



Northampton Area School District

Project P.R.I.D.E.

Frequently Asked Questions

Why is the district issuing mobile learning devices to students? First and foremost, this program is an instructional initiative. Sparked by strategic discussions with the Board of Directors, the recommendation to launch a modern, student-centered, learning initiative was reached after consideration by a district steering committee comprised of teachers, administrators and school board liaison.

Our vision is that all classrooms will employ student centered learning techniques such as inquiry based learning, project based learning, and blended learning. Student centered teaching and learning techniques allow students to engage with learning materials in-depth. These teaching and learning techniques require modern tools to access information, enable collaboration, communication, connectivity, and creativity. Therefore it is imperative to properly equip all students with a mobile learning device. Continuing the success of prior instructional technology initiatives, Project PRIDE will extend the reach of technology empowerment to all students.

What other local districts are pursuing 1:1 technology learning programs? Many area Districts are implementing or operating in 1:1 programs. Southern Lehigh, Saucon Valley, Salisbury Township, Catasauqua, Pen Argyl, Northwestern Lehigh, Nazareth, and East Stroudsburg Area. Across the country, thousands of schools have initiated 1:1 programs with a variety of technology devices.

What grades are participating in the Project PRIDE and who is eligible? All NASD enrolled students in grades K-12 will receive a district issued Chromebook for use in school and at home during the 2022-2023 school year.

Faculty professional development and training began in the fall of 2015 and will continue into the future. Teachers will be learning alongside the students; they will be supported by

the Curriculum Supervisors, NASD Technology Services Team, and the Technology Lead Teacher(s).

May students opt-out of the program? Just as students are required to use classroom textbooks and print material, lab equipment, and other instructional resources, all students will need a mobile learning device to be a successful and prepared participant in school. Students may not opt out of the in-school program. Each family will determine if or how the Chromebook may be used in the home.

May students take the computer home for school work? Students shall take the computer home to charge and may use it for school work and to extend their learning.

Will students take the Chromebook to the cafeteria? No. To prevent damage to the technology, mobile devices shall be stored while students are eating in the cafeteria.

Who owns the Chromebook? The Chromebook is and shall remain the property of Northampton Area School District and will be issued on loan to students, just like textbooks and other learning materials. Students will be expected to care for the Chromebook as they would other district issued supplies and materials.

If I withdraw my child, what must I do? If you withdraw from school officially or because you were absent (unexcused) for 10 days in a row, you must return the Chromebook, charger and laptop bag or protective cover to Northampton Area School District. If the laptop and accessories are not returned, Northampton Area School District will contact the appropriate law enforcement authorities to recover the district device.

Are students and families responsible for the Chromebook? Yes. Our students are competent and worthy of our trust; we trust that they will act responsibly and maturely with such important personal learning devices. Students will be responsible for the care, security and safety of the Chromebook. Chromebooks are to be stored and zipped into the district issued case and properly carried to and from all classes. In some circumstances students will be asked to secure the Chromebook when not in use. Schools that have implemented successful 1:1 programs typically report a deep sense of student technology ownership and

stewardship. The same level of respect and ownership is difficult to develop with mobile devices that intermittently visit classrooms via shared laptop carts.

What if the laptop is damaged? We ask our students to treat the laptop with care and respect. We will also teach and reinforce proper care and handling of the Chromebook. Students and parents will be held fiscally accountable for damage or loss of the Chromebook in certain circumstances. All physical damage to the mobile device must be reported immediately to the Technology Services team no later than the next school day. Technology Services will arrange for repair and a loaner as needed. There will be no shared Technology fee assessed and no options for school-provided insurance. Accidental damage will be billed for the cost of parts. Please see our schedule of repair costs: [NASD Chromebook Tech Support Plan](#). The parent/student is responsible for loss of the Chromebook and subject to a cost of replacement. Parents/students will also be accountable for all repair/replacement costs due to willful and intentional damage to district issued Chromebooks. Note that these charges could also be up to \$279.

What if the Chromebook is stolen while in school? Immediately contact one of the school principals or the Technology Services team. In cases of legitimate theft, a police report of the incident will be filed. Loss and theft that occurs on campus will be handled by school district administration or school police officers.

Will the Chromebook be used every day? The expectation is that our students will be prepared for class with a charged and ready Chromebook every day. We ask that students come prepared with traditional supplies such as pencils and paper; a mobile device is no different. Each teacher will design lessons to help students learn best. When the Chromebook is determined to be an instructional asset, the teacher will expect students to have and to use the Chromebook.

Will the Chromebook be collected at the end of the school year? District issued Chromebooks will be collected at the end of the school year for graduating seniors and for students planning to withdraw or transfer. For students in grades K-11, families will be asked to safely store their child's Chromebook over the summer months. Student/family responsibilities will still apply.

Who may I contact if I have additional questions about Project PRIDE? Technology questions may be directed to Kurt Paccio, Director of Technology, at 610-262-6815 x17007 or by email at pacciok@nasdschools.org. Classroom and educational questions may be directed to Michelle Schoeneberger, Assistant Superintendent, schoenem@nasdschools.org.

Technology Questions

Why not issue a tablet such as the Apple iPad? Device selection was discussed during the district 1:1 steering committee meetings. Technology acquisition costs as well as ongoing replacement, repair, and management costs are a key contributor. To keep costs down, the target price for a student device was identified as approximately \$280. Macbooks and many Windows laptops greatly exceed the price and eliminated Apple laptops and a number of larger PC laptops. The steering committee also agreed that the selected device must include a keyboard to support efficient and productive student writing. Further, iPads and Android tablets were reviewed but ultimately eliminated from consideration due to cost, file workflow complexity, and the lack of an integrated keyboard. Primarily, the Chromebook has proven to be an excellent general purpose tool for many educational activities. The District has more than 5000 Chromebooks actively and successfully being used by staff and students at every level.

Will the district provide home Internet access? No. However, NASD Technology Services will be providing information regarding locations for free wifi access, low-cost Internet programs, and more. Students and families who do not have or cannot afford Internet access at home may contact the school principal in writing to learn about special programs or options that may be available.

Will the district prevent access to inappropriate websites? Will the mobile devices be filtered off school grounds? Yes. All student Chromebooks will have Internet filters applied while working at school. The same filters will apply while not at school. Northampton

Area SD uses filtering software designed to protect students from obscene material, child pornography and other visual depictions deemed harmful to minors as defined by the federal Children's Internet Protection Act. Further, removal or tampering with any filtering settings will be a violation of district policy. Keep in mind that no blocking technology is 100% effective. The best filter continues to be a well designed and purposeful lesson and proper classroom monitoring. We encourage you to talk with your child and be aware of his or her online activities and behaviors. Common Sense Media contains a wealth of information for parents regarding online safety and digital citizenship.

<https://www.commonsensemedia.org/parent-concerns>

Will the Chromebooks have USB ports? Yes.

May a student use their mobile phone, digital camera, or tablet with the mobile device? May students load music and photos on the mobile device? Students may connect their mobile phone, camera, tablet or other accessories to their Chromebook in support of educational activities. Students should not load or store music or movies for entertainment purposes. Academic resources may be loaded. Note that students are expected to adhere to all district policies regarding copyright and responsible use. Further, district personnel will not provide tech support for personal student files on district issued laptops.

May I use my own case or bag? Sure. Students shall use the district issued laptop case at all times. However, we do encourage students/families to add protection for their Chromebook for added durability.

May I decorate or customize the device or case? Students may not decorate the laptop or the carry case directly. Chromebooks or carrying cases that have pencil/pen/magic marker writing on them, stickers, or any other marks will be viewed as vandalized. There will be an associated cost to restore the laptop to its original condition if marked up intentionally.

Students who wish to customize the laptop with school-appropriate stickers or artwork may wish to purchase a snap on plastic case. When properly applied, some cases may add

some drop/scratch protection and allow a surface for customization without harming the Chromebook. Be sure to look for **the exact fit for your Chromebook.**

What do I do if my laptop is not working properly? Students should report to the Technology Services student help desk located in MS room 142 or HS room 1409 as soon as possible. Elementary students shall report issues to their classroom teacher. If your Chromebook needs to be repaired, we will loan you a different Chromebook to use until it's returned. Under no circumstances should you or anyone else take the device to a third party for repair or assistance. District personnel are the only individuals who should attempt repair on the school Chromebooks.

Will Northampton Area School District provide support and maintenance for the Chromebook? Yes. The NASD Technology Services team will provide tech support and maintenance on school issued student mobile devices. A student technology help desk team will provide additional peer support, technical troubleshooting and device assistance.

May students install software or apps on the Chromebook? Students will have access to the NASD Chrome Web Store app store, an online repository of useful educational programs. Students may install apps and/or extensions for learning purposes only and at the direction of their teacher or teachers.