



River Trails

SCHOOL DISTRICT 26

To: River Trails Board of Education

From: Alicia Duell - Director of Innovation and Technology

Date: May 6, 2025

Subject: Staff Device Refresh

Introduction

Currently, certified staff receive two devices- a Windows PC laptop and a Chromebook. To simplify and standardize, the district will transition to providing one device- a Chromebook Plus for all certified staff, eliminating the need for separate Windows laptops.

Recommendation

The district recommends purchasing 175 Lenovo Chromebook Plus 2-in-1 devices from Forward Edge, the lowest bidder, for \$125,310.00. Additionally, as a preferred Google partner, Forward Edge will provide us with free Chromebook Plus for Educators training.

Background

Chromebook Plus devices are Chromebooks that meet minimum specifications (eg. CPU, RAM, storage, web camera, and display) and that are designed for productivity and use in the workplace. The decision to move to single Chromebook Plus devices for staff is based on:

- **Clear Touch Integration:** The district's Clear Touch panel rollout, providing integrated Windows PCs in classrooms, eliminates the need for redundant Windows laptops.
- **Cybersecurity:** Reducing the Windows environment, which is more vulnerable to cyberattacks, is a priority. This transition will decrease Windows PC laptops by approximately 90% (145 devices), with exceptions for staff requiring specialized software.

Financial Impact

By transitioning to a single Chromebook Plus (\$715), the district saves approximately \$385 per staff member compared to the previous cost of a Windows PC and Chromebook (\$1,100), resulting in a total savings of \$67,375.

Vendor	Make/Model	Cost	QTY	Shipping	Total Cost
SHI	Lenovo Chromebook Plus 2-in-1	\$823.00	175	\$0	\$144,025.00
Forward Edge	Lenovo Chromebook Plus 2-in-1	\$715.20	175	\$150.00	\$125,310.00 <i>*quote guaranteed until 5/31/25</i>
CDW	Lenovo Chromebook Plus 2-in-1	\$713.81	175	\$0	\$124,916.75 <i>*quote guaranteed "until tariffs change"</i>

Timeline and Next Steps

Forward Edge's quote is valid through May 31, 2025. If approved at the May 6th Board of Education meeting, the devices will be ordered immediately, delivered and prepared during the summer, with distribution to staff occurring during the scheduled "Staff Device Pickup" days in August.

Attachments

None