Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) Policy

Washington State School Director's Association
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Description of BYOD Policy

- BYOD policies permit students to bring personal devices, such as net books, computers and smart phones to school for classroom purposes. The BYOD policy and procedure can vary based on the needs of an individual school or entire district. In many cases, BYOD policies are piloted in one or two schools in a district and then the choice is made to expand, contain, or go without the policy.

- By permitting devices in the classroom with BYOD policies, students have access to technology on an individual basis and teachers are able to provide more digital lessons. However, the nature of these policies must be carefully thought through in regards to the needs and capabilities of a district or individual schools within a district. District and schools need to consider factors, such as the bandwidth needed to accommodate the devices and additional oversight for the proper use of personal devices.

Benefits of BYOD Policy

Schools are now choosing to embrace technology devices instead of banning them

- Reduces technology and technology maintenance costs
- Increases skill attainment relevant to workforce and higher education requirements
- Personalizes learning experiences
- Encourages students' independent learning
- Promotes anytime, anywhere learning opportunities
- Allows for group collaborative and co-curricular learning practices
- Enables utilization of some of the cheapest technologies to invest in

Factors to Keep in Mind with BYOD Policy

- [Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) & Authentication Policies](#)

- Acceptable Use Policies (AUP) and modifications
  - [WSSDA model AUP](#)

- Network infrastructure with wireless demands

- Dealing with private devices on school networks

- Board management acceptance and teacher acceptance (professional development may be needed)

Supporting Facts of BYOD Policy

- **Students who may not have computers are likely to have access to internet on their phone**
  - The Pew Internet and American Life Project's Feb 2010 study, *Social Media and Young Adults* indicated that:
    - **74 percent** of American teens have a high-speed internet-connected computer at home, but **93 percent** of American teens say they go online
    - **41 percent** of teens whose family income is less than $30,000 go online using their phones, with that number dropping to the 20-percent range for higher-income brackets
      - http://www.pewinternet.org/~/media//Files/Reports/2010/PIP_Social_Media_and_Young_Adults_Report_Final_with_toplines.pdf

- **Rural districts are less likely than urban districts to have access to technology at home**
  - Government funds for technology could help encourage the one-to-one benefits of BYOD in rural schools
    - In a November 2011 report by the US Department of Commerce, it was found that:
      - In 2010, **57 percent** of rural households had internet access compared to **72 percent** in urban areas
        - http://www.ntia.doc.gov/press-release/2011/new-commerce-department-report-shows-broadband-adoption-rises-digital-divide-pers

Considerations of BYOD Policy and Implementation

◦ Acceptable Use and BYOD agreements are often handed out to BYOD schools for students and parents to sign and list the devices that will be brought to school

- Agreements often outline that it is not the responsibility of the district for any loss, damage, or theft of devices or documents on devices
- Bullying and cyberbullying policies are often outlined as applicable to BYOD
- Violation of the BYOD policies and agreements often results in loss of BYOD privileges

Current Districts Piloting BYOD Policy

- Paso Robles Joint Unified District – Paso Robles, California

- Oak Hills Local School District – Cincinnati, Ohio

- Booker T. Washington High School – Pensacola, Florida

- Derry Township School District – Hershey, Pennsylvania

- Hanover Public Schools – Hanover, Pennsylvania

- West Shore School District – New Cumberland, Pennsylvania

- Plum Borough School District – Plum Borough, Pennsylvania

- Virginia Beach City Public Schools – Virginia Beach, Virginia

- Vancouver Public Schools – Vancouver, WA