



**Carroll County Public Schools
Bring Your Own Device
Frequently Asked Questions
Parents**

1. What is Bring Your Own Device (BYOD)?

The use of personally owned portable electronic devices is permitted in Carroll County Public Schools (CCPS) within the established guidelines. The use of these devices is completely voluntary.

2. What are the benefits of a BYOD policy?

Several school systems who have implemented a BYOD policy have identified numerous benefits to students and staff. These include preparing students for college and career, appealing to the learning styles of 21st century learners, fostering student ownership of their own learning, allowing real time access to information, providing easier access to online instructional materials, supplementing school resources and equipment, and facilitating the transition between home and school resources.

3. Who is allowed to bring a device to school?

All CCPS staff, students in grades 6-12, post-secondary students, and students in grades 3-5 in our six pilot elementary schools (Carrolltowne, Cranberry Station, Ebb Valley, Eldersburg, Friendship Valley, and William Winchester) are allowed to bring a device to school. Students in grades 3-5 in the remaining elementary schools will be allowed to bring their devices to school beginning in the second semester of the 2014-2015 school year.

4. What devices can be brought to school?

Portable electronic devices include, but are not limited to, laptops, tablets, netbooks, mobile phones, mp3 players, and eReaders.

5. Is my child required to bring a device to school?

No. It is not mandatory for any child to bring a device to school. BYOD is simply an option for students. Students who choose not to bring in a device will continue to access the appropriate technologies provided by the school.

6. How does my child register his/her device at school?

Once a parent decides to allow his/her child to bring a personally owned device to school, the parent must return the permission form included in the universal parent sign-off information distributed the first day of school. In addition, the student and parent must agree in writing to the Acceptable Use Policy. Then, once per marking period, students who have parent permission will be prompted to re-enable their wireless access on their device at school.

7. How might my child be using his/her device during the school day?

Students might use their devices to complete in-class activities, check Home Access Center, complete homework, collaborate in real time, research for projects, access websites with curriculum-related content, keep track of classroom assignments, take notes, compose, and complete other approved instructional activities to enhance learning. During non-instructional time, students may use their devices in accordance with CCPS guidelines, unless otherwise directed by staff members.

8. What about security, theft, or damage?

CCPS assumes no responsibility for the loss, damage, or theft of personally owned portable electronic devices and/or related accessories brought to school or on school buses. School staff will not store or hold onto devices. School staff members are not expected to assist students with troubleshooting their devices. Students bring their devices to school at their own risk.

9. What apps or software will be used in the classroom?

CCPS does not provide or require apps or software for personally owned devices. Classroom lessons will be designed for the technology that all students have access to.

10. As a parent, am I required to add additional software to my child's technology device?

No. Virus protection is always advised, but not required. While on the CCPS network, students will be monitored through the system's filter, so there is no need for additional filtering software.

11. Will the device be protected with Internet Content Filtering?

The Children's Internet Protection Act requires all network access to be filtered, regardless of the device being used, while in a public school. Students own their devices, but the network belongs to the school, and Internet access will be filtered. Students should only use the CCPS WiFi connection with their device while at school. Students who bypass the CCPS network to use their mobile data plans (3G/4G service) instead are not protected with CCPS Internet Content Filtering and may be subject to their mobile plan's data charges.

12. Should I go out and buy my child a device?

Personally owned devices are optional, and parents are not required to purchase a device for their child. CCPS does not recommend specific technology products.

13. What if my child is subjected to inappropriate content while at school?

As with any concern for your child's well-being while at school, please contact your school's administrator to discuss the situation.

14. Does the Acceptable Use Policy still apply, even though this is a personal device?

Students using a personally owned device must have submitted a signed parent permission form and Acceptable Use Policy. The Acceptable Use Policy remains in effect even when using a personally owned device. There are consequences for violating this policy.

15. Can an administrator revoke a student's BYOD privilege?

Yes. If a student is not following our BYOD guidelines, the Acceptable Use Policy, or teacher direction for the use of a personally owned device, an administrator may revoke the privilege through the regular discipline process.

16. Can students charge their devices while at school?

Personally owned devices should be fully charged before coming to school. Students should not have the expectation that they will be able to charge devices at school. Many classrooms do not have the capacity to handle additional electrical demands for charging personally owned devices.