

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.
- 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 verify customer ratings and reviews prior to making your selection.

Device Type by Grade Levels

GRADE LEVEL	RECOMMENDED DEVICE TYPE	EXAMPLE
PRE-K TO 1ST GRADE	TABLET DEVICE	IPAD
2ND TO 12TH	LAPTOP (DEVICE W/ A KEYBOARD PREFERRED)	LAPTOP
<p>NOTE: THE DEVICE YOU SELECT MUST BE ABLE TO SUPPORT THE FOLLOWING BROWSERS: FIREFOX, INTERNET EXPLORER 11+, EDGE, SAFARI AND GOOGLE CHROME. REGARDLESS OF THE TYPE OF DEVICE, IT IS IMPORTANT TO KEEP YOUR DEVICE CURRENT WITH THE LATEST PATCHES AND UPDATES.</p>		

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Number of Stars	Rating	Uses	Example Devices With This Rating
4 stars 	Exceptional	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"> • Windows Laptop • Chromebook • MacBook • Apple iPad • Android Tablet (Google Nexus, Samsung Galaxy Tab) • Windows Tablet (<i>Microsoft Surface Pro, Lenovo Yoga, HP Envy, Dell XPS 12</i>)
3 stars 	Great	Students can access cloud content but displays are smaller and offer limited storage.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apple iPod Touch • Apple iPhone • Android phone
2 stars 	Marginal	Limited use devices usable only for specific purposes, such as reading eBooks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barnes & Noble Nook • Amazon Kindle Fire
1 star 	Discouraged	These devices offer limited capabilities and are discouraged from being used.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smartwatches (ie Apple Watch) • iPod Nano • iPod Shuffle • Gaming consoles (<i>Microsoft Xbox Sony Playstation, Nintendo Wii</i>)

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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.

Laptops are highly recommended for students in 2nd grade and higher.

Device	Image	Features	Star Rating
<p>Windows Laptop Cost approximately >= \$199</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WiFi access (Wireless 802.11AC preferred) • Larger screen size, not as portable as other devices • Great productivity device, supports same software used on desktop computers • Creativity programs • Local hard drive storage & cloud storage • Requires anti-virus/anti-malware • Depending on model: Built-in webcam • Web browsing • Two-In-One Options offer best of a laptop and a tablet 	
<p>Chromebook Cost approximately >= \$169</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WiFi access (Wireless 802.11AC preferred) • 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 • Cannot install traditional PC software such as Microsoft Office suite • Creativity programs including online Google apps; may allow access to online Microsoft Office suite. • A personal Google account is a requirement for using this device. • Local hard drive storage (small) & cloud storage 	

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<p>Apple MacBook Cost approximately \geq \$1200</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WiFi access (Wireless 802.11AC preferred) • Larger screen size, not as portable as other devices • Great productivity device, supports same software used on desktop computers • Creativity programs available in the Apple Store • Local hard drive storage & cloud storage • Depending on model: Built-in webcam • Web browsing • Higher in Cost 	
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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.

Tablets are recommend for grade Prek to 1st.

Device	Image	Features	Star Rating
<p>Apple iPad</p> <p>Cost approximately >= \$269</p> <p><i>iOS version: iOS 10</i></p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WiFi access (Wireless Wi-Fi (802.11a/b/g/n/ac)) • Portable (screen sizes approx. 8 to 12.9 inches) • Download paid and free apps from Apple iTunes App store. (Limited to Apple and Apple approved titles) • Wide variety of creativity apps • Front- and rear-facing cameras for photos, videos, video conference, scan QR codes • Limited Local storage better cloud storage 	
<p>Google Android Tablets</p> <p>Cost approximately >=\$130</p> <p>Examples:</p> <p>Google Nexus</p> <p>Samsung Galaxy Tab</p> <p>Amazon Kindle Fire Series</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WiFi access (Wireless Wi-Fi (802.11a/b/g/n/ac)) • Portable (screen sizes approx. 7 to 10 inches) • Download paid and free apps from Google Play store (Limited to Android Apps) • Wide variety of creativity apps • Camera for photos, videos, scan QR codes. Models that have front- and rear-facing cameras are best for video conference. • Limited Local storage better cloud storage 	
<p>Windows Tablet</p> <p>Cost approximately >=\$190</p> <p>Examples:</p> <p>Microsoft Surface Pro</p> <p>Lenovo Yoga or Miix</p> <p>HP Envy</p> <p>Dell XPS 12</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WiFi access (Wireless Wi-Fi (802.11a/b/g/n/ac)) • Portable • Supports same software used on desktop computers, can download paid and free apps from Microsoft store • Creativity programs including Microsoft Office suite • Front- and rear-facing cameras for photos, videos, video conference, scan QR codes • Limited Local storage better cloud storage 	







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<p>Apple iPod Touch</p> <p>Cost approximately >=\$190</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WiFi access (Wireless Wi-Fi (802.11a/b/g/n/ac)) • Handheld (4.86 inches x 2.31 inches) • Download paid and free apps from Apple iTunes App store. (Cannot install traditional software) • Wide variety of creativity apps • Front- and rear-facing cameras for photos, videos, video conference, scan QR codes • Limited Local storage better cloud storage 	
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Smartphones			
<p>Smartphones are nearly identical to Tablets. You can think of them as smaller tablets that offer cellular and WiFi connectivity. The biggest drawback with smartphones are the size of their displays. On the other hand they are very convenient and offer highly portable computing power in the palm of your hand. This class of device will require a service plan which will be a recurring monthly charge. A durable case or cover is strongly encouraged for these devices.</p>			
<p>Apple iPhone</p> <p>Cost approximately >=\$800</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WiFi access • Handheld (5.44 inches x 2.64 inches) • Restricted to Apps on Apple Store. (Cannot install traditional software) • Wide variety of Apple approved creativity apps • Front- and rear-facing cameras for photos, videos, video conference, scan QR codes • Local hard drive storage & cloud storage 	
<p>Android Phone</p> <p>Cost approximately >=\$200</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WiFi access • Handheld (variety of sizes) • Restricted to Apps on Apple Store. (Cannot install traditional software) • Wide variety of creativity apps • Front- and rear-facing cameras for photos, videos, video conference, scan QR codes • Local hard drive storage & cloud storage 	
<p>Windows Phone</p> <p>Cost approximately >=\$200</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WiFi access • Handheld (variety of sizes) • Restricted to Apps on Apple Store. (Cannot install traditional software) • Wide variety of creativity apps • Front- and rear-facing cameras for photos, videos, video conference, scan QR codes • Local hard drive storage & cloud storage 	

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