



Shrewsbury Public Schools

Joseph M. Sawyer, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Memo 1:1 Tech for FY16

December 26, 2014

To: School Committee
From: Joe Sawyer
Re: Summary of Recommended Policies for Technology 1:1 Device Program for FY16

At the December 17, 2014 School Committee meeting, the Committee was provided with a set of recommendations for expanding and updating the district's program for utilizing a 1:1 device program in its efforts to meet the Committee's strategic priority of "enhancing learning through technology." These recommendations are detailed in the various reports provided as part of the December 17 meeting packet. I recommend that the Committee vote to authorize the district administration to implement these recommendations for Fiscal Year 2016. The recommendations are summarized as follows:

- 1) Expand the 1:1 device program to include Grades 5 through 12, utilizing the Apple iPad tablet as the device and providing a single "learning management system" web interface for the high school program.
- 2) Change the program to one where a district-owned device is loaned to each student, with district-provided applications (i.e., "apps") and a protective case (including a keyboard for high school students). Family-owned devices would no longer be allowed in lieu of district-owned devices.
- 3) Provide a transition option for families who are currently utilizing the district's "take home technology fee" so that they may choose either to complete the original program and be provided with ownership of the device per the original terms, or to cease fee payment and be required to return the device to the district at such time that a new device is provided or they leave the district.
- 4) Change the district's policy for responsibility for damage, theft, or loss of the device so that families assume full liability regardless of where or how this may occur, as is the case for other district-loaned items such as textbooks, while providing families with information about and access to optional third-party insurance.

- 5) Utilize a model where funding for the program is provided through a mix of means including
 - a) shifting funds from other areas of the appropriated budget where savings are realized, b)
 - using funds from eligible revolving account(s), particularly the technology fee account, and
 - c) using a leasing model where warranted in order to provide financing for the program, with the overall goal of shifting to a district-owned device model without requiring additional funds in the appropriated budget (i.e., budget neutral).

It is my belief that these recommendations, which are based on our experiences over the past three-plus years as well as careful consideration and planning on behalf of our leadership team, will result in a 1:1 device program that will have a significant positive impact on teaching and learning in ways that will help prepare our students for their futures; will create efficiencies both for managing the 1:1 program itself and for the overall educational program; and will be even more equitable than the current model. I look forward to answering any questions you may have.