

January 10, 2025

The great majority of technology devices intended for student use in DPCDSB schools are coming to their End of Life (EOL) and it is necessary to replace them. Many of these devices now in use require immediate replacement, including Chromebooks, iPads, Macs and Edwins.

### What does EOL mean?

- Slower Devices: Reduced efficiency and productivity for students and teachers
- Frequent Downtime: Interruptions during lessons and assignments
- Batteries that do not hold a charge.
- Limited Access: Reduced ability to use modern educational tools and platforms, i.e., no access to digital textbooks, EQAO, Knowledgehook, Mathology, Minecraft, etc.
- Chromebooks that can no longer print

Additionally, there are a multitude of cyber security issues and vulnerabilities with outdated software, limited support available from manufacturers and compatibility issues.

### How did we get to this point?

During the pandemic, schools received a number of devices supported by Ministry of Education one-time funding initiatives. The funding supported the purchase of devices for staff and students. Unfortunately, there was no follow-up funding from the Ministry to address repairs, replacements or EOL.

DPCDSB utilizes all central funding available for device deployment at schools but has also been operating on a decentralized funding model for devices where schools have responsibility for securing and maintaining their own inventory of devices. No guidelines were developed to guide a fair and equitable procurement and deployment process of devices for schools to follow.

### Student to device ratios

To achieve a fair and equitable student-to-device ratio, DPCDSB is moving away from a decentralized procurement and technology device distribution model to a centralized model with the following student to device ratios:

- Grades JK-2 > 4:1 (one device for every four students)
- Grades 3-6 > 2:1 (one device for every two students)
- Grades 7-12 > 1:1 (one device for every student)

### What does this mean for elementary schools?

This means that starting in the current 2024-2025 school year, we will begin to replace devices in the elementary panel. This refresh cycle will take place over a four-year period to reach the ratios indicated above.

**What does this mean for secondary schools?**

This means that there will be a gradual deployment of devices in secondary schools starting in the current 2024-2025 school year with a 1:1 student to device ratio for the current Grade 9 cohort. Achieving a 1:1 ratio for all secondary grades will happen by the 2027-2028 school year.

**Why is this a good model for DPCDSB students?**

This is good news for DPCDSB students. In addition to the security concerns, outdated software, limited technological support, the need for DPCDSB to support online EQAO testing, digital math tools and to deliver technology curriculum requirements from the Ministry of Education, this centralized procurement and device management plan helps ensure that all DPCDSB students have equitable access to current technology that is critical to today's learning and teaching environments.

Thank you for your attention to this important good news matter. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please contact your child's school.