

Teachers FAQ

1. How will my wireless connectivity be affected by the students using their devices on the wireless network?

Multiple precautions have been taken to reduce the impact of student wireless traffic on the wireless network. Additional measures will be taken in the event that student wireless traffic becomes an issue. Remember that students in classrooms will not be on the wireless network unless specifically directed to do so as part of the class's lesson. In the classroom, teachers determine how many students will be using the wireless network.

2. Are students permitted to use any device they have whenever they want?

No. Per board policy, use of student devices is not permitted in instructional areas unless approval is expressly granted by a teacher or administrator. If a teacher permits use for a lesson on a given day, there is no assumed permission granted for use on subsequent days, unless permission is expressly given on each subsequent day.

3. What should I do when I find a student using their device in an inappropriate manner?

Students using their devices are expected to use them appropriately, similar to how they are expected to use district technology such as laptop carts and labs. Inappropriate behavior, whether it involves a piece of technology or not, can and should be dealt with by faculty and administration.

4. Will teachers be responsible for inappropriate behavior on a student device?

Students who use their devices in an inappropriate manner are solely responsible for the consequences of that behavior.

5. Who is responsible for monitoring student activity on their devices?

Teachers are responsible for keeping students on task in their lesson activities regardless of whether the activity involves technology or not.

6. Who is responsible for monitoring student activity on their devices in non-instructional areas?

Staff observing any inappropriate behavior whether in the form of technology use or not are responsible for dealing with the behavior accordingly. Every use of a student device cannot be monitored any more than every verbal or physical interaction between students can be monitored.

7. How do I handle inequity when attempting to leverage student devices in a lesson?

Pairing and group work are two excellent tactics for dealing with inequity. Research indicates that more than 80% of school aged teens nationwide have a cell phone. The installation base of smart phones and digital devices has been rapidly increasing. When planning lessons that may incorporate student technology devices, teachers should ascertain in advance the extent of student access to devices with the desired capabilities.

8. Am I obligated to supply a student with a power outlet if they need it?

No.

9. Who will troubleshoot technology problems for students with their own devices?

Students should be familiar with operating the devices that they own. No technology support is to be provided by teachers or technology staff.

10. Are we as a district alone in pioneering a Bring Your Own Technology (BYOT) policy?

No. Several districts, both in New Jersey and nationwide, are leveraging the computing power that students are carrying in their pockets and book bags. Also a growing number of libraries are allowing the digital checkout of books on tablet devices.

11. I'd like to try and leverage my students' personal technology. What are some tips for doing so?

Start with the basics. While there are many free educational apps for Android phones and iPhones, even today's simplest phones can take pictures, record audio & video, and text message. If a lesson lends itself well to having students record photos, videos, or take pictures and share that information, it may be well suited to leveraging student devices.

Parents FAQ

1. Am I required or being advised to purchase a mobile device for my child?

No, the district already has a variety of mobile devices and computer labs that teachers use to enhance instruction.

2. Who is responsible for paying the costs for mobile device data plans, voice plans, and text messaging?

The district can not reimburse parents or students for the costs of any data, voice, text or other purchased plan. Parents should be aware of what their plans provide and ensure their children understand the details and limitations of their plan.

3. What happens if my child does not have a mobile device to perform the activities taking place in the classroom?

All students are not expected to own a mobile device. Teachers regularly use the tactics of pairing and group work to share limited resources. District schools also have mobile technology available for teachers to use in supplementing student owned devices.

4. What are the repercussions if my child is found in violation of the Acceptable Use Policy?

The repercussions are based upon the transgression and may include, but are not limited to, confiscation of the device pending parent pick up or a complete ban of personal and school technology devices.

5. Who is responsible for content that is accessed via a student's mobile device?

Students are responsible for all content they access and must follow the same rules set forth in the AUP regardless if they are using a district computer or their personal device. Content accessed over the district wireless network is filtered, but students making use of their own personal data plans will have access to unfiltered content. Parents should be sure to discuss the expectations with the students regarding accessing appropriate school related content with their personal devices.

6. Who is responsible if a student loses their mobile device on school premises?

The district is not responsible for lost, damaged, or stolen devices and can not conduct searches for devices reported as missing.

7. If my child's technology does not work in or out of school, who is responsible for support and maintenance?

The district can not provide support for student owned personal technology. Parents and students take full responsibility for any devices not owned by the district.

8. Who is responsible for teaching my son/daughter how to use his/her mobile device?

It is not feasible for staff to understand how to use all of the wide variety of mobile devices and operating systems. Students will be expected to be able to use their own personal technology without instruction or assistance. No technical support can be provided by district staff.

Students Questions:

1. If I receive a phone call or text message concerning an emergency during a class change that I would need to return, but returning the text or call will make me late, what should I do?

Proceed to your class and tell your teacher you have an emergency.

2. What happens if someone else uses my school password?

Refrain from sharing your password with anyone. If you think someone has inadvertently obtained your password let the administration know immediately.

3. Can my use of personal devices be revoked or terminated?

Yes, the use of personal technology devices may be revoked if you use the technology in an irresponsible manner.

4. Is the use of personal technology during instructional periods prohibited?

The use of personal technology devices during instructional time is at the discretion of the teacher.

5. Now that I can use my personal technology in school, can I access inappropriate materials?

Personal technology devices may not be used to access inappropriate materials.

6. Can I keep my phone on or on vibrate when I am in class?

All personal technology devices must be turned off during class, unless instructed otherwise by the teacher.

7. Does the district guarantee access to district provided internet access on personal devices?

Access to the district's network or internet connection is not guaranteed. There may be periods when the district's internet connection is not accessible. There may be certain devices that are unable to access the district's network at any time.

8. What should I do when I lose my personal technology device?

Look for it by retracing your steps and report the loss to the main office.

9. Will the school district initiate a search or investigation on behalf of a student who loses a personal technology device?

Each student is responsible for his or her own device; employees of the district may help a student find their device, but they are not responsible for the recovery of the device.

10. Am I responsible for all data costs during instructional time?

Each student is responsible for his or her own data cost incurred during all time on school property.

11. Can I use my personal technology device to record student or teacher's conversation or instruction during class?

The recording of instruction or conversation during class is at the discretion of the student or teacher. The person who is being recorded must be made aware of the fact that he or she is being recorded.

12. Is there someone at the school who can help me with problems associated with the use of my personal technology device?

No assistance can be given in troubleshooting your personal technology device. You are expected to be familiar with how to operate your own device.

13. Can I access social media sites or take picture of other students during school hours?

Access of the Internet and network resource must follow the district's acceptable use policy at all times regardless of the device being used.

14. Can I text or make a phone call before my next scheduled class?

Use of phones or personal devices outside of instructional areas and times must be specifically permitted by building administration. If permission for such use has not been given, use of a personal device for communication is not permitted.

15. If I don't have a personal technology device in class will one be provided?

Teachers will never require every student to have their own device. If personal devices are used in the classroom, teachers will adopt an appropriate resource sharing strategy.