

ELMWOOD PARK PUBLIC SCHOOLS
iPad Curriculum Integration Initiative
Frequently Asked Questions

Question # 1: Why is the District implementing an iPad Curriculum Integration Initiative?

With an iPad, the classroom is always at your fingertips. There are more than 20,000 educational apps for every kind of learners in every curricular area. Students can track their assignments, take notes, study for finals, and read entire books. Teachers can give lessons, monitor progress, and stay organized. This will give our students an edge in a global society with advancing technologies.

Question # 2: How did the District fund the iPad Rollout?

The district used a lease with an option to buy arrangement to bring this new technology to the students and staff.

Question # 3: Why did the District roll out iPads and not full-sized laptops or netbooks?

Full-sized laptops are more expensive. They are also bigger and more cumbersome to move around, do not have the all-day battery life of an iPad, and lack the wide variety of apps available on the iPad. They also don't fit as well on a student desk. Netbooks solve some issues of the limitations of a full size laptop, but they are underpowered for the needs of the student. While they do offer some benefits that iPads do not, we believe iPads currently are the best and most cost effective technology for the district.

Question # 4: Why are the iPads not being provided to students in grades 7- 8 and 10-12?

Cost is one consideration. Gradual increase will ensure our infrastructure and support methods will work for this new technology and expansion of the number of machines. We have computer labs, including mobile labs, which will increasingly become available to students without iPads.

Question # 5: Who owns the iPads?

The iPads are the property of the Elmwood Park Public Schools.

Question # 6: Will apps be provided by the District?

Elmwood Park Schools has access to a wide array of free instructional apps through Apple. These apps will be made available as they pertain to state content standards. As we move beyond the initial phase of the iPad distribution, we will evaluate the need for possible volume purchasing of apps that support instruction.

Question # 7: Will students be able to purchase apps for their own personal use?

Students and their parents may choose to purchase apps at their own cost. Since the iPad is the property of Elmwood Park Public Schools, app installations are monitored regularly.

Question # 8: What policies apply when using the iPad?

The use of the iPad falls under the district's Network Computing Policy (also known as the Acceptable Use Policy). This policy is spelled out in all student agendas and parents/guardians must confirm that they have read and understood it by signing the back of their child's emergency card. The iPads are to support teaching and learning.

Question # 9: How will the websites used be filtered and monitored?

All Internet access while used on the Elmwood Park Public Schools District network is filtered and monitored in the same way regular desktop and laptop computers are monitored. When the iPads are used off campus, they will not be filtered in any way. It is the responsibility of the student to use the iPad appropriately. We encourage parents to discuss appropriate use with their child and set guidelines for home and off campus use and monitoring.

Question # 10: How do I monitor my child's iPad use at home?

It is recommended with adolescents, that they use computers in an area that can be frequently seen by parents, such as the kitchen or dining room. If students work at desks in their bedrooms, the door should always be open and the screen visible to parents who walk in or by the room.

Question # 11: What will happen if my son or daughter forgets to bring the iPad to school?

This will be dealt with much like forgetting to bring in a book, paper, pen, or pencil. As a consequence, your child's class participation points may be affected.

Question # 12: Who is responsible for the damage or theft of the iPad?

Students/parents are financially responsible for the damage of the iPad due to negligence. Instruction has been provided to all students on the proper care of an iPad. Intentional damage (vandalism) and theft are illegal activities, and a police report will be filed for such cases occurring in school. Be advised that theft is not covered by the school insurance, if the student leaves the iPad unattended, in an unlocked locker, or in another unsecure location. You may, however, check with your insurance provider.

Question # 13: What are the insurance options available to families to insure against loss, theft, or damage to the iPad?

Some homeowner policies will cover theft of the iPad when the device is in their home. Please check with your insurance carrier for more information. You may be required to list the item on your policy. Parents may also purchase third party

insurance at their expense to cover the iPad. Third party insurance covers theft, loss, damage, liquid spills, and other damage.

Question # 14: How long will the iPads last?

This is highly dependent on care and use, but the current estimate is four to six years.

Question # 17: Will the iPad replace the old way of learning?

The iPad is merely a device that students and teachers will use to make learning more effective, productive, and engaging. The iPad will not take the place of traditional teaching and learning but will enhance the quality of instruction. Parents will find wide variety in how their child's teachers integrate the use of the iPad into their traditional teaching methods. With the introduction of iBook2, textbooks with interactive possibilities will now be available on the iPad.

Question # 18: Will the teaching staff be provided training on the integration of the iPads into the classroom?

Yes. Professional development is being provided for the staff on the use and care of the iPad as well as curriculum integration. Using technology in the classrooms has been a key component of our professional development plan for several years, and we believe our staff is qualified to continue and expand their expertise to include this latest technology. Additional and ongoing professional development will be available for our teaching staff throughout this iPad Curriculum Integration Initiative.

Question # 19: How will professional development be conducted?

After determining the individual and groups needs of the staff members, professional development will occur through formal workshops, informal opportunities to learn from colleagues, and one to one assistance.

Question # 20: Do you have the infrastructure, technical expertise, and experience for this project?

Yes. Over the past 5 years the District has invested wisely into efficient and effective technology systems and has a solid infrastructure. Wireless has been used for almost 3 years effectively with mobile labs and teacher laptops. The technology staff is only limited in numbers. Because of built-in efficiencies, continued professional development, and training, teamwork, efficacy and work ethic, the technology department believes we can support this program now and into the future.

Question # 21: What is the role of the Technology Department?

The role of the technology department is to ensure that digital content is delivered safely, effectively, and securely. The technology department is also responsible for training on the device's overall usage and various functionalities.

Question # 22: How will the iPads be maintained?

The iPads will be maintained by the Elmwood Park Public Schools District's technology department. Student volunteers will also be used to assist students and faculty.

Question # 23: If I move, can I keep the iPad?

No. If you move out of the Elmwood Park Public Schools District, you must return your iPad.

Question #24: When I graduate from middle school or high school, do I get to keep the iPad?

No. At this point in time all students will return their iPads to the district upon graduation.

If you have any other questions or concerns that have not been addressed, please contact us at 201-796-8700. For questions concerning curriculum and instructional integration, please contact the Office of Curriculum and Instruction at ext. 2950 or email curric1@epps.org. For technical support, you may contact our help desk at ext. 2957 or email technology@epps.org.