathew McCarville, Chair, CIO, State of Nebraska
- Senator Wendy DeBoer, Nebraska Legislature, Ex-officio member
- Dr. Leah Barrett, President, Northeast Community College
- Rick Haugerud, CIO, University of Nebraska
- Paul Biodrowski, CIO, Sarpy Council
- James Ediger, General Counsel, Hamilton Telecommunications
- Nathan Watson, CEO, Contemporary Analysis
- Kirk Langer, Chief Technology Officer, Lincoln Public Schools
- Phillip Doerr, Owner and Manager, Doerr Farms

# NITC FACILITATORS

- Noah Finlan, NITC Executive Administrator
- Vanessa Castro, Community and Education Councils Coordinator
- Ryan Werner, GIS Council Coordinator
- Joe Beer, Technical Standards Coordinator
- Bryce Bailey, Chief Information Security Officer
- Lori Lopez Urdiales, Office Services Manager II
- Vicki McElroy, Office Specialist

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Nebraska Information Technology Commission (NITC) was established by the Legislature in 1997 to provide strategic direction, oversight, and accountability for statewide information technology investments and initiatives. Chief Information Officer Dr. Matthew McCarville serves as the Governor-designated chair, while Commissioners appointed by the Governor and approved by the Legislature represent education, telecommunications, agriculture, healthcare, and the public.

The NITC advances its mission through three advisory councils: the Community Council, Education Council, and Geographic Information Systems Council. These councils engage stakeholders, develop recommendations, and help inform statewide technology priorities.

Pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 86-516, which directs the NITC to "annually update a statewide technology plan," the NITC, in collaboration with its advisory councils and key stakeholders, has identified four strategic focus areas. These priorities require a coordinated, enterprise-level approach and collaboration across state and local entities. Together, the strategic initiatives and supporting action items form the foundation of Nebraska's Statewide Technology Plan. The current strategic initiatives include:

- Geospatial Nebraska
- Netowork Nebraska
- Digital Education
- Community Digital Access

## Vision

The Nebraska Information Technology Commission's vision is to promote the use of information technology in education, health care, economic development, and government services to improve the quality of life for all Nebraskans.

## Mission

The mission of the Nebraska Information Technology Commission is to make the State of Nebraska's information technology infrastructure more accessible and responsive to the needs of its citizens, regardless of location, while making investments in government, education, health care and other services more efficient and cost effective.

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# STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

To advance its vision and goals, the Nebraska Information Technology Commission (NITC), with input from its advisory councils and stakeholders, has identified four strategic initiatives that address key technology priorities across state government, education, and economic development.

The initiatives—Geospatial Nebraska, Network Nebraska, Digital Education, and Community Digital Access—focus on strengthening the state's technology infrastructure, expanding access to reliable connectivity and digital resources, and building the skills needed to effectively use technology. Together, they provide a framework for statewide collaboration and coordinated action to address Nebraska's evolving technology needs.

### Geospatial Nebraska

→ ADVANCES STATEWIDE COLLABORATION AND USE OF GEOSPATIAL DATA TO SUPPORT INFORMED DECISION-MAKING.

### Network Nebraska

→ PROVIDES RELIABLE, COST-EFFECTIVE CONNECTIVITY TO NEBRASKA'S EDUCATION COMMUNITIES THROUGH A COLLABORATIVE STATEWIDE NETWORK.

### Digital Education

→ ADVANCES SECURE, EQUITABLE, AND ACCESSIBLE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES ACROSS NEBRASKA BY PROMOTING DATA PRIVACY, EXPANDING CONNECTIVITY, AND SUPPORTING INNOVATIVE DIGITAL LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS.

### Community Digital Access

→ EXPANDS ACCESS TO CONNECTIVITY, DEVICES, DIGITAL SKILLS, AND TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES FOR NEBRASKANS.

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# GEOSPATIAL NEBRASKA

Geospatial Nebraska and the GIS Council are currently undergoing a transition period and are in the process of developing their initiative goals and priorities for 2026–2027.

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# NETWORK NEBRASKA

The Education Council's overall goal for the Network Nebraska initiative in 2026–2027 is to strengthen and expand Nebraska's statewide educational technology infrastructure to meet the evolving needs of educational institutions and other eligible entities. To achieve this, the Council has identified priorities focused on developing a scalable and secure network, strengthening communication and engagement with current and prospective participants, enhancing cybersecurity, cloud computing, and educational infrastructure, and promoting statewide best practices in cybersecurity and artificial intelligence to support innovation, efficiency, and educational advancement across Nebraska.

**Develop a scalable, secure plan for Network Nebraska to meet statewide needs of educational entities, local governments, or other non-profit institutions serving in the pursuit of education and knowledge curation.**

- 1.1 Liaise with NNAG to provide insight and guide decision-making regarding services, identified initiatives, and associated business models.
  1.2 Merge the Collaborative Aggregation Partnership (CAP) committee with the Network Nebraska Advisory Group to enhance the governance role of Network Nebraska.
  1.3 Advocate for statutory adjustments to allow non-profit institutions with a chief mission of education and knowledge curation to become members.

**Identify, define, and promote statewide cybersecurity and artificial intelligence best practices for Nebraska K-20 education**

- 4.1 Define a recommended statewide cybersecurity baseline and target maturity level for Nebraska K-20 institutions.
  4.2 Develop a simple assessment and reporting method institutions can use to determine whether they meet, exceed, or fall below the statewide baseline.
  4.3 Identify K-20 cybersecurity gaps or participation needs not adequately addressed through existing statewide efforts.
  4.4 Establish recommendations for artificial intelligence best practices within Nebraska K-20 institutions.

**The Education Council, OCIO/NITC staff, and Network Nebraska support staff will sufficiently and appropriately communicate to, and in support of, current and potential Network Nebraska Participants.**

- 2.1 Develop and implement a communications strategy.
  2.2 Conduct a periodic survey of Participants to guide direction and service development.
  2.3 Encourage Network Nebraska membership participation in cybersecurity and artificial intelligence related industry events.
  2.4 Continually enhance communications regarding change control events affecting Network Nebraska membership.

**Enhance Network Nebraska to meet member needs with advanced security, cloud computing, and educational infrastructure, prioritizing innovation and efficiency**

- 3.1 Expand Network Nebraska's offerings, membership, and satisfaction by developing, integrating, and launching advanced, value-added services. Drive membership growth and satisfaction by integrating advanced service delivery strategies and value-added solutions directly into Network Nebraska's business model.
  3.2 Develop, publish, and maintain a catalog of Network Nebraska services comprised of services offered directly by the Network.

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# DIGITAL EDUCATION

The Education Council's overall goal for the Digital Education initiative in 2026–2027 is to strengthen and advance digital education across Nebraska by promoting secure, equitable, and accessible learning opportunities. To achieve this, the Council has identified priorities focused on supporting the continued success of digital education, identifying and promoting statewide data privacy best practices for K–20 education, and leveraging eduroam to expand equitable access to reliable connectivity for students, faculty, and staff across Nebraska's educational institutions.

**Help ensure the success of Nebraska digital education.**

- 1.1 Establish a common definition and understand the current state of Nebraska Digital Education.
  1.2 Foster communication between K-12 and postsecondary institutions that facilitates utilization of dual credit and dual enrollment opportunities.

**Identify, define, and promote statewide data privacy practices for Nebraska K-20 education.**

- 2.1 Define a recommended statewide data privacy baseline and target maturity level for Nebraska K-20 institutions.
  2.2 Develop a simple assessment and reporting method institutions can use to determine whether they meet, exceed, or fall below the statewide privacy baseline.
  2.3 Identify data privacy gaps within Nebraska K-20 institutions not adequately addressed through existing statewide efforts.
  2.4 Establish privacy recommendations for artificial intelligence within Nebraska K-20 institutions.

**Expand awareness and address the need for equity of access as it relates to digital education.**

- 3.1 Address professional development for teachers broadly and collaboratively.
  3.2 Focus on affordability initiatives.
  3.3 Leverage eduroam as a tool in providing equity of access among students, faculty, and staff.
  3.4 Monitor the changing landscape of hardware/device needs, recognizing variation of K-12 and higher education as well as AI's role
  3.5 Identify LMS ecosystem resiliency considerations as related to instructional continuity

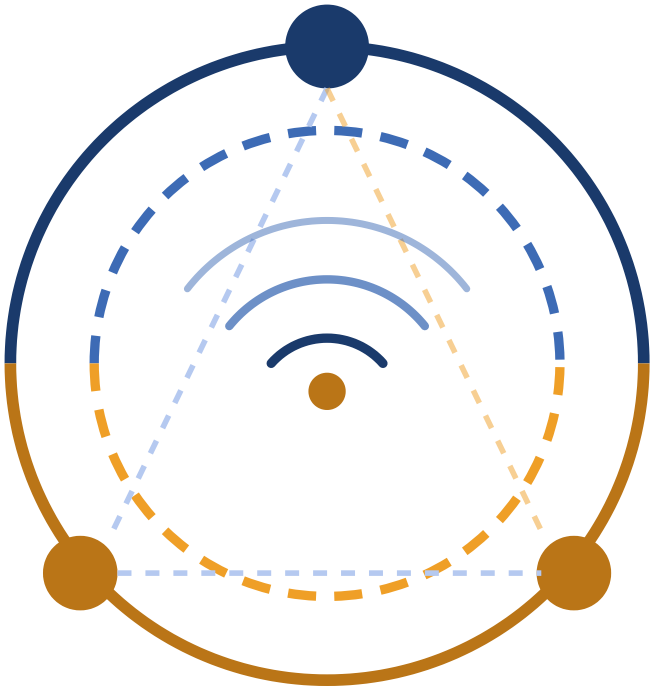
# EDUCATION COUNCIL MEMBERS

Post Secondary
- Brandon Eckmann, Northeast Community College
- Dr. Derek Bierman, Doane University
- Nick Muir, Wayne State College
- Jeremiah Ourada, Nebraska Wesleyan
- Dr. Jaci Lindburg, University of Nebraska-Omaha
- Tom Peters, Central Community College
- Andrew Buker, Co-Chair University of Nebraska
- Cheri Polenske, Nebraska State College System

K-12
- Vacant, Teacher
- Matt Chrisman, Mitchell Secondary School
- Scott Isaacson, ESUCC
- Vacant, Private Parochial Education
- Cory Gearhart, Grand Island Public Schools
- Leonard Kwapnioski, Columbus Public Schools
- Elizabeth Kumru, Ralston Public Schools
- Gary Needham, Co-Chair, Educational Service Unit 9

Non-Voting Liaisons
- Dr. Mike Baumgartner, Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education
- Chris Wlaschlin, Nebraska Department of Education
- Dr. Matthew McCarville, Office of the CIO, Nebraska Department of Administrative Services
- Vacant, Nebraska Educational Telecommunications Commission

# COMMUNITY DIGITAL ACCESS



**Assess Digital Access Needs and Gaps**

- Conduct statewide surveys and stakeholder outreach to collect quantitative and qualitative data on digital access barriers, existing resources, service gaps, and community priorities. Use the findings to establish measurable needs and strengthen future grant applications.

**Develop a Statewide Digital Access Resource Inventory**

- Identify and map existing technology resources, including digital skills programs, device programs, public computer/internet access, digital navigation, and other community technology services., to determine what already exists, where it exists, and where gaps remain.

**Pursue and Coordinate Funding Opportunities**

- Use collected data and identified gaps to develop competitive proposals for federal, state, philanthropic, and other funding opportunities and establish a framework for distributing funding to community partners where appropriate.

## Strengthening Nebraska's Digital Ecosystem

Behind the Community Digital Access initiative is the Community Council, whose overall goal for 2026-2027 is to strengthen Nebraska's digital access ecosystem. We will do so by identifying statewide needs and existing resources, building a data-driven foundation for investment, and securing funding to address gaps in connectivity, devices, digital skills, and technology access.

# COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

- TinaMaria Fernandez, Hope Esperanza, Co-Chair
- Bryan Seck, Lincoln Literacy, Co-Chair
- Deb Robertson, Nebraska Libraries
- Zainab Rida, Nebraska Department of Education
- Jamdan Clang, Nebraska Department of Economic Development
- Jonathan Jank, Nebraska Public Power District
- Oliver Borchart-Williams, Nebraska Association of County Officials
- Jillian Linster, Center for Rural Affairs
- Dekow Sagar, International Council for Refugees and Immigrants
- Erick Carrillo, Nebraska Department of Labor

# CONCLUSION

## Network Nebraska

Network Nebraska will continue to play a vital role in supporting the state's educational and technological needs by providing reliable, secure, and cost-effective connectivity. Looking ahead to 2026–2027, the initiative will emphasize strengthening network infrastructure, enhancing cybersecurity and emerging technology capabilities, and improving communication and engagement with participating institutions. By fostering collaboration and innovation, Network Nebraska aims to build a more resilient and adaptable statewide network that meets the evolving needs of Nebraska's education communities.

- Strengthening Network Infrastructure
- Enhancing Security and Innovation
- Expanding Participant Engagement

## Digital Education

As digital learning continues to evolve, Nebraska remains committed to creating secure, equitable, and accessible educational opportunities for students, faculty, and staff. The Digital Education initiative will prioritize strengthening statewide data privacy practices, expanding connectivity through eduroam, and supporting the continued success of digital education. These efforts will help ensure that Nebraska's educational institutions are equipped to meet emerging challenges and provide meaningful digital learning opportunities for all.

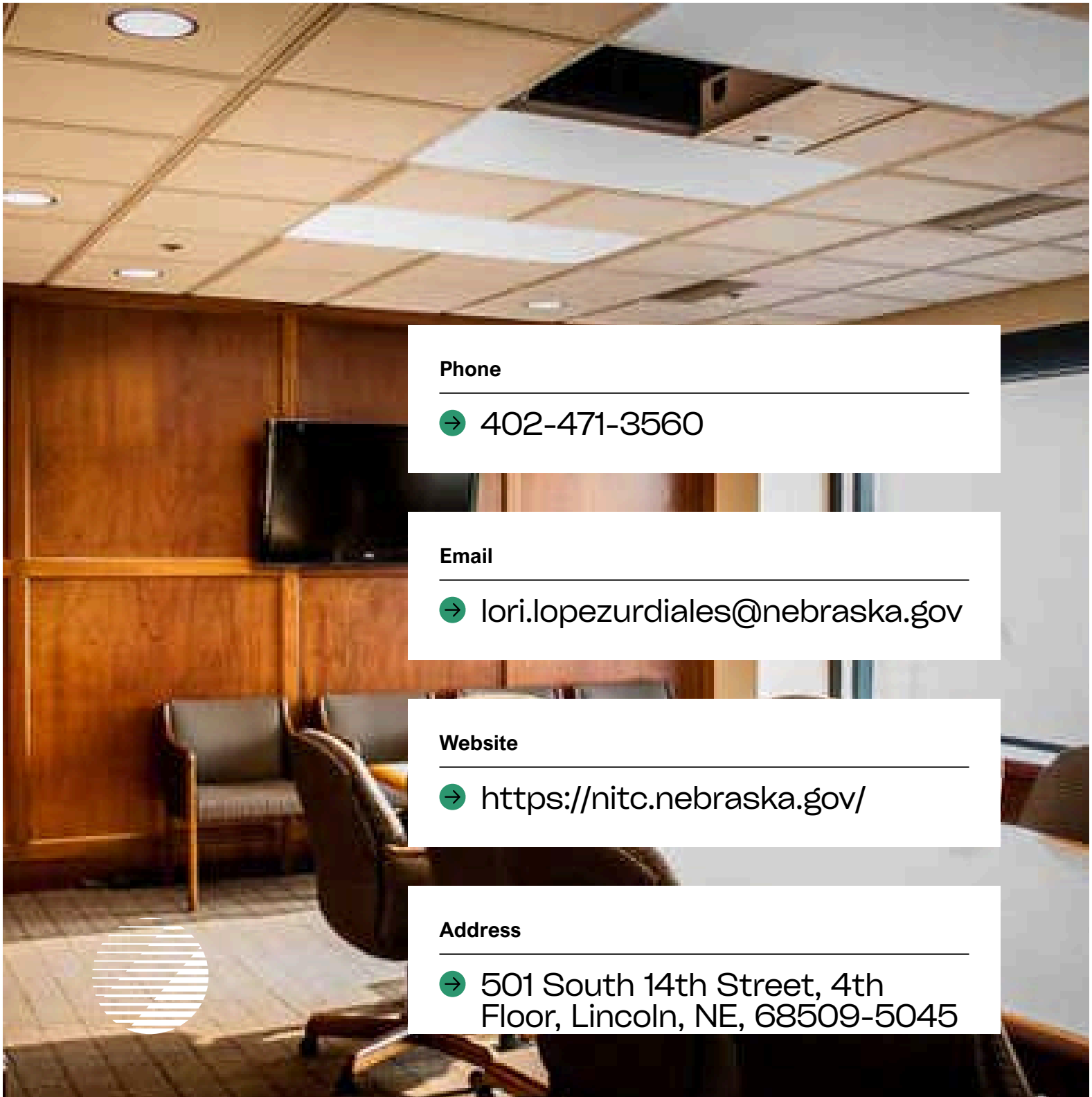
- Advancing Data Privacy Practices
- Expanding Access Through eduroam
- Supporting Digital Education Success

## Community Digital Access

Over the next two years, Community Digital Access will focus on strengthening Nebraska's ability to identify and address digital access needs through better data, stronger coordination, and strategic investment. Through continued collaboration with communities and stakeholders across the state, Nebraska will be better positioned to expand access to the technology Nebraskans need to participate in an increasingly digital society.

- Assessing Data
- Developing Inventory
- Applying to Funding Opportunities

# CONTACT US



**Phone**

402-471-3560

**Email**

lori.lopezurdiales@nebraska.gov

**Website**

https://nitc.nebraska.gov/

**Address**

501 South 14th Street, 4th Floor, Lincoln, NE, 68509-5045