

10 Key Components of a Successful BYOT Initiative

1. Treat students like **21st century** adolescents. Many of them own and use these devices outside of school. If we can focus use on learning, then why would we not allow them to bring these tools and use them in school?
2. Begin to change the way students view their electronic devices by changing the language used to refer to them. Students need to fully understand that electronic items are **tools for learning**. Teachers should make consistent efforts to refer to them as mobile learning devices.
3. Develop appropriate support structures that align with current **Acceptable Use Policies**.
4. Provide **professional development** and resources to teachers so that they can be successful in implementing mobile learning devices.
5. When using these devices in the classroom, the teacher must ensure that there is a **specific learning outcome** connected to the device.
6. Ensuring **equity** is important and we must be cognizant of those students that might not own a device. Determining those that do not in a confidential manner is very important. If using mobile phones, teachers can easily pair students up.
7. A BYOT initiative can actually supplement what a school might already have in terms of technology and **increase access**. For example, let's say a school has a laptop cart with only 20 devices because that is all that could be afforded, but there are 25 students in the class. Student owned technology could then be utilized to close this gap.
8. Promote use of student owned devices for **learning during non-instructional time**. At SFHS, one can now routinely see students using their devices during lunch to conduct research for projects, complete homework assignments, and organize their responsibilities. Additionally, we have seen a dramatic reduction in behavior issues.
9. **Unacceptable use** is dealt with accordingly based on a school's discipline code. This should not be considered different than any other infraction.
10. Lastly, it's the pedagogy, not the technology. **Technology should always be at the service of pedagogy**. The power of integrating technology into the classroom is the power it has to redefine the relationships in the classroom and reorient them toward a more student-centered approach to learning.