

# Fort Bend ISD

## BYOD Device Selection Chart





BYOD or Bring Your Own Device is a popular approach towards allowing student end-users the ability to access online resources through the Districts network. Please refer to the Acceptable Use Guide and any campus specific guidelines prior to utilizing any personally owned device on the District network. The Fort Bend ISD Technology Department is recommending Laptops or Tablets as the preferred student devices to be used.

The chart below serves as a guideline for the type of mobile devices that the District is recommending. It will highlight various features and does not imply the purchase of one vendor specific device over another. As you review this information observe the following pointers.

- Choosing the right device will be a combination of what is practical, affordable and a good fit for your student.
- Keep in mind that your expectations on device usage will influence your choice.
- The recommendations listed on the following pages are very general and serve as an entry point for these devices.
- You may choose to go with higher specifications to extend the device lifecycle and to allow for broader use of the chosen device.
- Shop around, look for good value and by all means read several customer and consumer group ratings and reviews prior to making your selection. You may also want to consider factory refurbished units for additional savings.

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| Number of Stars   | Rating                                   | Uses  | Example Devices With This Rating   |
|---|--|---|--|
| <b>4 stars</b><br>   | <b>Exceptional</b>                       | Students can create, edit, and share documents, videos, and images. Ability to store files on the device or in the cloud. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Windows Laptop</b></li> <li>• <b>MacBook</b></li> <li>• <b>Apple iPad Tablet</b></li> <li>• <b>Windows Tablet</b> (<i>Microsoft Surface Pro, Lenovo Yoga, HP Envy, Dell XPS 12</i>)</li> </ul>   |
| <b>3 stars</b><br>   | <b>Good</b>                              | Students can access cloud content but displays are smaller and offer limited storage.                                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Chromebook</b></li> <li>• <b>Android Tablet</b> (Google Nexus, Samsung Galaxy Tab, Amazon Kindle Fire)</li> </ul>  |
| <b>2 stars</b><br> | <b>Marginal</b>                          | Limited use devices usable only for specific purposes, such as reading eBooks.  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Barnes &amp; Noble Nook</b></li> <li>• <b>Kindle Paperwhite</b></li> </ul>   |
| <b>1 star</b><br>  | <b>Discouraged<br/>Not<br/>Supported</b> | These devices offer limited capabilities and are discouraged from being used.   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Apple iPod Touch</b></li> <li>• <b>Apple iPhone</b></li> <li>• <b>Android phone</b></li> <li>• <b>Smartwatches</b> (ie Apple Watch)</li> <li>• <b>iPod Nano</b></li> <li>• <b>iPod Shuffle</b></li> <li>• <b>Gaming consoles</b> (<i>Microsoft Xbox Sony Playstation, Nintendo Wii</i>)</li> </ul> |





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### Laptops



**Laptops** are an ideal fit and offer the student greater flexibility for other uses due to their portability, storage and performance options. With larger screens and full keyboards, they are well suited for better productivity.

Consider the operating system and available applications for that operating system when making your purchasing decision.

| Device   | Image   | Features  | Rating  |
|--|---|---|---|
| <p><b>Windows Laptop</b></p> <p>Cost approximately &gt;= \$199</p> <p>(High School &amp; Middle School Students)</p> |    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WiFi access</li> <li>• Larger screen size, not as portable as other devices</li> <li>• Great productivity device, supports same software used on desktop computers</li> <li>• Creativity programs</li> <li>• Local hard drive storage &amp; cloud storage</li> <li>• Depending on model: Built-in webcam</li> <li>• Web browsing</li> </ul>  |    |
| <p><b>Apple MacBook</b></p> <p>Cost approximately &gt;= \$999</p> <p>(High School &amp; Middle School Students)</p>  |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WiFi access</li> <li>• Larger screen size, not as portable as other devices</li> <li>• Great productivity device, supports same software used on desktop computers</li> <li>• Creativity programs available in the Apple Store</li> <li>• Local hard drive storage &amp; cloud storage</li> <li>• Depending on model: Built-in webcam</li> <li>• Web browsing</li> <li>• Higher in Cost</li> </ul> |  |

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|   |   |  |   |
|---|---|--|---|
| <p><b>Chromebook</b><br/>Cost approximately <math>\geq</math> \$169</p> |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• WiFi access</li><li>• Designed to be connected to the Internet and use apps from Google Play to access software that lives primarily on the Web, not on the computer</li><li>• Cannot install traditional PC software such as Microsoft Office suite</li><li>• Creativity programs including online Google apps; may allow access to online Microsoft Office suite.</li><li>• A personal Google account is a requirement for using this device.</li><li>• Local hard drive storage (small) &amp; cloud storage</li></ul> |  |
|---|---|--|---|

# Tablets

A tablet is a light weight highly portable mobile device. Due to the size of this device group the tablet class device is very practical. This also presents limitations in display size and for many with processor and storage capacities. A durable case or cover is strongly encouraged for these devices.

Most tablets have operating systems that can support applications specifically written for those operating systems. The exception is a tablet with the Windows operating system: both traditional software and apps can be loaded onto it.





| Device   | Image   | Features   | Star Rating   |
|--|---|--|---|
| <p><b>Apple iPad</b></p> <p>Cost approximately &gt;=\$269</p> <p><i>iOS version: iOS 10</i></p> <p>(Elementary &amp; Middle School Students)</p>   |    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WiFi access</li> <li>• Portable (screen sizes approx. 8 to 12.9 inches)</li> <li>• Download paid and free apps from Apple iTunes App store. (Limited to Apple and Apple approved titles)</li> <li>• Wide variety of creativity apps</li> <li>• Front- and rear-facing cameras for photos, videos, video conference, scan QR codes</li> <li>• Limited Local storage better cloud storage</li> <li>• Web browsing</li> <li>• On-screen keyboard. Bluetooth compatible for external keyboard. (No USB port)</li> </ul> |    |
| <p><b>Windows Tablet (2in1)</b></p> <p>Cost approximately &gt;=\$190</p> <p>(High School &amp; Middle School Students)</p> <p><b>Examples:</b></p> <p><b>Microsoft Surface Pro or Go</b></p> <p><b>Lenovo Yoga</b></p> <p><b>HP Envy</b></p> <p><b>Dell XPS 12</b></p> |    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WiFi access</li> <li>• Portable</li> <li>• Supports same software used on desktop computers, can download paid and free apps from Microsoft store</li> <li>• Creativity programs including Microsoft Office suite</li> <li>• Front- and rear-facing cameras for photos, videos, video conference, scan QR codes</li> <li>• Web browsing</li> <li>• On-screen keyboard. USB and Bluetooth compatible for external keyboard.</li> </ul>   |  |
| <p><b>Google Android Tablets</b></p> <p>Cost approximately &gt;=\$130</p> <p>(Elementary &amp; Middle School Students)</p> <p><b>Examples:</b></p> <p><b>Google Nexus</b></p> <p><b>Samsung Galaxy Tab</b></p> <p><b>Amazon Kindle Fire Series</b></p>                 |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WiFi access</li> <li>• Portable (screen sizes approx. 7 to 10 inches)</li> <li>• Download paid and free apps from Google Play store (Limited to Android Apps)</li> <li>• Wide variety of creativity apps</li> <li>• Camera for photos, videos, scan QR codes. Models that have front- and rear-facing cameras are best for video conference.</li> <li>• Limited Local storage better cloud storage</li> </ul>   |  |

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## BYOD Device Selection Chart

### eBook Readers

An eBook reader is a portable electronic reading device. The primary purpose is for the consumption of digital books, magazines, and newspapers. If this device class is considered, please ensure that it comes with a browser for added flexibility. Due to their limited capabilities these devices are very marginal in terms of use.

|  |  |  |   |
|--|--|--|---|
| <p><b>Barnes and Noble Nook Glowlight Plus</b></p> <p>Cost approximately &gt;= \$130<br/>(Elementary Students)</p> |   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WiFi</li> <li>• Portable (6.4 inches x 4.7 inches)</li> <li>• No creation or sharing features</li> <li>• Primary function is for reading books, magazines, and newspapers</li> </ul>  |    |
| <p><b>Amazon Kindle</b></p> <p>Cost approximately &gt;= \$80<br/>(Elementary Students)</p>                         |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WiFi</li> <li>• Portable (4.6 inch to 7.2 inch screen)</li> <li>• No creation or sharing features</li> <li>• Limited Web browsing on some models</li> <li>• Persistent pop-ups with advertisements</li> <li>• eBook Formats Supported: <b>Natively:</b> Kindle Format 8 (AZW3), Kindle (AZW), TXT, PDF, unprotected MOBI, PRC; <b>After installing Calibre or another app:</b> EPUB; <b>Through conversion:</b> HTML, DOC, DOCX, JPEG, GIF, PNG, BMP</li> </ul> |  |