Moibile devices are now found in the hands of most children and some school leaders around the country are using that to their advantage. A small but passionate minority of school districts are opening doors to student-owned mobile devices, incorporating devices students own into classroom lessons and projects. This practice can provide a low-cost way to incorporate technology into the classroom. The growing number of students with cell phones or smart phones makes it possible for teachers to incorporate mobile devices in their classes. April 2010 data from the Pew Research Center indicated that 75 percent of students ages 12-17 own a cell phone or a smart phone.

Some districts have launched the “Bring Your Own Device/Technology (BYOD/BYOT)” initiative to allow students to take their smartphones, laptops, e-book readers and tablets to class. The BYOD/BYOT trend to enrich learning in K-12 environments is gaining momentum nationwide with much support from parents and students. Project Tomorrow, a national education nonprofit group, reports that 60 to 70 percent of parents of K-12 students would be willing to buy a mobile device to support learning. Fifty-six percent of high school students say that it would make it easier to learn if they would be allowed to use their own mobile device.

Students can connect to a wireless network to do research and schoolwork under the supervision of the teacher. The initiative permits students to use devices with which they are familiar. Research indicates that the students want to use mobile technology in the school setting. Smartphones are rapidly becoming the resource tool and the communication tool of the future and networks such as Facebook have grown because more students have access to social learning, collaboration and immediate gratification.

It is important, however, to keep in mind that technology is just a tool. It can help to amplify learning, but it’s not the panacea. Some challenges that surround incorporating mobile devices into classrooms include the speed with which technology changes and the ways in which educators might differentiate between what is good for teaching and learning and what is simply technology for technology’s sake. Others worry about the distractions that might be caused by allowing the devices into the classrooms. There is now a body of research about the benefits of 1:1 mobile learning initiatives. Research has shown improvements in attention, attendance, discipline, graduation rates, and achievement on high stakes tests. Other benefits cited are that it broadens learning beyond the classroom, takes advantage of the teachable moment, and prepares students for tomorrow’s workplace.

BYOD/BYOT isn’t about the devices themselves. It’s about creating constructive change in teaching practices. Students can become information producers, rather than simple information consumers. Teachers will need face-to-face and web-based professional development that includes modeled examples of what BYOD/BYOT activities might look like in a classroom in order for such an initiative to be successful.
Whether a district or school is encouraging teachers to use the student-owned mobile devices educationally, or just curbing discipline issues by removing consequences for use, making the new policy approach work requires much more than simply lifting a cellphone ban. Currently, there are some unanswered legal questions about Internet security and privacy. Other issues to be confronted include such problems as access to inappropriate online content, digitally enhanced cheating, and potential classroom distractions. Moreover, a balance in policy language must be achieved in order to avoid stifling creative implementation of the devices.

The biggest issue faced by BYOD/BYOT districts and schools is sorting out how to address students who access inappropriate content from school but via non-school Internet networks. In particular, students may have smartphones or tablets equipped with data plans that allow them to connect to 3G or 4G Internet networks that don’t run through a school filter. District policy pertaining to BYOD/BYOT prohibiting students from using outside networks will be in compliance with the federal Children’s Internet Protection Act which mandates that schools prevent students and staff members from accessing material that is obscene, pornographic, or harmful to minors. The school’s network must be filtered. Schools can remain CIPA compliant by making sure that students and staff know that while on school property, personally-owned devices may access the Internet only through the school’s Internet gateway. However, there is no legal precedent at this time for whether a district or school would be liable for material a student accesses through his or her own network. While the BYOD/BYOT movement is gaining some momentum, concerns about Internet safety and security is a major reason it hasn’t reached the mainstream.

Therefore, it is advised that, as part of the program, students and parents must sign an agreement on how the service will be used. Students are expected to adhere to the district’s computer acceptable use policy as well as the student code of conduct. It is also important that the teacher maintains control in the classroom. The teacher must determine when the devices will be used and when they won’t. Policy must also deal with the issue of equity. As we allow BYOD/BYOT, districts will be obliged to make sure there are solutions in place for students whose families can’t or won’t provide a device for the student to bring to school.

The technology industry is also making available programs designed to help a district implement BYOD/BYOT. Such programs should be investigated in order to protect the districts network from vulnerability.
Policy Implications

Many of the issues that BYOD/BYOT raises can be addressed with policy, education and procedures, and don’t require a technical solution. The policy should indicate, for example, regarding the loss, damage or a stolen personal device, that the responsibility for the device is up to the individual and that the district has no liability. In addition to the suggested policy about security and CIPA compliance, districts will need to set guidelines about the use of personal devices. It is suggested that a task force be convened within the district to develop these. The task force should include teachers, administrators, parents, technology staff and students. This will help to build a policy based upon trust, respect and responsibility.

A new sample policy, #6141.328, “Bring Your Own Device and Protocol for the Use of Technology in the Schools,” follows. This material is considered a starting point for the development of a district policy pertaining to the implementation of a BYOD/BYOT program. This is considered an optional policy for inclusion in a district’s policy manual. However, policy language and guidelines are essential if a district decides to implement this program.
Instruction

Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) and Protocol for the Use of Technology in the Schools

As new technologies continue to change the world in which we live, they also provide many new and positive educational benefits for classroom instruction. To prepare students as 21st century thinkers and learners, students in the ____________ Public School District are now encouraged to bring their own technology to campus.

(Alternate language to the above paragraph)

(Alternate #1) The Board of Education is committed to aiding students and staff in creating a 21st century learning environment. Therefore students and staff will be permitted to access the District’s wireless network with their personal devices during the school day. With teacher approval, students may use their own devices to access the Internet and collaborate with other students.

(Alternate #2) Access to the District’s wireless network, including the Internet shall be made available to students for instructional purposes in accordance with administrative regulations.

(Alternate #3) Technology use is everywhere in our world today. The Board of Education believes schools should play a role in teaching students to use technology appropriately. Rather than banning the devices the District’s students use in their daily lives, the same devices they will soon come to rely on in their future professional lives, it is important to guide them in developing the skills needed to be productive digital citizens, by bringing their own technology to campus.

Definition of “Device”

A “device” as part of this protocol is a piece of privately owned and/or portable electronic handheld technology that includes emerging mobile communication systems and smart technologies, laptops and netbooks, and any technology that can be used for wireless internet access, word processing, image capture/recording, sound recording and information transmitting, receiving, and storing.

(Alternate language to the above paragraph)

(Alternate #1) For purposes of BYOD, a “device” means a privately owned wireless and/or portable electronic piece of equipment that includes laptops, netbooks, tablets/slates, iPod Touches, e-Readers, cell and smart phones.

(Alternate #2) For purposes of BYOD/BYOT a “device” means a privately owned wireless and/or portable electronic hand held equipment that includes, but is not limited to, existing and emerging mobile communication systems and smart technologies, portable internet devices, Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs), hand held entertainment systems or portable information technology systems that can be used for word processing, wireless internet access, image capture/recording, sound recording and information transmitting/receiving/storing.
Instruction

Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) and Protocol for the Use of Technology in the Schools
(continued)

Internet

The only internet gateway that may be accessed while in the District Public Schools is the one provided by the District. Any device brought to the District will not be permitted to use outside internet sources.

Personal internet connective devices, such as but not limited to cell phones/cell network adapters, are not permitted to be used to access outside internet sources at any time.

Software

Many software packages are now available as web browser applications. This negates the need to have required programs loaded onto student computers. Students can access what they will need through any web browser. Therefore, there is no required software necessary to take part in the Bring Your Own Device program.

Security and Damages

Responsibility to keep the device secure rests with the individual owner. The _________ Public School District is not liable for any device stolen or damaged on campus. If a device is stolen or damaged, it will be handled through the administrative office as other personal items that are stolen or damaged. It is recommended that skins, decals, and other custom touches be used to identify physically a student’s device from others. Additionally, protective cases for technology are encouraged.

Bring Your Own Device/Technology Student and Parent Agreement

The use of technology to provide educational material is not a necessity but a privilege. A student does not have the right to use his/her electronic device while at school. When abused, privileges will be taken away. When respected, they will benefit the learning environment as a whole.

Students and parents/guardians participating in the Bring Your Own Device/Technology program must adhere to the Student Code of Conduct, as well as all applicable Board policies, particularly the Computer Acceptable Use policy.

The use of these devices, as with any personally owned device, is strictly up to the teacher.
Instruction

Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) and Protocol for the Use of Technology in the Schools
(continued)

(cf. 5114 – Suspension/Expulsion)
(cf. 5132.81 – Use of Electronic Devices)
(cf. 5131.911 – Bullying)
(cf. 5131.913 – Cyberbullying)
(cf. 5131 – Conduct)
(cf. 5144 – Discipline)
(cf. 6141.321 – Acceptable Computer Use Policy)
(cf. 6141.323 – Internet Acceptable Use: Filtering)
(cf. 6141.326 – Online Social Networking)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-221 Boards of education to prescribe rules

Policy adopted:

cps 4/12
Bring Your Own Device Student Agreement

The use of technology to provide educational material is a privilege at school that we wish all students to have beginning in grade ___ in ________, 20__. When abused, privileges will be taken away. When respected, they will benefit the learning environment tremendously.

Students and parents who bring their own device must adhere to the Student Code of Conduct as well as all Board policies, particularly the Internet Acceptable Use and Internet Safety. Additionally, students must adhere to the following:

Devices are to be used for instructional purposes connected to the approved curriculum, not to cheat on assignments or tests, not to make personal phone calls, not to send text messages, and not to post information, photos, or videos not authorized by the teacher.

**Students acknowledge the following: (Determine which the District wants to include.)**

- Only the school’s Internet will be accessed. Attempts will not be made to bypass the local connection.
- The District’s network filters will be applied to one’s connection to the Internet and attempts will not be made to bypass them.
- Only authorized data can be accessed. Infecting the network with a virus, Trojan, or program designed to damage, alter, or destroy the network; and hacking, altering, or bypassing security policies are not allowed.
- The school District has the right to collect and examine any device that is suspected of causing problems or was the source of an attack or virus infection.
- All data must be stored on the student’s hard drive. Backing up the data through a jump drive, an external drive, or another media device regularly is strongly encouraged.
- As we are working to achieve a more paperless environment, printing from personal laptops will not be possible.
- As we do not have enough outlets for students to charge their devices in classrooms, each student must charge his or her own device prior to bringing it to school daily.
- Using a personal device to transmit or share inappropriate content during the school day will result in the loss of BYOD/BYOT privileges. Additional consequences may be applied depending upon the circumstances. Transmission of material of a bullying nature or sexual nature will not be tolerated.
- Using a personal device at unauthorized times will result in the loss of BYOD/BYOT privileges. Use of these devices in the cafeteria, gymnasium, locker rooms, hallways, and bathrooms is strictly prohibited. The purpose of BYOD/BYOT is purely for the extension and enrichment of the learning environment.
- Devices cannot be used during assessments, unless otherwise directed by a teacher.
- Students must immediately comply with teachers’ requests to shut down devices or close the screen. Devices must be in silent mode and put away when asked by teachers.
Bring Your Own Device Student Agreement

- Students are not permitted to transmit or post photographic images/videos of any person on campus on public and/or social networking sites.
- Students can only access files on the computer or Internet sites which are relevant to the classroom curriculum and suggested by a teacher.
- Students are not to physically share their personal devices with other students, unless approved in writing by their parent/guardian.
- Personal devices may not be used to cheat on assignments, tests or for non-instructional purposes, such as making personal phone call and text/instant messaging.
- Personal devices may not be used to send inappropriate e-messages during the school day.

As a student, I understand and will abide by all on this agreement. I further understand that any violation is unethical and may result in the loss of my device privileges as well as other disciplinary action.

As a parent, I understand that my child will be responsible for abiding by the policy pertaining to this program and its guidelines. I have read and discussed them with him/her and he/she understands the responsibility he/she has in the use of their personal device.

________________________________________
Signature of Student: ________________________ Signature of Parent: ________________________

Printed Name: ______________________________ Printed Name: ______________________________

Date: ______________________________________ Date: ______________________________________
Instruction

Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) and Protocol for the Use of Technology in the Schools

The following guidelines shall govern the manner in which the Bring Your Own Device/Technology (BYOD/BYOT) policy and program are to operate within the District.

Readiness

The implementation of this program will require the support of a robust wireless infrastructure. A network evaluation will be conducted to determine any and all necessary infrastructure changes and upgrades that are needed before a full implementation.

The implementation of the program may require minor changes in the manner network administration is currently done. Considerations must be given to issues of security, accessibility, cloud computing, etc. The readiness evaluation report must include any and all network administration changes needed to support BYOD/BYOT.

Definitions

A “device” as part of this protocol is a piece of privately owned and/or portable electronic handheld technology that includes emerging mobile communication systems and smart technologies, laptops and netbooks, and any technology that can be used for wireless internet access, word processing, image capture/recording, sound recording and information transmitting, receiving, and storing. (Or use one of the alternative definitions found in the sample policy)

Teachers’ Role

1. Teachers are facilitators of instruction in their classrooms. Therefore, they will not spend time on fixing technical difficulties with students’ personal devices in the classrooms. They will educate and provide guidance on how to use a device and troubleshoot simple issues, but they will not provide technical support. This responsibility resides at home with parents/guardians.

2. Teachers may communicate information regarding educational applications and suggest appropriate tools that can be downloaded to personal devices at home. Parents will need to assist their younger children with downloads if they wish to follow teachers’ suggestions. No applications are to be downloaded at school.

3. Teachers are to closely supervise students to ensure appropriate use of technology in the classrooms.

4. It is understood that not every student has his/her own electronic device. To ensure equal accessibility to technology resources, teachers will provide students with technology available within the school.

5. The use of these student personal devices, as with any personally owned device, is strictly up to the teacher.
Instruction

Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) and Protocol for the Use of Technology in the Schools

Security and Damages

1. The District, or any of its schools, is not liable for any device that is stolen or damaged. Responsibility to keep the device secure rests with the individual owner. If a device is stolen or damaged, it will be handled through the administrative office as other personal items are stolen or damaged. It is recommended that skins, decals, and other custom touches be used to identify physically a student’s device from others. Additionally, protective cases for technology are encouraged.

2. Personal devices cannot be left on campus before or after school hours.

Operating Principles for Use of Personal Devices on School Campus

1. Devices cannot be used during assessments, unless otherwise directed by a teacher.

2. Students must immediately comply with teachers’ requests to shut down devices or close the screen. Devices must be in silent mode and put away when asked by teachers.

3. Students are not permitted to transmit or post photographic images/videos of any person on campus on public and/or social networking sites.

4. Personal devices must be charged prior to bringing them to school and run off their own batteries while at school.

5. To ensure appropriate network filters, students will only use the District’s wireless BYOD/BYOT connection in school and will not attempt to bypass the network restrictions by using 3G or 4G network.

6. Students must be instructed that bringing devices on campus or infecting the network with a virus, Trojan, or program designed to damage, alter, destroy, alter, or provide access to unauthorized data or information is in violation of the District’s Acceptable Use Policy and will result in disciplinary actions.

7. The District has the right to collect and examine any device that is suspected of causing problems or is the source of an attack or virus infection.

8. Students must be instructed that possessing or accessing information on school property related to “hacking”, altering, or bypassing network security policies is in violation of the Acceptable Use Policy and will result in disciplinary actions.

9. Students can only access files on the computer or Internet sites which are relevant to the classroom curriculum and suggested by a teacher.

10. Printing from personal devices is not permitted at school.

11. Students are not to physically share their personal devices with other students, unless approved in writing by their parent/guardian.
Instruction

Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) and Protocol for the Use of Technology in the Schools

Operating Principles for Use of Personal Devices on School Campus (continued)

12. Personal devices may not be used to cheat on assignments, tests or for non-instructional purposes, such as making personal phone call and text/instant messaging.

13. Personal devices may not be used to send inappropriate e-messages during the school day.

Standards of Responsible Use

All students in District schools must adhere to the following standards of responsible use:

- The District may review files and communications to maintain system integrity and insure that users are using the system responsibly. Users should not expect that files stored on district servers will always be private.
- Students are responsible at all times for their use of the District’s electronic communication system and must assume personal responsibility to behave ethically and responsibly, even when technology provides them the freedom to do otherwise.
- Students must log in and use the District filtered wireless network during the school day on personal electronic devices.
- Students must not access, modify, download, or install computer programs, files, or information belonging to others.
- Students must not waste or abuse school resources through unauthorized system use (e.g. playing online games, downloading music, watching video broadcasts, participating in chat rooms, etc.).
- Students must not alter computers, networks, printers or other equipment except as directed by a staff member.
- Technology, including electronic communication, should be used for appropriate educational purposes only and should be consistent with the educational objectives of the District.
- Students must not release personal information on the Internet or electronic communications.
- If a student finds an inappropriate site or image, he or she must immediately minimize the program and contact the instructor.
- Students must not create/publish/submit or display any materials/media that are abusive, obscene, sexually oriented, threatening, harassing, damaging to another’s reputation, or illegal and should report any instances encountered.
- Students shall adhere to all laws and statutes related to issues of copyright or plagiarism.
- Violation of any of these standards may result in suspension of computer use, Internet privileges and/or other disciplinary action.

Regulation approved:

cps 4/12

Sample policies are distributed for demonstration purposes only. Unless so noted, contents do not necessarily reflect official policies of the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education, Inc.