

Personal Devices at NFHS

BYOD Practices and Recommendations

New Fairfield Public Schools
BOE Policy Subcommittee
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Priorities

- Reduce classroom distraction from personal devices (laptops)
- Support teachers with predictable, manageable tech
- Enable district-wide software management and updates
- Provide consistent and equitable technology for all students

Plan

- Eliminate BYOD at NFHS for the 2026-2027 school year
- All students will be required use school-issued Chromebooks at school

Key Drivers

1. Reducing Distraction & Improving Focus

- Personal devices (phones/laptops/tablets) can lead to off-task use during class (games, social media, messaging); many schools report struggling with this off-task use under BYOD.

2. Security & Network Stability

- Unmanaged devices can increase security risks (malware, varied system protections) and strain Wi-Fi infrastructure.

3. Simplified IT & Academic Support

- Standard devices allow technology staff to push updates, manage apps, secure accounts, and minimize compatibility issues.

4. Equity Across All Students

- BYOD can unintentionally highlight disparities in device quality, speed, and capabilities between students.

Supported by National Technology Trends

Shift Toward Managed 1:1 Programs

A recent education tech report found most schools with BYOD are transitioning to more structured, standardized device programs (often 1:1) to improve learning outcomes, security, and device manageability. *Installation International*

Professional / Career Skill Development

Moving to a designated device model prepares students for:

- Working within managed digital ecosystems
- Following acceptable use policies
- Operating inside secured networks
- Using cloud-based collaboration platforms (e.g., Google Workspace for Education)

Most modern workplaces expect employees to operate within structured digital systems — ***not*** personalized, unrestricted device environments.

Timeline / Logistics

- Communication to families and students, Spring 2026
- Implementation August 2026 (grades 9-12)
- All students have been issued a district device for the 2026-2027 school year.