What’s the best device for a 1:1? … and why that’s the last question you should be asking.

Discussion Topics & Discovery Questions Regarding District 1:1 Initiatives

Instructional Vision

What are your instructional and learning goals? This is the top question that needs to be asked and revisited often. This should be an instructional initiative led by instruction and supported by technology. The vision begins at the top and should flow to others from there. When asked about this project’s success years from now, will you know if these goals have been met?

Stakeholder ‘buy-in’

How will you involve staff, students, parents and the community in your planning efforts to get their input? Do they share the overall vision? How will I educate these stakeholders on the initiative? Can we address students and parents of students not involved in the project?

District Staff Preparedness

Are your teachers prepared and willing to take on this new challenge? What is it going to take for your teachers to be ready to build lesson plans and teach in a classroom where every learner has a device? A PD investment is mandatory. Is there an intentional paradigm shift instructionally? If we do what we’ve always done - with a computer instead of on paper - what have we done?

Funding and/or Sustainability

Is there a plan to fund hardware replacement? Depending on the device selected and its warranty or projected life span, expect to completely refresh the hardware approximately every four years. If it’s a huge success, might you want to expand the program? Am I charging student fee(s) related to this initiative?

Personnel Support Needs

In addition to hardware funding, most districts have added technical support staff and/or instructional support staff to help users make best use of the technology. Are you prepared to invest in the resources required to contradict anyone who might say “it doesn’t work” or “I don’t know how”?

Technical Issues/Logistics/Planning

Can my network support this or are upgrades needed? What should the wireless connectivity experience for users be (i.e. more like home, or McDonalds, or a hotel)? Do my buildings have sufficient power? Do I have furniture needs? Will I make repairs in-house or via an outsourced agreement? Do I insure these devices and how do I fund that? Do I have a need for tracking software in case of theft? How will I handle asset/inventory? What’s the expected battery life and who replaces the battery if it fails? What is my warranty coverage and am I purchasing extended care options? Do I need a device loaner pool? How am I deploying applications and images on the devices? Are the students taking the devices home in the evenings? What happens to the devices during the summer? What happens at the end of the device’s life cycle? Do I have a copy of critical user data in case the device fails?