

BYOD

Bring Your Own Device

How parents can partner for student success



Leaders in 21st century teaching and learning

At the Peel District School Board, our mission is to inspire success, confidence and hope in each student. As leaders in the use of technology, we encourage creative and innovative learning.

Today's students are already technology leaders. They want to take the technology they use in their daily lives and make it a normal part of their classroom experience. Research tells us that if we reflect this in their learning experiences, we will increase engagement which leads to improved student success.

That's why our board's Vision for 21st Century Teaching & Learning is so exciting. Our \$7-million investment in technology for all Peel students will ensure our schools are increasingly connected and relevant.

Watch our **Why BYOD?** video on YouTube to learn more: http://bit.ly/why_byod

BYOD helps students "power up" for success

BYOD means students bring their own devices to school for educational purposes. In the classroom, students will use devices responsibly, and only with the permission and direction of the teacher or other staff member.

Of course, technology alone will not improve learning—when combined with the right instruction from skilled staff, amazing things can happen. The increased use of technology in Peel board classrooms will "power up" student success today, and for the future.

Here's why personally owned devices work best:

- Students are usually experts with the device they have, and customize it to their learning needs.
- Students can use it to learn anytime, anywhere.
- Students can collaborate with their peers after school, about their school work.
- Student-owned devices are typically more up-to-date than those schools provide.
- School-owned devices are expensive and can be hard to sustain.

Equity of access a key priority

We know that not all parents can or want to send their child/teen to school with a device. That's why teachers continue to plan assuming that not every student will bring a personally owned device to school. Technology will not be used every day for every lesson. There is a right time and place.

Devices and other technology are available for students to use at school, and all students will have greater access to technology in their classrooms. Even four or five devices in a classroom can make a difference. Used collaboratively, technology can transform learning.

Which device to choose?

Parents have asked us, "What device should I buy for my child/teen?" There's no "one size fits all." Ultimately, the decision about what device to purchase (if you *choose* to send your child to school with a device) is yours, as parents.

Please consider:

- grade and/or subject area
- how the technology will be used in the classroom—teacher recommendations
- your child/teen's learning preferences
- comfort with the device
- price

To help you decide, here is what a student is able to do on various devices:

Internet	Looking at videos	Camera/video camera	Video & photo editing	Web apps (e.g. wikis, blogs, Java, Flash)	Office tasks (e.g. word processing, spreadsheets)
				Limited	Limited
				Limited	Limited
				Limited	
		Limited			

iPod Touch (with Wi-Fi access)

Smartphone

Tablets

Netbooks & laptops

Gaming devices are not recommended. Product features vary within categories.

Devices will support learning

As we install wireless technology (Wi-Fi), teachers will begin to incorporate more digital resources into their lessons. These resources have changed the learning landscape.

Today, students and teachers can access web-based content, resources, experts, research and collaboration tools that would be difficult without BYOD.

Here are some of the ways students may use devices:

Primary (K to Grade 3)

- vocabulary development
- accessing websites
- online manipulatives
- photography and video creation
- curriculum-based games/apps

Junior (Grades 4 to 5)

- accessing websites/research
- photography and video creation
- document and presentation creation/editing
- curriculum-based games/apps
- wikis, blogs, podcasts
- note-taking
- vocabulary development
- calculation/graphing activities
- online manipulatives
- project enhancement
- planner/calendar
- maps
- polling
- video conferencing

Middle school (Grades 6 to 8)

- accessing websites/research
- photography and video creation
- document and presentation creation/editing
- curriculum-based games/apps
- wikis, blogs, podcasts
- note-taking
- vocabulary development
- calculation/graphing activities
- online manipulatives/simulations
- project enhancement
- planner/calendar
- maps
- polling
- video conferencing

High school (Grades 9 to 12)

- accessing websites/research
- photography and video creation
- document and presentation creation/editing
- curriculum-based games/apps
- wikis, blogs, podcasts
- note-taking
- Office productivity e.g. spreadsheets
- calculation/graphing activities
- online manipulatives/simulations
- project enhancement
- planner/calendar
- maps
- polling
- video conferencing

Plan to keep devices secure

As parents, you're concerned about your child keeping his/her device safe. In a BYOD environment, devices are out in the open so students are more aware of their devices. Typically, we see few thefts and lost devices.

Schools will have a plan to help students keep their devices secured. Ultimately, though, students are responsible for lost, stolen and/or damaged personal electronic devices, just as they are for any other personal items they bring to school.

If you plan to send your student to school with a device, please consider purchasing a protective case. Also, some devices have a built-in locator that you should enable.

Wireless network: free and accessible

Students are required to use the board's wireless network, which they will access for free, while at school. They will not be permitted to access their paid data plans while in class. The network's filter will also help to prevent students from accessing inappropriate web content while they are logged on at school.



Expert advice helps ensure wireless safety

Providing safe and appropriate places to learn and work is a top priority for the Peel board. That's true when it comes to Wi-Fi too.

Before making any decisions about Wi-Fi, the board sought advice from trusted medical experts. The evidence—from Peel Public Health, Public Health Ontario, Health Canada and the World Health Organization (WHO)—is very clear.

Public Health Ontario states that among the numerous studies on radiofrequency exposure and its impacts on human health, there is no evidence of negative health effects. The specified limits for public exposure apply to everyone—including the elderly, individuals with health concerns, children and pregnant women—and allow for continuous, 24/7 exposure.

As well, WHO indicates that, "Considering the very low exposure levels and research results collected to date, there is no convincing scientific evidence that the weak radiofrequency signals from base stations and wireless networks cause adverse health effects."

We will continue to rely on the expertise and standards of public health agencies to guide our use of technology in schools. We will also comply with all governing legislation, and will conduct random, representative testing of Wi-Fi levels. As always, our decisions are based on the best interests of students.



Did you know...the access points we install in schools operate at a fraction of the power of home routers? They are not considered industrial-strength. To find out more about wireless technology and health, see http://bit.ly/wifi_health.

Students learn good digital citizenship

Students are going to live and work in a world where people use their devices regularly. They need to learn to use technology safely, effectively, ethically and respectfully. The Code of Conduct and academic integrity apply to the use of technology whether students are accessing information from school or home.

We embrace the responsible use of personal devices, in keeping with school codes of conduct and the Peel board's Digital Citizenship Policy #78. You can find the policy here: <http://bit.ly/policy78>.

Learn more

More information and translations in Arabic, Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Punjabi, Simplified Chinese, Spanish, Tamil, Vietnamese and Urdu are available online at www.peelschools.org/byod.

Produced in partnership with the Parent Involvement Committee (PIC). PIC supports, encourages and enhances meaningful parent involvement within schools and across the district to support student success. To find out more about PIC, visit the "Parents - Get involved" section of www.peelschools.org.

