

## Parent Contributions

toolkits

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While many schools see the value of 1:1 access, schools budgets seldom have the funding to provide every pupil with their own digital device. This is why it's common for schools to reach out to parents for contributions, either for buying a computer their child can take to school or contributing to a school program.

### Equity Programs

With equity programs, parental contributions are treated as charitable donations. This is because there is no direct link between the donation and special access rights to school ICT resources for their own children.

### Payments

Reducing the frequency of donations parents make reduces administration charges for the school. If parents can pay quarterly, or annually, then more of their contribution will go to education technology.

### Bring your own device to school

New practices in many districts include school leaders' turning to parents for support and funding of personal portable student devices. While fund-raising for special projects for a school or district as a whole has always existed, a new model is to allow students use their family-acquired devices in the district, accessing a secure purpose-specified guest network.

If parents are prepared to let their children bring their own devices to school, suggest that parents check their insurance policies in case of damage or theft whilst the computer is out of their home. Some schools also have special funding linked to families eligible for Free School Meals so, if this applies to a specific family, perhaps the family can use some of this to help them with a technology purchase. If you opt for a Bring Your Own Device approach then your school will have invested in a new network that can handle different types and brands of device. The school may also be responsible for insurance, repairs and some software.

### Buy or Lease a device from school

Some schools may encourage parents to buy or lease a recommended device. This has the advantage that all pupils have the same device, ensuring every child has the same capability in the classroom and for homework. However, this may involve credit checking (in the case of signing a lease) or a large upfront payment.

Establishing a program that will allow all students to have access to technology in the classroom, and perhaps also at home, is a big challenge for any school. And schools will adopt different ways of going about this depending on their own approach, available funding and the means of the local community. Involving parents is one way to make eLearning a reality.