



Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) in the South Brunswick School District

AKA: Bring Your Own Tech (BYOT); Bring Your Own Computer (BYOC); Bring Your Own Phone (BYOP)

DEFINITION: What is BYOD?

BYOD is the practice of allowing the students to bring privately-owned devices to school to use for instructional purposes. These would include devices such as laptops, tablets, smartphones, iPads, eReaders, or other such devices that can store, access, retrieve, and/or communicate data or information.

SBSD RATIONALE: Why are we moving in the BYOD direction?

The South Brunswick School District (SBSD) uses instructional technology as one of its educational resources to teach skills, knowledge, and digital citizenship. We do not use technology for technology's sake, but rather we make meaningful, integrated use of technology tools, software, online databases and applications to enhance the curriculum and program. There are a variety of devices in our schools right now—most prominently sets of Chromebooks.

To provide students another means of access to technology during the school day, the SBSB will allow students in Grades 6-12 who adhere to the responsibilities outlined within the Acceptable Use Policy to bring their own devices to school and to access the “student network” while on school grounds.

BYOD READINESS: How does a district get ready for BYOD?

- Do we have the network capacity? Yes.
- Is there secure network access? Yes.
- Is the network protected? Yes.
- Is there a policy? There are three policies that will be specifically related to BYOD.
 - Student Use of Privately Owned Technology #2363
 - Bring Your Own Device Guidelines #2363.1
 - Acceptable Use Policy (AUP)
- Have we designated grade levels? Yes. BYOD will be for grades 6-12 only.
- Is there a communication plan? Yes—for staff, students and parents. The jointly acknowledged Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) will be the key vehicle for this.
- Is there a plan to train staff and parents on BYOD? Yes. A SB Parent Academy is devoted to this topic. Staff training is already underway. Summer workshops focused on this topic; staff meetings will take place in September, in-depth training will take place in November.
- Is there a plan to educate students? Yes. All students will review and sign the AUP in school under staff direction at which time appropriate and safe online behaviors will be reinforced. Class-by-class discussions on BYOD will follow.
- Is there a plan for implementation? Yes. It will be implemented in the HS as early in the year as possible. It will be implemented in the MS later in the year—perhaps by the 2nd trimester. These decisions rest with the principals at each level.

POLICY: In general, what are the guidelines?

- The “instructional environment” is defined as the school campus including buses.
- Once students enter school grounds, they will join a dedicated BYOD network.
- The network is secure, under our firewall protection, and able to be monitored.
- Students’ educational use of Internet through BYOD will not be charged to parents' plans.
- Upon entry to the secure network, a Splash Screen will pop up with the AUP. This repeated sign-in serves as an electronic signature and reinforcement of the AUP.

- The AUP was revised to include personal devices-- and all of the same rules apply as they do with school-owned devices. There is not a separate BYOD document.
- Staff participation in BYOD is an instructional choice based on learning environment, content, assignment, etc.
- Students cannot be required to BYOD; this is a student-parent decision.
- Students cannot be required to share privately-owned devices with others.
- The SBSB must ensure equity-- that is, if we invite students to BYOD, we must be able to provide for those who cannot—such as our carts or collections of Chromebooks. We are prepared to do this.
- No taking/sharing of pictures or videos is permitted on school or private devices except where directed by staff
- Administrators have authorization to collect/examine a device if a violation of the AUP is suspected. This reflects current practice.
- The policy is clear on matters such as safety, security, responsibility, loss, damage, guarantees on connectivity, usage going on to parents' account, etc. Responsibility rests with the students.

ACCEPTABLE USE: What are the excerpts regarding BYOD from the Student AUP for Grades 6-12?

1. I will discuss BYOD with my parents before bringing a device to school.
2. I will comply with each staff member's rules regarding BYOD.
3. I will use my BYOD headphones only where permitted to do so.
4. I understand that BYOD is prohibited from use in the gym or locker room.
5. I will keep my BYOD device in silent mode while I am on school grounds (without vibrate).
6. I know that I will not be penalized if I do not BYOD or share my device with other students.
7. I will be responsible for the safety, security, loss, damage, operation, and charging of BYOD.
8. I will not use any devices to copy, cheat, fabricate, steal, buy, sell, or distribute information.
9. I understand that school administration has the authorization to collect and examine my BYOD device if a violation of policy is suspected.
10. I understand that if my BYOD device is locked or password protected, I will be required to unlock the device at the request of a school administrator so that he/she can gain access to the device.

SOME FAQs

- Can students take the PARCC test w/BYOD devices? No.
- Will there be any in-school charging locations? The school libraries will seek to provide a charging station, however, students are expected to come to school with devices charged.
- Are teachers required to participate in BYOD? No.
- Will the BYOD policy be reviewed annually? Yes.
- For what tasks might a student be using BYOD? The same as with district technology: Word processing, spread-sheeting, searching information, researching, using social media such as Edmodo, educational gaming such as Kahoot, or doing presentations.
- What about repair if a BYOD tech problem surfaces in school? The staff member and tech department will not be repairing or fixing tech issues on privately owned devices.
- Is there a policy regarding staff use of BYOD? Yes. Staff members sign a "Staff AUP" agreement.
- Does BYOD look the same district-to-district? No. Each district makes its own decision on whether or not to offer BYOD, and if so, then sets its own policies. SBSB researched what neighboring and other districts were doing, studied best practices regarding BYOD, collected and reviewed sample policies, held a broad-based meeting on BYOD with staff, student, parent, administrative and Board representatives and then drafted its own approach.