



When do schools get their devices?

In Fall 2014, schools completed a “readiness rubric” and selected a roll out group for personalized learning and student devices. Groups go through an 18 month process to develop:

- Plan for how technology will be used to enhance and personalize learning
- Professional development and communication plans
- Selection and roll out of devices (timeline determined by the school, but expected to happen within their 18 month window)

How can parents see the status of their school’s readiness toward device roll out?

Parents and community members can see where their school is in the process of preparing for devices by visiting our [School Roll Out Dashboard](http://www.fultonschools.org/personalizedlearning) at www.fultonschools.org/personalizedlearning.

What devices are available in the Fulton County Schools “marketplace”?

Fulton County Schools solicited a Request for Proposals and selected 4 devices schools can choose from:

- Apple iPad Air2
- Dell Chromebook 11
- Dell Latitude 11
- MS Surface 3

How do schools select a device?

Schools submit their instructional, professional development and communication plans to Area Superintendents for approval. Once their plans are approved, schools have the go ahead to:

1. Form a device selection committee (students, teachers, parents, administration)
2. Vet the devices in the marketplace
3. Score each device on district-provided rubric
4. Recommend device to School Governance Council
5. School Governance Council votes to approve

There will be one device per school. For more information on the process review the [device selection process](#).

Who will receive a device?

In middle and high schools, every student will be issued a Fulton County Schools device at a 1:1 ratio. Elementary schools will have classroom sets: 1 device for every 3 students.

What professional development support will teachers have access to?

Before schools launch devices and new personalized learning models, schools have access to:

- **Education Elements** – 14 hours of workshops planning for personalized learning; 4-6 people from each school participate and are encouraged to repeat elements of the trainings at school.
- **KSU Instructional Technology Coach** – a coach is at the school one day/week for a year, providing job embedded coaching to teachers in the classroom.

On an ongoing basis:

- **School Professional Development plan** – before schools order devices they create a plan for how they will provide the professional development teachers need. Many schools are “personalizing” professional development to target specifically what their teachers need and draw from the resources below.
- **KSU Instructional Technology Coaches** – schools that choose a less expensive device (Dell Latitude or Chromebook) will receive 4 extra semesters of KSU coaching beyond the 2 semesters every school receives.
- **Fulton Vanguard Team** – teachers who are early adopters of instructional technology receive extra professional development from the district and are expected to coach 4 teachers at their school. There are currently 275 members and our goal is to get to 400 (4 per school).
- **METIs** – school Media and Education Technology Instructors have expertise that they can share with other teachers in the school.
- **Professional Learning Facilitators** – one person at each school who can assess the professional learning needs and access resources for teachers.
- **Professional Learning Catalog** – the Fulton Professional Learning department is building a catalog of content teachers can access on demand.
- **School Instructional Technology specialists** – some schools are using Seed Fund money or using their school budgets to hire full-time instructional technology specialists to coach teachers.

What technical support will schools and students have access to?

This year, School Technology Specialists (STS) still have a home school, but now can be deployed to any school that needs help. The goal is to “work smarter” and use our people more efficiently to meet school needs. For example, a school this year needed an entire computer lab reimaged quickly before testing. This would normally take one STS a couple of weeks; instead IT sent 10 STS’s to the school and they completed the job in three hours, allowing the school to keep to their testing schedule.

This model also allows School Technology Specialists to begin to specialize and receive extra training in an area (interactive projectors, mobile devices, desktops/laptops, SharePoint). This ensures that schools having an issue can get an expert to resolve it. Fulton will be reviewing the success of this model this year, and then will make a decision on any adjustments we need to make for next year.

Students and parents will also now have access to the FCS IT Help Desk. If they are having a technical issue with a device at home they can call to get help: 470-254-4357. The Help Desk is open until 6:30pm, but if there is demand we will extend that time into the evening.

How is this funded?

Mobile devices at Fulton County Schools are funded through the SPLOST one-cent sales tax. Since 1996, school systems in Georgia have been allowed to place a referendum before taxpayers for a special purpose local option sales tax (SPLOST). This funding source has FCS to build and renovate schools, upgrade technology, buy school buses and reduce long-term debt. For more information visit www.fultonschools.org/SPLOST.

Will students be able to take devices home?

In elementary school devices will stay in the classroom. In middle and high schools the decision on when/if students take devices home at night and on weekends will be determined as part of the planning process and approved by the school Governance Council. All devices will be turned in at the end of the school year for refurbishment.

What if parents do not want their child to have a device?

Students are being issued devices as a learning tool, the same way we give out textbooks or other curriculum or materials. Parents with concerns should discuss their questions with their school principal to come up with a solution where the parent is comfortable and the student has access to the necessary learning materials.

Will students receive a case to protect the device?

The devices with touchscreens – iPad and MS Surface – will come with a protective case. Students must protect the device by carrying it in the case provided at all times.

The Dell Latitude and Chromebook both have a "notebook" form factor which is inherently protective.

Will devices come with keyboards or headphones?

Every device will come with a keyboard. They will not come with headphones.

Do the devices have a camera?

Yes, all devices have a camera.

What happens to devices when students move to another school within the district?

Students must turn in their device and any accessories when they leave their school, even if they are transferring to another school within the district.

Will parents/guardians have to sign something to be issued a device?

Yes, parents/guardians are required to sign the [Device User Agreement](#) before a student is issued a device.

What if a device is damaged, lost, or stolen?

All district-issued devices are the property of the Fulton County School District. If for any reason the device is lost, stolen, or damaged during the time that it is issued to the student, whether intentionally or due to negligence, the student and their parent/guardian are responsible for the fines outlined in the [Device User Agreement](#).

Can parents purchase private insurance to cover damage or theft of the device?

Yes, parents can choose to purchase insurance for the device. Many insurance companies ask families to mail devices directly to the company for repair/replacement. **Parents MAY ONLY use insurance companies with repair centers authorized by the device manufacturer**, to avoid voiding our warranties.

Fulton has looked into insurance companies that have been popular with families and confirmed that as of June 2016:

- [Worth Ave Group](#) does use authorized repair centers for **ALL of our devices** so this is an option for families.
- [Safeware](#) uses authorized repair centers **ONLY for the iPad, Chromebook, and Dell Latitude**. Parents should NOT use this company for the Surface.

Note that insurance companies typically cover theft, but not loss of a device.

This information is provided for convenience only. The District does not endorse any particular insurance provider, and each family should carefully verify the services provided by any insurance provider as a company's policy can change.

While you may purchase insurance for your device or your homeowner's insurance may cover the device, the District will not be responsible for communicating with your insurance provider. You remain solely responsible

for paying fines directly to the District.

What if a student fails to return the device or pay a fine?

As outlined in FCS [Procedure JS – Student Fees, Fines, and Charges](#): The following sanctions may be taken against a student who fails or refuses to pay for a lost or damaged textbook, library book district-issued electronic device, accessories for these devices, or media material up to the replacement cost:

1. refusal to issue any additional textbooks, library books, district-issued electronic devices, accessories for these devices, or media materials until restitution is made (schools will provide access to instructional materials necessary to complete course requirements); and/or
2. withholding of all grade cards, diplomas or certificates of progress until restitution is made.

Can you track the devices?

Yes, FCS uses a mobile device management product that allows us to track the location of a device that is lost or stolen.

What steps are being taken to teach students about responsible technology use?

Before they receive a device, students will participate in “digital citizenship” lessons to teach them about safe and responsible use of technology. Parents can support this at home by visiting [our website](#) or [Common Sense Media](#) for some great tools for families. We strongly recommend that families use these materials to talk to their students about online safety and responsible technology use.

What software is preloaded on devices? What do schools have the autonomy to choose?

Fulton County Schools has researched key applications which will be preinstalled on each device. This includes standard applications like Office 365 (word, excel, power point), Adobe Reader, a photo editor, etc.. Additional applications may be reviewed and added to facilitate learning.

When teachers or schools would like to have an application added to devices they will submit a service desk ticket. No one other than an authorized school official may add or delete applications from a district-issued device.

How will teachers stay abreast of the latest and greatest instructional technology resources?

FCS is creating a more robust digital marketplace where teachers can easily view the latest instructional technology resources available in the district. The Fulton Vanguard team is also a great resource within schools. Vanguard members are teachers and administrators who are early adopters of instructional technology. They receive extra professional development support from the district, and are expected to coach others in their school. There are currently 275 members, and the goal is to get to 400 with at least 4 teachers per school.

Will students and parents have Office 365 access?

Yes, students will have access to Office 365. Office 365 will allow students to create documents in programs like Word, Excel, and Power Point, store them on the cloud, and easily share them with their teacher or collaborate with other students. Parents will not have their own Office365 account, and this will not replace the ways that teachers currently communicate with parents. Fulton is currently testing Office 365 at a small number of schools and will then create and communicate a rollout plan for all schools.

Will the wireless internet at my school be able to handle more devices?

Before schools receive devices their wireless infrastructure is upgraded to support them. A site visit is made and a heat map created to review the current wireless coverage. Then new wireless access points are added and tuned to be sure that the school is ready for their devices.

What if families do not have internet access at home?

There are many activities that students can do on devices without Internet, including downloading things at school to work on at home, reading assignments, writing papers or creating projects. Teachers should be thoughtful about how to plan for students who may not have internet access.

Families and schools can also partner to identify places where students can access the internet outside of school (free Wi-Fi hotspots in the community, libraries, etc.). Families with a student who is eligible for free or reduced lunch may also qualify for \$9.95/month internet from [Comcast Internet Essentials](#).