



Shrewsbury Public Schools

FAQ for Digital Conversion Program Changes

Think of your personal electronic device as a school issued textbook. Most of the questions you may have about the iPad can be answered by thinking of the iPad as though it were a school issued textbook.

1. I have not yet made the set of four \$165 payments required to own the iPad. Will there still be a path to ownership?

*Families of **current 8th graders** can either opt to pay the district the fourth installment of the \$165 fee and be given the device to keep under the existing arrangement, or pay nothing additional and return the device to the district. They will receive a new district owned iPad next year when they enter the high school.*

*Families of **current 7th graders** can either opt to stay enrolled in the personal technology fee program and pay the \$165 fee next year and own the device at the end of next year, or choose not to pay the fee, use the device in 8th, and then return the device at the end of 8th grade.*

*Families of **current 5th and 6th graders** can opt to continue in the program over the remaining middle years by paying the \$165 per year and owning the device at the end of 8th grade.*

Students who are entering the program next year will receive a district owned device and will not have a path to personal ownership.

2. Will my child have access to the district owned iPad over the summer?

Students who have demonstrated responsible care of the iPad and are up to date on any repair fees will be allowed to take the iPad home over the summer at no cost.

3. Will my child be able to bring the district iPad home each day?

Yes, students who have demonstrated responsible care of the iPad will be able to bring home the district iPad each day.

4. Will my child be able to personalize the iPad

We are anticipating that students will be able to do some level of personalization of their iPads. The specifics of this policy are still under development.

5. Why is the district moving from its current 3-option model to a district owned model?

After careful consideration, the district is moving to a district owned model. The rationale for this change is as follows:

- 1. Complexities and capacity issues around managing payment and fee collection*

2. *Newly available features in our device management system that can not be utilized on any device not owned by the district*
3. *Evolving state policy regarding the charging of technology fees and how districts may utilize this revenue*
4. *High fee burden on high school students and families with multiple children at the middle and high schools*

6. Will the “Bring Your Own” option still be available to families?

No, all students will be required to use District-owned devices in the program. No app fee will be required going forward, and families may elect to keep their family-owned iPad for personal use or sell their family-owned iPad.

7. Will I have to pay for apps on the iPad?

No, apps will be provided for students.

8. How is the District paying for the provision of iPads to all grade 5-12 students without a fee?

The District will be using a leasing model that will allow for the upfront purchase cost to be spread over multiple years. In addition, there were a number of one-time costs in FY15 that will no longer be required in future years, including costs related to bringing on new teachers and math curriculum costs. For further information, please see: <http://schools.shrewsbury-ma.gov/egov/docs/14189109778895.pdf>

9. What device will my incoming 5th grader receive next year?

Incoming 5th graders will receive Apple iPad Air 2s.

10. What happens if my child’s assigned iPad is damaged?

The cost of repairs will be the responsibility of families; however, the District intends to set up a convenient method to allow families to obtain insurance for a modest premium.

11. Why was the iPad chosen as the device for the high school?

We have seen evidence that the iPad enables teachers to develop lessons that not only provide students with access to unlimited information but also enhances their learning with opportunities to collaborate, communicate, create, curate, and innovate. The iPad with a durable case and keyboard is a versatile and cost effective device. It has all of the features of a tablet combined with many of the features of a laptop for a reasonable price. It has a lot more possibilities to offer than the Chromebook without being at a significantly different price point. In our work with iPads at the middle and high school levels, we have found that iPads are durable devices that hold up well over time. In some ways, the functionality of an iPad is similar to the functionality of a Chromebook or a laptop. All three devices can be used to research online and to access google apps for education. However, iPads are very versatile devices that can be used for many additional purposes for which Chromebooks and laptops are not yet capable. 1:1 access to this device opens up opportunities and possibilities that do not currently exist with other technologies.

For more detailed information, see page 9-10 of the December 17, 2014 School Committee Booklet.

FAQ for High School Digital Conversion Program

1. Are we required to use the district-provided case?

Yes.

2. What device will high school students be receiving in the 2015-2016 school year?

Grade 9-12 students will receive Apple iPad Air 2s.

3. Will the iPad's Internet access be filtered at home?

No. While the iPad's Internet access will be filtered while on the school network, families will be responsible for deciding the appropriate level of filtering for their home network.

4. Will I have access to a keyboard?

Yes. The case provided by the district includes a keyboard.

5. What if we leave the Shrewsbury public school system?

You will need to return the device and all of its accessories (case, charger, and charging cable) to the school or the school department central office at Town Hall and get a signed receipt.