Change is a constant feature of the education environment with an impact on digital delivery and network needs. The challenge for education and IT leaders is choosing a next-generation network which can cope with future events and requirements.

Six strategies for a next-generation education network

1. **Bandwidth**
   - Demand can often be sporadic, immediate and unpredictable.
   - **Network strategy**
     - Choose a network that gives you the control to flex your bandwidth in near real-time.

2. **Budget management**
   - Capital commitment must allow for competing and changing needs.
   - **Network strategy**
     - Evaluate your needs and choose a provider with flexibility to pay construction costs upfront or over the term of your contract.

3. **Continuity**
   - Network disruptions, such as fiber cuts, can wreak havoc on lesson plans and district operations.
   - **Network strategy**
     - Verify that your network provider has a solid plan for reliability and diverse fiber routes.

4. **IT resources**
   - Network management can overwhelm limited IT resources and reduce direct support for students and teachers.
   - **Network strategy**
     - Avoid long term contracts that lock you into a network platform that’s out of sync with emerging technologies.

5. **Cyber security**
   - Education has become the second leading target in cyber security attacks*.
   - **Network strategy**
     - Benefit from an Ethernet network running over a highly secure MPLS platform and layer in security analysis, prevention and detection technologies.

6. **Innovation**
   - Network innovations need to enable and keep pace with innovations in learning delivery.
   - **Network strategy**
     - Avoid long term contracts that lock you into a network platform that’s out of sync with emerging technologies.

*Source: Trend Micro

**Choosing a network**

- **Network options include** Dedicated and Switched Ethernet services or Private Lit and Dark Fiber.
- Decision makers should look for solutions which best meet requirements for affordability, flexibility and reliability.
- AT&T offers reliable, high bandwidth and cost-effective network solutions for education.

Find out more at att.com/edu

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