

BASD Empower



Frequently Asked Questions

WHAT IS BASD EMPOWER?

Please refer to the Overview of **BASD Empower *Seven Strategies* for Supporting Student-Centered Learning with One-to-One Technology** on the BASD Empower webpage from the District website.

WHY DOES EVERY STUDENT NEED A PERSONAL COMPUTING DEVICE?

Please refer to the Overview of **BASD Empower *Seven Strategies* for Supporting Student-Centered Learning with One-to-One Technology** on the BASD Empower webpage from the District website.

IS SCREEN TIME AN ISSUE IF EACH STUDENT HAS A PERSONAL COMPUTING DEVICE?

Please refer to **Student Screen Time: a Statement by the Bethlehem Area School District** on the BASD Empower webpage from the District website.

WHAT GRADES ARE PARTICIPATING IN THE BASD EMPOWER PROGRAM?

Grades PreK through Grade 12 are participating in the Empower Program.

WHAT DEVICE WILL STUDENTS RECEIVE?

Currently, all students receive a Chromebook. The Chromebook students receive flips, comes with a stylus or active pen, and has two cameras.

WHEN WILL DEVICES BE ISSUED?

Devices will be issued to grades K, 5, and 9 at the time students are matriculating into those grades. Information on the exact date of the distribution plan will be provided by your building principal.

HOW WILL MY STUDENT RECEIVE A CHROMEBOOK IF HE/SHE BEGINS IN THE DISTRICT AFTER CHROMEBOOKS ARE DISTRIBUTED AT THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR?

Students will receive the Chromebook and its accessories after formal registration with the building from designated personnel in the building.

ARE STUDENTS ALLOWED TO OPT-OUT OF THE PROGRAM?

No. All students receive the same device from the district. Outside devices are not permitted.

WILL STUDENTS BE ALLOWED TO USE THEIR OWN DEVICES?

No. To ensure all students have the same device that is ready to interact with District systems, students are required to use the District-issued Chromebook.

WILL THE CHROMEBOOK HAVE USB PORTS?

Yes, the Chromebooks students receive will have USB ports.

WILL STUDENTS BE ABLE TO USE OTHER DEVICES WITH THE CHROMEBOOK?

Yes. Students will be allowed to use a thumb drive, headsets, printers or other instructionally-reasonable devices that can connect to the Chromebook by either the USB or USB-C ports.

HOW IS A CHROMEBOOK DIFFERENT FROM A WINDOWS OR MAC LAPTOP?

A Chromebook is a laptop of a different breed. Instead of using the Windows operating system or Mac operating system, Chromebooks run Google's Chrome operating system. Chromebooks are designed to be used primarily while connected to the Internet, with most applications and documents living in the cloud.

WHAT ACCESSORIES WILL STUDENTS BE GIVEN ALONG WITH THEIR CHROMEBOOK?

Students will be given:

- A **stylus or active pen** that comes with the Chromebook. The stylus or active pen must be kept in the Chromebook when not in use.
- A **bag/sleeve** sized to fit the Chromebook. Students must use the bag/sleeve provided by the District. The bag/sleeve is specially designed for protecting the Chromebook. The Chromebook must be kept in its bag/sleeve at any time when it is not being used.
- A **power charger**. Students must use the charger provided by the District.

WHO OWNS THE CHROMEBOOK AND ITS ACCESSORIES?

The Chromebook and its accessories are owned by the Bethlehem Area School District. The District is loaning the Chromebook and its accessories to students similar to textbooks and other learning materials. District staff have the right to confiscate the Chromebook and/or its accessories at any time for any reason.

ARE STUDENTS AND FAMILIES RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CHROMEBOOK AND ITS ACCESSORIES?

Yes. The Chromebook and its accessories are expected to be well maintained. Please refer to the BASD Empower Repair/Replacement Costs document related to repair/replacement procedures.

Students and families also must continue to adhere to School Board Policy Number 815 - Computer, Network, and Internet Use. Parents may choose to purchase insurance through Securranty to be reimbursed for certain repair costs billed by the district. Please go to the following URL for more information: <https://securranty.com/basdschools>.

WILL STUDENTS BE ALLOWED TO DECORATE OR PERSONALIZE THEIR CHROMEBOOK OR CHROMEBOOK ACCESSORIES?

Students are not allowed to decorate or personalize the Chromebook itself. Students will be allowed to purchase a cover for the Chromebook at the school store. Students are not allowed to attach or affix anything onto the bag material itself. Students are allowed to use decorative clips, ribbons, luggage tag, to the handle or straps of the bag that are easily removable.

WILL THERE BE A COST TO PARENTS?

Parents/Guardians will be responsible to pay for any repairs/replacements as outlined in the BASD Empower Chromebook Repair/Replacement Costs. Parents may choose to purchase insurance through Securranty to be reimbursed for certain repair costs billed by the district. Please go to the following URL for more information: <https://securranty.com/basdschools>.

WILL BASD PROVIDE MAINTENANCE ON THE CHROMEBOOKS?

Yes. A student whose computer needs repair should take the computer to the Library for a service desk ticket to be entered. A loaner will be provided. Parents/Guardians will be responsible to pay for any repairs/replacements as outlined in the BASD Empower Chromebook Repair/Replacement Costs.

WHAT IF A STUDENT'S CHROMEBOOK NEEDS TO BE REPAIRED?

Students and/or parents/guardians should not attempt any repairs on the student Chromebook. Secondary students should take the Chromebook to the Library for a service desk ticket to be entered. Elementary students should take the Chromebook to their teacher who will enter the service desk ticket. Turnaround time varies depending upon the repair.

WHAT IF STUDENTS HAVE A CHROMEBOOK AT HOME?

It is important that all BASD students have equal access to technology. Even though students may have a computer or other device at home, the computer issued by the District will be consistently configured to allow effective and efficient access to online systems. Students should use their district-issued BASDNet/Google account when accessing District systems. When using the Chromebook or district-issued BASDNet/Google account from home students still must adhere to School Board Policy Number 815 - Computer, Network, and Internet Use. Chromebooks are to be used solely by the student for school-related work.

WHAT IF A STUDENT'S CHROMEBOOK IS LOST OR STOLEN?

Upon becoming aware the Chromebook is lost or stolen *in School*, students should notify School Administration within 24 hours. School administration will meet with the student and parents as necessary. In situations of legitimate theft *in School*, the Student and their parents/guardians should file a police report with the School Resource Officer. If the Chromebook is lost or stolen *outside of school*, students and families should file a police report with their local police department and notify School Administration within 24 hours. In both scenarios, School Administration will notify the District's Business Office and Information Services Department. The Information Services Department will place the Chromebook in an unusable mode with a message indicating it was reported as stolen.

WHAT IF A STUDENT'S CHROMEBOOK BAG/SLEEVE OR CHARGER IS LOST OR STOLEN?

Upon becoming aware the Chromebook bag/sleeve or charger is lost or stolen, students should notify School Administration within 24 hours. School administration will meet with the student and parents as necessary.

ARE STUDENTS EXPECTED TO COME TO SCHOOL WITH CHROMEBOOK CHARGED?

Yes. Students are expected to charge their Chromebook each night in preparation for the next day of school.

SHOULD STUDENTS USE THE CHARGER ISSUED BY THE DISTRICT?

Yes. The charger is specific to the Chromebook given to students. Do not use another charger for the respective Chromebook given to your child.

WILL STUDENTS USE THE SAME ACCOUNT FOR LOGGING INTO THE CHROMEBOOK THAT THEY USE AT SCHOOL?

Yes. BASD students are issued a District account allowing them to access the district network and Google. This is known as their BASDNet/Google account. Students should only use their district-issued BASDNet/Google account when accessing District systems. When using the Chromebook or district-issued BASDNet/Google account from home students still must adhere to School Board Policy Number 815 - Computer, Network, and Internet Use. In communicating via e-mail with teachers or other district staff, students should only use their BASDNet/Google account not a personal Gmail account.

DOES MY STUDENT NEED TO BRING THE DEVICE HOME?

Yes. Students will need the Chromebook at home to complete assignments and collaborate with classmates.

WHAT IF I DON'T HAVE INTERNET/WIFI AT HOME?

There are four ways for students and/or parent/guardians can obtain Internet/Wifi at home:

- **Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP)** - This program is offered by the Federal government to provide discounts on Internet and the purchase of a computer. For information on this program visit: <https://www.fcc.gov/acp>. If you need assistance in applying for this program, please speak to the Principal, Assistant Principal, Guidance Counselor, or Community School Coordinator of the school your child attends.
- **Everyoneon.org** - EveryoneOn is a national nonprofit that creates social and economic opportunity by connecting everyone to the internet. For information on low-cost Internet access visit: <https://www.everyoneon.org/lowcost-offers>
- **Mobile Hotspots** - Families should apply for the Affordable Connectivity Program described above. However, if families provide proof they did not qualify for ACP, then a student can request a hotspot from the district. These hotspots will be monitored, filtered, and limited to use by district-issued Chromebooks. Please contact the Principal, Assistant Principal, or Guidance Counselor at the school your child attends to complete the request form.
- **Local public wifi** - please refer to **BASD Empower - Local Wireless Access** document.

WILL STUDENTS' CHROMEBOOKS BE MONITORED AT SCHOOL AND AT HOME?

While students are responsible for following School Board Policy Number 815 - Computer, Network, and Internet Use, their computer use will be monitored and filtered both at school and at home. The Chromebook and its accessories should be used by only the student.

WILL STUDENTS BE ALLOWED TO INSTALL APPS OR EXTENSIONS ON THEIR CHROMEBOOK?

Students will have access to the BASD Chrome Web app store for educational programs. Students may install apps/or extensions for educational purposes.

WILL THE STUDENT BE ALLOWED TO USE THEIR CHROMEBOOK ON THE SCHOOL BUS?

No. Use of a Chromebook or any other laptop computers on a school bus is a safety hazard and not permitted.

WHAT ARE THE CONSEQUENCES OF INAPPROPRIATE CHROMEBOOK USE?

Consequences will be addressed per the Framework for Citizenship. Students are responsible for following School Board Policy Number 815 - Computer, Network, and Internet Use

WILL THE STUDENT KEEP THE SAME CHROMEBOOK IF THEY MOVE TO ANOTHER SCHOOL WITHIN THE DISTRICT?

Yes, the Chromebook is assigned to the student and moves with the student.

CAN MY STUDENT TRAVEL WITH THE CHROMEBOOK ON FAMILY VACATIONS OR OUTINGS?

Yes. The Chromebook and its accessories are under the responsibility of the student and parents/guardians. It is critical that students maintain the Chromebook and its accessories in a safe and secure location during any family vacations or outings.

CAN OTHER MEMBERS OF MY HOUSEHOLD USE MY DEVICE?

No. The Chromebook and its accessories are being assigned to the student only for their use related to schoolwork assigned. Students and parents/guardians should not permit other individuals to use the Chromebook or its accessories.

WHAT IF MY STUDENT FORGETS TO BRING THEIR CHROMEBOOK TO SCHOOL?

Students are responsible to bring their Chromebook to school every day. This is considered a class material such as pencils/pens or textbooks. Students are not permitted to use other students' Chromebooks.

WHAT IF MY STUDENT FORGETS TO CHARGE THEIR DEVICE FOR SCHOOL?

Students are responsible to bring their Chromebook charged to school every day. This is considered a class material such as pencils/pens or textbooks. Students are not permitted to use other students' Chromebooks.

IF A PARENT WANTS TO WITHDRAW THEIR CHILD, WHAT MUST BE DONE?

Upon notifying their child's school of the withdrawal, parents are to return the Chromebook, and its accessories in good working order to the school. The Chromebook and its accessories will be collected and reviewed by School Administration. If the Chromebook or its accessories are found not to be in good working order, parents/guardians may be subject to paying any repairs required or replacement if necessary. If the Chromebook and its accessories are not returned, a police report will be filed for the Chromebook and it will be placed in disabled mode.

WHO CAN I CONTACT IF I HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE BASD EMPOWER PROGRAM?

Parents should contact the building principal with any questions or concerns.