



Top 5 Technology Mistakes Charter Schools Make

...and How to Fix Them

Technology should make education easier — not more complicated. Yet many charter schools struggle with the same recurring IT and security issues that lead to downtime, frustration, and unnecessary costs.

At NPV Corporation, we've worked with schools across Massachusetts and Rhode Island to modernize their technology, improve security, and simplify management. Here are the top five mistakes we see — and how your school can avoid them.

1. Relying on Consumer-Grade Wi-Fi and Hardware

The problem: Many schools try to save money by using residential routers or unmanaged switches. These systems simply can't handle hundreds of simultaneous connections from laptops, tablets, and smart boards.

The result: Dropped connections, slow speeds during testing days, and frustrated teachers.

The fix: Deploy enterprise-grade access points and network switches designed for high-density environments. NPV designs Wi-Fi networks that ensure full-building coverage, secure student/staff separation, and reliable uptime.

2. No Centralized Access Control

The problem: Physical keys or standalone door locks make it impossible to manage who can enter different areas — especially when staff turnover or after-school programs are involved.

The result: Lost keys, security risks, and expensive re-keying.

The fix: Implement a keyless access control system with magnetic locks or card/fob access. Authorized staff can enter securely, and you can add or remove access instantly from a central dashboard.

3. Neglecting Data Backups and Cybersecurity

The problem: Schools often store critical records (grades, IEPs, payroll data) on local computers or unprotected drives. Without regular backups and security protocols, they're vulnerable to ransomware or data loss.

The result: Serious disruptions, compliance risks, and potential FERPA violations.

The fix: Use secure cloud backups and managed cybersecurity tools. NPV provides 24/7 monitoring, patch management, and automated offsite backups that protect your school's data.

4. Ignoring Preventive Maintenance

The problem: Technology is installed once — and forgotten until something breaks. Over time, performance degrades, cables loosen, and security cameras go offline.

The result: Unplanned downtime, costly repairs, and unsafe blind spots on campus.

The fix: Adopt a proactive maintenance plan. NPV's managed service agreements include scheduled inspections, firmware updates, and system testing so problems are caught before they cause disruption.

5. No Unified IT & Security Vendor

The problem: Schools often juggle multiple vendors — one for IT, another for cameras, another for door access. When something goes wrong, everyone points fingers.

The result: Delayed resolutions and endless coordination headaches.

The fix: Work with a single trusted partner that handles your entire technology ecosystem — from low-voltage cabling to managed IT help desk and physical security. NPV integrates all systems for seamless support and accountability.

Take Control of Your Technology

Your staff and students depend on reliable technology every day. With the right infrastructure and a responsive local partner, your school can reduce downtime, stay secure, and focus on learning.

NPV Corporation helps charter schools design, install, and manage:

- Managed IT & Help Desk Support
- Low-Voltage Cabling & Wi-Fi Design
- Access Control & Door Entry Systems
- Security Cameras (IP & Hybrid)
- Cybersecurity & Cloud Backup Solutions

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- Serving charter and private schools across Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

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