



Getting Parent Support for BYOD

Parent support for a BYOD program is crucial to its success. In addition to training staff and developing a comprehensive and consistent technology policy, principals, teachers and administrators must plan on how to involve parents in the process.

It starts, perhaps unsurprisingly, with education. Be sure to provide informative materials and resources regarding the academic use of mobile devices, the benefits, the concerns, and how exactly will they be used as part of a rich and dynamic curriculum.

Schools and districts will need to decide which devices will be used and share the reasons behind the decision to parents. Many parents will require additional explanation regarding the devices to be used in the classroom. Consider conducting information sessions, where parents can become familiarized with the devices and how they will be used to further their children's education. This will also allow parents to know enough about a device and its role in their child's studies to assist them at home if necessary. Strong communication between teachers and parents will help support students both in the classroom and at home.

Parents also need to be aware of the security measures that will be taken to provide the safest experience for students and their personal data. Many parents will view their

children's devices as mere portals to social media or games, so a strong case must be made for how these devices will be used in the classroom and the safeguards that will be put in place.

A BYOD program is only truly valuable if all students have their own devices and have Internet access at home. If some students don't have devices or home internet, see if your school can loan devices to these students, and/or offer special stipends to assist families in purchasing a device or securing online access at home.

Another key to BYOD success is a gradual introduction of your program: beginning, first, with a pilot of some kind where both teachers and parents who might be unsure of the program's worth can see it in action, also allowing for potential problems to be addressed before a full-scale launch.

Getting all parents onboard can pose a significant challenge, but it's important for parents to fully support and understand a BYOD program to ensure its success.