

FAQ - 1:1 Devices

FAQ Description

The purpose of this section is to collect some commonly asked questions that deal more with the "what", the general facts related to our 1:1 device deployment.

Question

Which grade levels are currently participating in the 1:1 roll-out?

Answer

6th through 12th grade are 1:1. This means that they get to take the devices home.

1st-5th grade devices are kept at school in carts, with enough devices to have 1 per student.

Kindergarten grade are kept at school in carts, with enough devices to have 1 for every 2 students.

Question

What devices are we rolling out for 1:1?

Answer

6th - 8th grade students use a full size iPad.

9th - 12th grade use a 13" MacBook Air.

Our in-school devices are primarily full size iPads for grades K-5. Some iPad minis remain in use in carts and elsewhere.

Question

Will the devices have cases?

Answer

The iPad uses a [tough rubberized case](#). The MacBooks are being provided with a [sleeve style case](#).

Question

Is Internet access filtered on these devices?

Answer

Yes; more detail on our filtering can be found here: [Relay Web Filter](#)

Question

Will students be able to access the App Store?

Answer

Students do not have access to Apple's App Store. Instead, our app catalogue is available through an app called Self Service. Within the Self Service area users will find a selection of apps that have been specifically chosen for their grade level or subject area.

Question

Do students need an Apple ID account?

Answer

No, students are not required to have an Apple ID. We create an Apple Classroom account for each student so that staff can use Apple Classroom (particularly on iPads). That account does not work on the app store or really have any use beyond Apple Classroom.

Question

What does the insurance plan cover?

Answer

Generally, accidental damage and theft are covered; damaged or lost accessories such as any cables, chargers, or cases are not. Removing the iPad from the case voids the insurance. Full details can be found in our digital device agreement and insurance documents, located here: [Digital Device Agreement](#)

Question

How much does insurance cost?

Answer

Fees for 2020-2021 will be: \$20 for iPad and \$50 for MacBook. This is an annual cost. We allow the MacBook insurance to be paid in multiple installments. Students with financial hardship or who qualify for free or reduced lunch may request a waiver of the insurance fee.

Fees can be paid at the school office or within Infinite Campus.

Question

What are the replacement costs for commonly lost or damaged items?

Answer

Typical costs are as follows (list below)

2020-2021 Prices:

- iPad charging cord: \$20
- iPad charging brick: \$20
- iPad case: \$35
- MacBook charging brick: \$70
- MacBook bag: \$25
- iPad Full replacement: \$290
- MacBook Full replacement: \$900
- iPad Repair: Varies - Estimates provided upon request.
- MacBook repair: Varies, estimates provided upon request.

Question

If insurance is not taken, what is the total replacement cost for the device?

Answer

The current prices are:

- iPad Mini: \$290
- MacBook Air: \$900

Replacement costs will vary based on actual age of the device; the totals above are the highest possible cost.

Question

Do students get brand new devices each year?

Answer

No. New devices are deployed at 6th grade (iPads) and 9th grade (MacBooks). Our anticipated use/replacement cycle is 3 years for the iPads and 4 years for the MacBooks.

Question

What if we do not have wi-fi access at home?

Answer

Families can apply for a mi-fi device, which provides Internet access via cellular service. If you qualify for such a device, there will not be a charge for it. Please contact your school office, counselor, or an equity team member to get a form to request a mi-fi device.

Additional Info: [Mi-Fi Request](#)

Question

Can we buy the device when a student graduates?

Answer

Unfortunately, no. District policy (see Board Policy 802) and state law prevent us from selling a device directly to anyone. Devices will be disposed of in 1 of 3 ways: Any large batch will be sold through a competitive bid process. Small batches may be sold at auction (think eBay, for example). Occasionally, devices that are beyond repair or not viable for auction will simply be recycled.

Question

How is tech handled for PSEO students?

Answer

District provided MacBook is supported for use within the Shakopee School District for curriculum. When provided device is used for Post Secondary Enrollment Option (PSEO) at approved colleges Shakopee Technology staff will provide best effort support. Due to colleges network and curriculum design / requirements a District managed MacBook may not work as desired. This could include printing, web pages, and applications.

Question

Why can't students use their own device?

Answer

There are several reasons for this, which can be broken down into a few areas:

Curriculum: Requiring that all students have the same or comparable devices ensures that the curriculum we put in place will work with the device. Committees met several years ago to assess various hardware (PCs, Chromebooks, iPads, & MacBooks) and made decisions about which devices would best fit the needs we would have moving forward. For more specifics on this, see the question "Why iPads and MacBooks" below.

Management: District devices are all centrally maintained through management software. This enables us to:

- provide software directly to the devices
- ensure that the software being provided is properly licensed and is the expected version
- utilize tools for locating or disabling lost devices
- maintain device inventory

Equity: A common standard of devices provides a consistent experience for all of our students regardless of their background.

Question

Why iPads and MacBooks?

Answer

Let's start with MacBooks. These are used from grades 9-12. The curriculum includes a number of classes that use products such as Adobe digital design software (Photoshop, Dreamweaver, Lightroom, etc.). Other software functions similarly on Mac and PC platforms, such as Microsoft Office, Google Apps, and programs related to assessment. PCs with comparable technical specifications (such as power, battery life, weight) can end up costing just as much as a MacBook. Chromebooks were also considered, and while they are less expensive they do not tend to hold up as well over time and would only handle a fraction of the software we use daily throughout the curriculum. Using Chromebooks would also create a need for additional mobile or fixed labs, which end up creating additional cost and limit student access to the tools they need to complete their work.

iPads are used in grades K-8 (and also show up in early childhood classrooms). The choice of iPads basically comes down to the wide variety of apps available and the ability to establish a common set of apps that fit the curriculum while also being able to acquire apps for specific needs. An example would be GarageBand for music classes. The iPads have a reasonable price point, can make it through a school day when fully charged, and satisfy the majority of our curriculum-related needs.

For what we are doing in the district, the iPads and MacBooks meet the majority of our day to day curriculum needs. Still, we do maintain smaller fleets of PCs and Chromebooks for some specific needs where they may be better suited.

PCs: The majority of student contact with PCs occurs in classrooms using the Project Lead the Way curriculum. This program uses a highly specific set of software that is currently written primarily (but not exclusively) for PCs running Windows. It is likely that a larger portion of the Project Lead the Way curriculum will be available for MacBooks over the next few years, so the number of PCs in the district will start to decline as that happens.

Chromebooks: Chromebooks are fairly inexpensive and are a convenient device for word processing, typing practice, certain web-based activities, and standardized assessments. We will maintain a small fleet of Chromebooks for those purposes mostly throughout the K-8 buildings.

What we have also observed is that while we do have breakage with Apple products, polling of other districts with Chromebooks shows that the Apple products hold up better over time and are generally more likely to be fixed and put back into service versus being "totaled" and recycled. We also work to get the full of our devices through extended use where possible and bulk surplus sales to the highest bidder. The resale market for used Chromebooks (especially beyond 4 years) is minimal, while there tends to still be decent resale value with the Apple hardware.

Question

Why would I want to pay the insurance fee?

Answer

We set the insurance rates at a level that is designed to be reasonable and allow for all of the breakage and loss that occurs during the year to be covered. The district isn't making money off of the insurance fee; we try to set the rate so that we are as close to break-even as possible. It is 10-15% cheaper than third party coverage. We are occasionally asked about coverage through homeowner's insurance; that is dependent on individual policies but something to keep in mind with that is the deductible; that can vary as well but can often be more than the cost of replacing or repairing the device anyway. Another option we are asked about is AppleCare coverage; this is costlier up front and would require families to handle repairs themselves through an Apple store. All things considered, the insurance fee is not a bad deal and provides some peace of mind.

Question

Can students buy their own software and install it / Do we support installations beyond the regular curriculum software?

Answer

The short answer is no. What we have pre-installed and available in self service is what we support. Occasionally, the district will choose to make an accommodation or exception for a student based on a need identified through an IEP, due to a CAPS requirement, or as a result of a teacher recommendation.

Question

Can students print at home?

Answer

Yes, here are instructions for setting that up: [Install a Printer at Home on Your Mac](#)

Question

Where can I get technical help?

Answer

Use one of the contact options on the [Parent Tech Help Contacts](#) page to request assistance.