

EN chosen for tech study

District among 10 in U.S. picked

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KENDALLVILLE — East Noble is one of 10 school districts nationwide selected to benefit from a national research group's focus on the academic results and financial implications of education technology.

Project RED is the only national research investigating the

impact of new technology on education, school officials said.

Intel Corp., Hewlett-Packard, SMART Technologies and the Pearson Foundation sponsor Project RED.

"Being recognized as a Project RED Signature District provides East Noble with multiple research tools and methods to enhance and continue to develop our 1:1

technology initiative," said East Noble superintendent Ann Linson. "Project RED's support and expertise will allow us to continue on a path of excellence for our students, families and community."

In 2010, Project RED conducted a survey of technology programs in 1,000 U.S. schools. The research showed that, if effectively implemented, technology programs can lead to improved student achievement and significant return on investment,

according to a Project RED news release.

East Noble introduced its 1:1 technology initiative at the beginning of the 2011-2012 school year by distributing iPods, iPads and laptop computers to all school district students and implementing ongoing training for teachers and staff.

Based on its survey findings, Project RED created a replicable design for school districts to make

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the best possible use of technology in a learning environment.

"Our goals in implementing a 1:1 technology framework have always been about helping students develop 21st century skills, create a learning environment that is engaging and relevant, and ensuring students are college- and career-ready to compete with the best," Linson said in an email.

During the 2012-2013 school year, Project RED will offer East Noble customized guidance and collaboration opportunities to learn from other Signature school districts. Project RED

will review East Noble's technology implementation plan and help the district align its plan to Project RED's research-based strategies creating a blueprint for implementing technology-based school reform.

Districts will publish findings to the Signature District community for a period of three years and will become models for other school districts.

"East Noble School Corporation has made a definitive commitment to improve student learning and provide personalized instruction through the integration of technology, ongoing professional development and administrative support,"

said Leslie Wilson, a Project RED team member. "We were impressed with East Noble's initial plans and look forward to helping them move their initiatives to the next level."

Other Project RED Signature Districts are: Ferndale School District, Washington; Kuna School District, Idaho; Natick Public Schools, Massachusetts; Owensboro Public Schools, Kentucky; Reeds Springs, Missouri; Richland School District Two, South Carolina; Salisbury Township Schools and Southern Lehigh, both in Pennsylvania; and Sunnyside School District, Arizona.