

Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) and Protocol for the Use of Technology in the Schools

As new technologies continue to change the world in which we live, they also provide many new and positive educational benefits for classroom instruction. To prepare students as 21<sup>st</sup> century thinkers and learners, students in Regional School District No. 7 are now encouraged to bring their own technology to campus.

The Board of Education is committed to aiding students and staff in creating a 21<sup>st</sup> century learning environment. Therefore students and staff will be permitted to access the District's wireless network with their personal devices during the school day. With teacher approval, students may use their own devices to access the Internet and collaborate with other students.

Nothing in this policy or in any guidelines or regulations adopted hereunder shall be interpreted to prohibit a student with a disability from possessing and using a paging device, cellular telephone or other personal technology in a manner consistent with the student's Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or Section 504 Plan.

**Definition of "Device"**

For purposes of BYOD, a "device" means a privately owned wireless and/or portable electronic piece of equipment that includes laptops, netbooks, tablets/slates, iPod Touches, e-Readers, cell and smart phones.

**Internet**

The only internet gateway that may be accessed while in the District Public Schools is the one provided by the District. Any device brought to the District will not be permitted to use outside internet sources.

Personal internet connective devices, such as but not limited to cell phones/cell network adapters, are not permitted to be used to access outside internet sources at any time.

**Software**

Many software packages are now available as web browser applications. This negates the need to have required programs loaded onto student computers. Students can access what they will need through any web browser. Therefore, there is no required software necessary to take part in the Bring Your Own Device program.

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**Security and Damages**

Responsibility to keep the device secure rests with the individual owner. Regional School District No. 7 is not liable for any device stolen or damaged on campus. If a device is stolen or damaged, it will be handled through the administrative office as other personal items that are stolen or damaged. It is recommended that skins, decals, and other custom touches be used to identify physically a student's device from others. Additionally, protective cases for technology are encouraged.

**Bring Your Own Device/Technology Student and Parent Agreement**

The use of technology to provide educational material is not a necessity but a privilege. A student does not have the right to use his/her electronic device while at school. When abused, privileges will be taken away. When respected, they will benefit the learning environment as a whole.

Students and parents/guardians participating in the Bring Your Own Device/Technology program must adhere to the Student Code of Conduct, as well as all applicable Board policies, particularly the Computer Acceptable Use policy.

The use of these devices, as with any personally owned device, is strictly up to the teacher.

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- (cf. 5114 – Suspension/Expulsion)
- (cf. 5132.81 – Use of Electronic Devices)
- (cf. 5131.911 – Bullying)
- (cf. 5131.913 – Cyberbullying)
- (cf. 5131 – Conduct)
- (cf. 5144 – Discipline)
- (cf. 6141.321 – Acceptable Computer Use Policy)
- (cf. 6141.323 – Internet Acceptable Use: Filtering)
- (cf. 6141.326 – Online Social Networking)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes  
10-221 Boards of education to prescribe rules

Administrative Regulations to Policy #6141.328(a)  
Bring Your Own Device (B.Y.O.D.) and Protocol for the Use of Technology in the Schools

**Guidelines and Agreement for the Use of Personal Technology on Campus**

Technology has changed the way we approach education as we prepare our students for future opportunities. We understand that many positive educational benefits of using technology in the classroom and importance of the integration of technology in our curriculum. In an effort to encourage our students to continue to develop their technology skills, students in the Regional School District No. 7 may use their own technology devices at school for educational purposes.

**Definition of Personal Technology**

For purposes of this policy, “personal technology” means a privately owned, wireless, and portable electronic hand-held equipment that includes, but is not limited to, existing and emerging mobile communication systems and smart technologies, portable internet devices, Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs), hand held entertainment systems or portable information technology systems that can be used for word processing, wireless Internet access, image capture/recording, sound recording and information transmitting/receiving/storing, etc.

**Use of Technology for Instructional Purposes**

Use of technology in school is a privilege that comes with great responsibility. Students will only be allowed to use their laptops, tablets, cell phones or other electronic devices for educational purposes at school. Non-academic use of personal mail, texts or instant messages, or otherwise engaging in personal pursuits is prohibited during the instructional day.

**Internet Access on School Grounds**

Only the internet gateway provided by the school may be accessed while on campus. Personal technology, including cell phones and cell network adapters are not permitted to be used to access outside internet sources at any time.

**Compliance with other Board Policies**

When participating in B.Y.O.D., students must adhere to the Student Code of Conduct, as well as all Board policies, particularly Regional School District No. 7’s Acceptable Use Policy. This means that students who use their personal technology at school must abide by the established policies regarding acceptable use of the Internet, bullying, harassment, cheating, threats, student confidentiality and other misconduct that violates school rules or causes a disruption of educational activities.

Administrative Regulations to Policy #6141.328(a)  
Bring Your Own Device (B.Y.O.D.) and Protocol for the Use of Technology in the Schools  
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**Additional Guidelines**

- Teachers have the discretion to determine when students may use personal technology in the classroom. Students must immediately comply with their teachers' requests to shut down or put away personal technology.
- All personal technology must be in silent mode.
- Students may not use personal technology during any assessments or tests in class unless otherwise directed by school personnel.
- Students shall not transmit, post or otherwise publicly share photographs or videos that they have taken of any person on school grounds or in a school vehicle.

**Security and Damages**

Responsibility to keep a student's personal technology secure rests with the individual owner. Regional School District No. 7, including its staff or employees, is not liable for any device stolen or damaged on campus. If a device is stolen or damaged, it will be handled through the administrative office in a manner similar to other personal property. It is strongly recommended that students turn on features (when available) on their devices that allow for use of tracking the device and/or shutting down the device in case it is misplaced, lost, or stolen. It is also recommended that students personalize their devices for easy identification and utilize protective cases.

The Regional School District No. 7's Technology Department will not service any non-district owned technology, which includes troubleshooting, software or hardware issues. Students are responsible for securing their devices and making sure that they have up-to-date anti-virus software installed, if applicable.

**Failure to Follow B.Y.O.D. Guidelines**

Misuse of personal technology in violation of these guidelines may result in the loss of access privileges, a prohibition on the use or possession of personal technology on school grounds, or other disciplinary consequences up to and including suspension and expulsion.

**B.Y.O.D. Agreement**

**(Form)**

In exchange for the privilege of using personal technology devices at school, we acknowledge and agree to each of the following.

1. The District’s policies on student conduct and Acceptable Use of the Internet apply to the use of personal technology. It is the student’s responsibility abide by those policies when using personal technology on school grounds;
2. Only the Internet gateway provided by the school will be accessed on school grounds. The school’s network filters will be applied to the student’s connection and no attempts will be made to bypass the network restrictions by using personal access to the Internet;
3. There is no expectation of personal privacy in the use of personal technology at school. The District’s network administrators have the ability to identify users and monitor all B.Y.O.D. devices logged on to the network;
4. Personal technology may be searched by school personnel if there are reasonable grounds for suspending that the search will turn up evidence that a student has violated or is violating either the law or the rules of the school;
5. The school district has the right to examine any device that is suspected of causing problems or was the source of an attack or virus infection;
6. Misuse of personal technology may result in the loss of access privileges, a prohibition on the use or possession of personal technology on school grounds, or other disciplinary consequences up to and including suspension and expulsion.

I/We understand and will abide by the above B.Y.O.D. guidelines. As the parent or guardian, I hereby consent to my child’s use of personal technology at school. I/We agree to hold the Regional School District No. 7 harmless for any damages suffered by my child or me including those arising from unauthorized use, loss of data, and exposure to potentially harmful or inappropriate material arising from the use of personal technology at school.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Student (please print)

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Student

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Parent or Guardian (please print)

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Parent or Guardian