

Wireless Devices – Considerations before purchasing or acquiring grant:

Information:

- Middle and High Schools have wireless access to the Internet available in most areas. Bandwidth and coverage may be limited. The wireless network was not designed to support heavy traffic (large number of users at the same time or users accessing bandwidth-intensive applications such as video streaming).
- Laptops and other wireless devices access the Internet through wireless access points installed at various locations throughout the building. Manufacturers recommend installation of one wireless access point for every eight to sixteen laptops used in the same area, but may vary depending on type of use.
- Laptop carts create saturation and coverage issues for the wireless network. Any planned purchase of a laptop cart must have a wireless network evaluation done. Items to be considered are applications to be used, identifying areas the cart will be used, and verifying coverage.
- **Schools will be responsible for all additional wireless access points (\$1100 ea) and cabling necessary to support the purchase of wireless devices, including laptops.**
- **Schools will be responsible for the purchase of all application software, including Office.**
- **Schools will be responsible for any additional electrical power needed.**

Steps before Purchase or Acquiring Grant:

- If you are considering purchasing ten or more laptops or a laptop cart, please complete a Help Desk ticket to request a network evaluation. The evaluation will be based on how and where the devices will be used. If additional wiring and access points are required, an estimate will be provided so the site can include the cost in their project.
- If purchasing *less than ten laptops for use in an area not already saturated by other laptops*, no evaluation is needed. Technology Services cannot add wireless equipment to ensure the success of your laptop use if purchases are made without an evaluation. When in doubt, have an evaluation done.
- If you are considering purchasing any other type of wireless device, please contact Technology Services to make sure the device is allowed on the network.

Other Considerations before Purchase:

LAPTOP	DESKTOP
Shared network – Each wireless access point is shared. The more laptops per access point, the slower network & Internet access becomes.	Not shared – Each desktop has its own network connection for faster and more reliable network and Internet access.
Must replace battery 1-2 yrs (\$100+)	Not applicable
Must recharge after 4-6 hrs of use	Not applicable
Virus/software updates can be done only when connected to the network. This may delay use since updates will run automatically when first connected.	Virus/software updates run at night since desktops remain on and connected to the network continually. No delay to use.
Difficult to provide remote technical support since not always online and available.	Remote technical support is easy due to 24/7 connectivity.
Easily damaged – frequently dropped and fragile screens. Average life of three years.	Rugged. Average life of five years.
More vulnerable to loss and theft.	