

Duplin County Schools

Bring Your Own Technology (BYOT) Plan

Duplin County Schools provides wireless network access in each of its school buildings in order to provide students and staff with 21st century learning opportunities. The purpose of this plan is to establish clear guidelines and procedures to ensure the integrity of the DCS network. This Bring Your Own Technology (BYOT) plan applies, but is not limited to, all personal technology devices used by students, staff, contractors, or guests to access network resources, store data, and/or conduct school business. For the purposes of this plan, “personal technology device” means a technology device that is not under the control of the school system and which the school system does not have the ability to access without the student, staff, or contractor’s assistance.

Examples of these are:

- Smartphones/cellular phones
- Tablets (iPads, Android, Kindles, etc.)
- Portable media devices (Flash drives, External Hard Drives, CDs, etc.)
- Laptops (Windows, Mac, Linux, etc.)
- Any personally-owned device capable of storing data and connecting to a network

This plan applies to any hardware and related software that is not owned or supplied by DCS, but could be used to access organizational resources. This includes devices users have acquired for personal use but also wish to use in the school environment. This plan and the term “users” apply to any student, employee, contractor, or guest of Duplin County Schools that brings a personal device to access the DCS network.

Technical Requirements:

Each device must have wireless (Wifi) capability to access the Internet. Connecting to the network with Ethernet cables is not permitted. The student will use the district’s secured and CIPA compliant (filtered) guest wireless network.

Guidelines for Use of Personal Technology Devices:

By using personal technology devices or accounts to conduct school business or to store school business-related ESI, employees are deemed to consent to the school system accessing and inspecting such devices or accounts to gather school business-related electronically stored information (ESI) and ensure that all public records and education records are preserved. (Policy Code 3228/7323)

Student users must understand that the use of a personal technology device is for instructional use only and at the discretion of teachers and school administration. Student users should have permission from the teacher to use a personal device in their classroom. Use of personal devices in the classroom must support instructional activities. Employee and contractor use of personal devices is allowable to support instruction or to conduct school business, but users must follow the district’s Responsible Use Agreement.

Users must power off and put away personal devices if directed to do so by teachers or school administration. Users must ensure their personal devices do not interfere with the network usage of others or disrupt the learning of other students. For example, audio should be muted unless directed otherwise by instructional staff.

Users must abide by the Duplin County Schools Technology Responsible Use Policy when using personal technology devices. (Policy Code 3225/4312/7320). Users should not access websites of a pornographic, sexual, illegal nature or otherwise considered inappropriate by Duplin County Schools. No user is permitted to cyber-bully or harass another user or group of users. Any activity of a malicious and/or illegal intent is prohibited.

Users are responsible for the use of their personal devices on the DCS network at all times. Users should practice caution when allowing others to access their personal device. Students are not permitted to use any electronic device to record audio/video or take pictures of any student or staff member without their permission. The distribution of unauthorized media or any violations and misuses of personal devices on school grounds will be subject to established discipline policies and procedures.

DCS reserves the right to monitor, inspect, copy, and review personally owned devices or files when a school official has a reasonable suspicion that a violation has occurred. If an employee uses a personal technology device or account to conduct school business or to store school business-related ESI, an inspection of the employee's device or account may be necessary to ensure that all public records and education records are preserved. (Policy Code 4318, Policy Code 3228/7323, and all other applicable policies and laws)

Disclaimers:

Wireless access is available for Internet use only. Users of personal devices will not be granted access to other network resources such as school-system owned software and hardware devices including printers, servers, and local storage devices. DCS staff members are not permitted to facilitate student or staff personal devices access to the DCS private wireless networks or local network resources.

In addition, the Duplin County Schools technology department personnel are not permitted under North Carolina state law to provide technical support for personal devices.

No work orders may be submitted to the technology department for personal computers, nor does the school system provide any technical support for these devices. Support and technical assistance are the sole responsibility of the user.

Duplin County Schools assumes no responsibility for malfunction, damage, theft, or loss of personal devices used on any of the school campuses or in any of its school buildings.

All users must sign the DCS Responsible Use Agreement at the beginning of each year.

No student will be excluded from instructional activities because they do not have a personal device. Each student will be given the same opportunity to participate with a DCS owned device as needed.