

## GOUSD Bring Your Own Device Program Hardware Recommendations

Buying a personal computing device is a personal choice. Ultimately, each family will need to choose the device that works best for their child. GOUSD has put this guide together to help you make these decisions.

### General Guidance

Buy something middle of the road and lightweight – your student wants the device to “fit” easily into his or her daily practice. Do not spend so much money that it overly concerns you to see your student take the device outside your home. There are many mid-level units on the market that work exceptionally well.

### Considerations

GOUSD recommends Personal Computing Devices that have the following characteristics:

- 10" or larger screen size
- External Keyboard (on-screen keyboards not recommended)
- Wireless Access

(GOUSD recommends that parents do not purchase a device with a data plan as students will be required to connect to the District's WiFi to be in compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act and the Protecting Children in the 21st Century Act.)

Recommended:	Will have limited use
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Laptops</li><li>• Netbooks</li><li>• Some Tablets with accessory keyboards</li><li>• Chromebooks</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Smartphones</li><li>• Mini-Tablets</li><li>• Tablets without keyboards</li></ul>

Although many tablets meet this same criteria, it is our experience that a tablet might not perform all the educational tasks required.

A new device type, the Chromebook, is also available. Chromebooks are low-cost laptop-type devices that only run a Web Browser. So, anything that can be done on the Web, can be done using a Chromebook. However, it is not possible to load 3<sup>rd</sup> party software on a Chromebook.

GOUSD cannot guarantee that all device types will be compatible with the tasks students are asked to perform or that they will be compatible with our network. For additional information regarding recommended devices and Bring Your Own Device, go to [www.gousd.org](http://www.gousd.org)

### Device Pros and Cons

	Laptop	Notebook	Tablet	Chromebook	Smartphone
<b>PRO's</b>	Can run educational applications. Video, camera, Internet browser, full keyboard, mouse control College Ready	Small, lightweight. Most have integrated video, camera, Internet browser, larger screen. Affordable.	Highly portable Most have integrated video, camera, Internet browser.	Low Cost	Video, camera, Internet browser, GPS, lightweight
<b>CON's</b>	No handwriting recognition. Can also be a bit heavier and bulkier than a tablet. Battery life can be an issue.		Expensive. Without an external keyboard students have to 'write' with their finger or type on a small screen. Can only run Apps designed for them (not stand alone applications.)	Must have an internet connection to be functional. No ability to run stand-alone software such as Word or Excel. Cannot print without an internet connection.	Small screen Voice calls or texting during class. Control (it is hard to verify what students are really doing on the device).
<b>Both</b>	Laptops take learning to a higher level with their higher performance levels that enable them to run educationally sound applications for music composition, graphics, and so on. The full keyboard also provides students with an easier way to take notes and manage their work.		For an additional cost, an external keyboard can be purchased. There are also opportunities for content creation, as well as communication and collaboration.		Student smartphones can support learning only in a limited way.