

Board of Education  
Darien, Connecticut

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MONDAY, JANUARY 24, 2022**

**PLACE:  
DARIEN PUBLIC SCHOOLS'  
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES  
MEETING ROOM  
7:00 P.M.**

**AGENDA**

1. Call to Order..... Mr. David Dineen 7:00 p.m.
2. Chairperson's Report..... Mr. David Dineen
3. Discussion on "Open Choice"..... Dr. Alan Addley  
Dr. Charles Dumais (C.E.S., Executive Director)  
Mr. Eric Nyquist (C.E.S., Open Choice Coordinator)
4. Discussion on BYOD (Bring Your.. Dr. Alan Addley  
Own Device) for Darien High School Mr. Christopher Tranberg
5. Public Comment\*..... Mr. David Dineen
6. Adjournment..... Mr. David Dineen

AA:nv

**\* \* The Board of Education meeting will be available to the public in person and via Zoom. In-Person attendance at the Board meeting is limited by room capacity and social distancing requirements. All members of the community must wear masks regardless of vaccination status. Only 14 seats are available for the public which will be available on a first come, first serve basis. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. for the 7:00 p.m. meeting. If you are present and wish to give public comment but are unable to get a seat, you will be required to wait outside and you will be invited into the room when it is your turn to speak. Those members of the community wishing to participate in public comment should join the meeting via Zoom:**

**<https://darienps.zoom.us/j/96031725890>**

# Open Choice

January 24, 2022



# Program Background

- Formally established as a State strategy to help address the 2003 Sheff vs. O'Neill student desegregation settlement agreement.
- Informally (Project Concern) developed in the Greater Hartford Area in 1966. The Program has since expanded to the Southern part of the State with New Haven and Bridgeport and now Norwalk and Danbury.
- Established by legislation with intent to reduce racial, ethnic, and economic isolation among students.
- Over 3000 students participate across the State with 296 in the CES served region.

Conn. Gen. Statutes ch. 172, § 10-266aa



# Current Status & Recommendations

- Darien's participation in the program supports the District's diversity goals and values; addresses our legislated State expectation to reduce racial, ethnic, and economic isolation; is a productive move in response to regionalization discussions; and exhibits leadership in the diversity and equity arena.
- Until recently, Darien was precluded from participating in the program due to the length of time that a student would be in transit. The State Department of Education and Governor have recently passed legislation making Darien eligible for participation in partnership with Norwalk Public Schools.
- The administration is recommending the District admit students in kindergarten where classroom size permits. Receiving students at the youngest age positions them to be most successful. The district would receive \$4,000 (\$3,000 plus \$1,000 bonus in year one) per Open Choice kindergarten student admitted. The District could potentially accept 16 kindergarten students (Revenue of \$64K).

# Strategic Partnership with CES

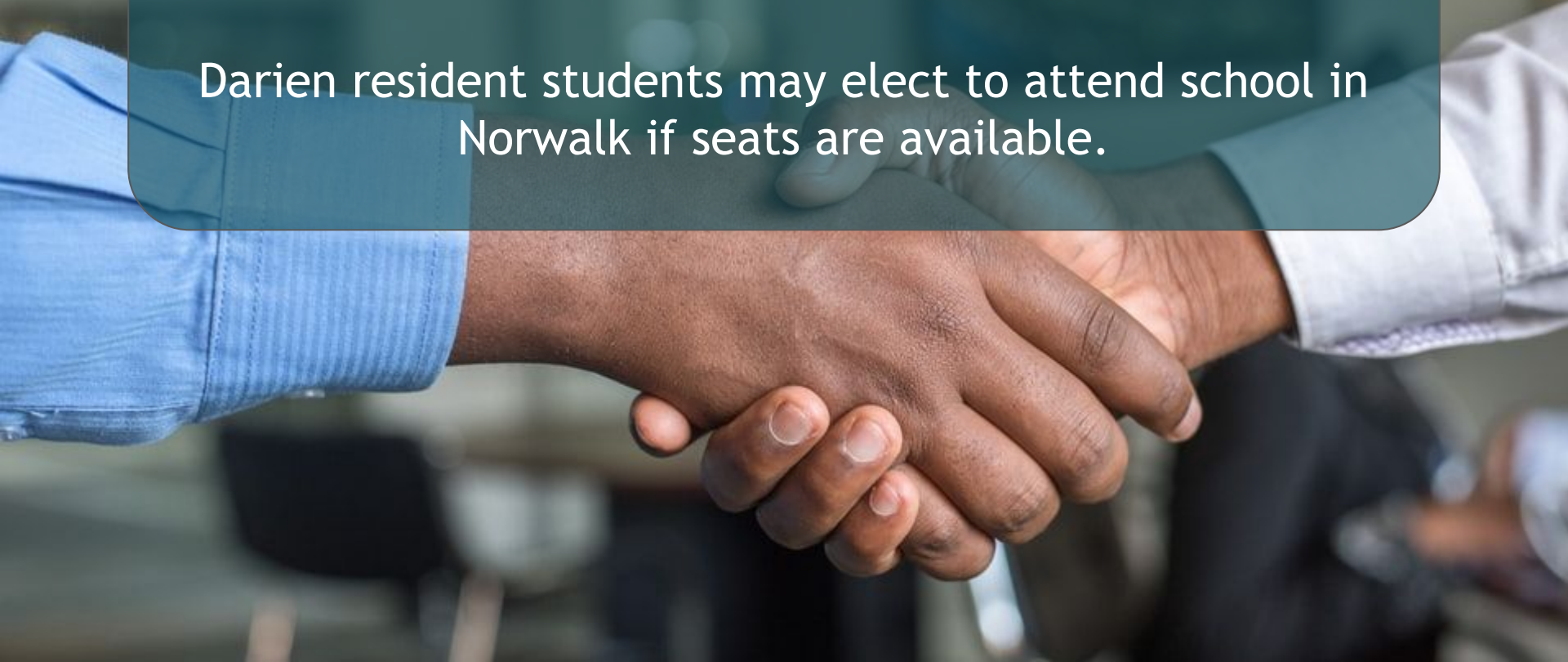
Cooperative Educational Services (CES), serves the Bridgeport region. Currently six suburban districts participate in the program with Bridgeport including Fairfield, Trumbull, Stratford, Westport, Weston, and Easton. Presently, approximately 296 students are participating in the program.

Wilton is currently considering participation in Open Choice for next school year. New Canaan is looking ahead to FY24 for possible participation.



# Reciprocity

Darien resident students may elect to attend school in Norwalk if seats are available.



# Program Selection Process

- Interested families apply for program participation.
- A selection process for each sending city is held to determine who will fill the predetermined number of available seats.
- Not all students who apply are guaranteed a seat.
- Parents may not choose the district but they may decline placement, losing their place in the queue.
- Once students are enrolled they are guaranteed their seat through graduation.

# Investing in Open Choice

The State pays a grant of \$4,000 (\$3,000 plus \$1,000 year one bonus) per student enrolled in the program. The District will receive \$3,000 per student in subsequent years if the number of Open Choice students is less than 2 percent of the total population of the receiving district. The amount increases incrementally with increased levels of participation. There is no cost to parents. The District will encounter a cost of approximately \$400-\$500 per student to support materials and technology at the elementary level. Program participation causes that number to fluctuate at the secondary level.



# Incremental Costs

Grade	Materials	Tech	Total
K	\$140	\$270	\$410
1st	\$140	\$270	\$410
2nd	\$125	\$270	\$395
3rd	\$118	\$330	\$448
4th	\$108	\$330	\$438
5th	\$108	\$330	\$438

The table reflects the per student cost for materials and technology for each open choice student. The materials represent consumables, supplies, textbooks, and 1:1 technology. As students progress through the system should they participate in intramurals, theater, athletics those per student costs would apply as well. Providing no class section is broken, there are no direct costs for salaries or benefits for staff.

A background image of four diverse students (two girls and two boys) smiling and giving thumbs up. They are wearing backpacks and holding books. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent dark blue rounded rectangle containing the text.

# Future Enrollment

The District could potentially accept 72 students between FY 24 and FY 28. With the addition of 72 students over time, Middlesex enrollment would still be below their peak enrollment in FY 11. The same average costs and revenue would apply to these projections.

The background image shows two young students from the back, looking out of the open door of a yellow school bus. The student on the left is wearing a grey long-sleeved shirt over a red shirt and has a backpack. The student on the right is wearing a blue and white checkered shirt and also has a backpack. The bus is yellow with a black door frame. The scene is outdoors, and the lighting suggests it might be morning or afternoon.

# Transportation

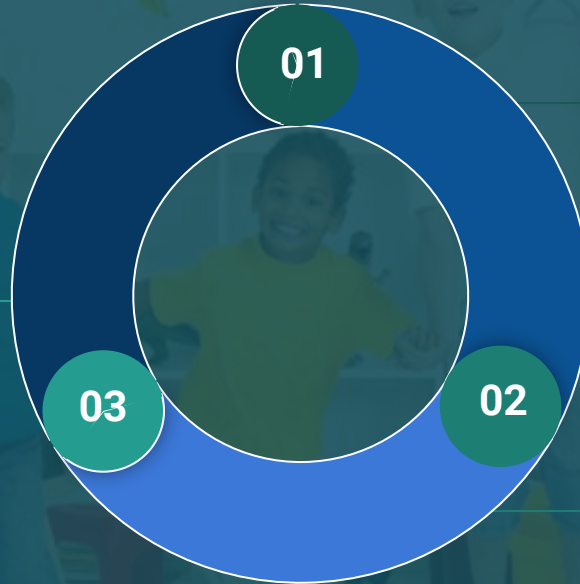
Daily transportation to and from school is paid by the State and arranged through CES. The District would need to develop an independent plan or partner with CES to arrange for transportation for after school activities.



# Special Education Support Services

## Reimburse

Darien submits reimbursement for services to Norwalk Public Schools and receives reimbursement less the \$4000 (\$3,000 plus \$1,000 year one bonus) initial grant.



## Fund

District receives \$4,000 (\$3,000 plus \$1,000 year one bonus) grant funding for each student regardless of special education status.

## Collaborate

District's collaborate to determine educational needs for students who qualify for special education and support services.

# Program Benefits

- Racially and socioeconomically diverse schools offer students important social-emotional benefits by exposing them to peers of different backgrounds. The increased cross-cultural dialogue that results from these interactions are beneficial for civil society.
- When school settings include students from multiple racial groups, students become more comfortable with people of different races, which leads to a dramatic decrease in discriminatory attitudes and prejudices.
- Integrated classrooms can improve students' satisfaction and intellectual self-confidence.
- Learning in integrated settings can enhance students' leadership skills.
- Diverse classrooms prepare students to succeed in a global economy.
- Integrated classrooms encourage critical thinking, problem solving, and creativity.

*The Century Foundation content is adapted from How Racially Diverse Schools and Classrooms Can Benefit All Students (2016) and A Smarter Charter: Finding What Works for Charter Schools and Public Education (2014)*

# Open Choice Liaison

Students	Families
Works with students to foster relationships, build communication skills and acclimate to academic and social learning experiences.	Facilitates connections between parents and the school to encourage their participation in school-based activities.
Staff	Community
Share program updates with teachers and administrators and offer strategies to support school-based climate work.	Build connections with outside agencies to provide students and families with educational supports and opportunities.

\*The Open Choice Liaison will also work in tandem with the CES Family and Community Coordinator.





# Professional Learning

Current PD Areas of Focus:

1. Creating a positive learning environment
2. Setting high expectations for all learners
3. Developing curricula that are inclusive/representative
4. Navigating difficult/challenging conversations

With the Open Choice partnership the District will partner with CES to participate in professional development opportunities.

# Timeline

11/24/20

## Budget Initiatives

Superintendent shared plans to advocate for Darien's eligibility in Open Choice.

1/12/21  
10/26/21

## BOE Meetings

Shared legislative updates regarding Darien's eligibility to participate with Norwalk.

January  
2022

## Budget Discussions

Proposed and discussed program participation through FY23 budget process.

05/15/22

## Seat Commitment

District Communicates Seat Commitment to CES  
(This date is flexible)

# Discussion







# Open Choice Program

## INTRODUCTION

Darien's participation in the Open Choice Program will support efforts to reduce racial, ethnic, and economic isolation. Darien's core values describe equity as advocating for and advancing opportunities and outcomes for all. Diversity and inclusion are described as creating a community that welcomes and embraces the full range of human differences. Open Choice in Darien will help realize the fundamental beliefs and collective commitments that shape the District's mission and vision and enhance the learning experiences of our students.

Recent legislation provides Darien Public Schools the opportunity to participate in Connecticut's Open Choice Program. Darien was previously precluded due to the length of time students would be in transit.

With the participation and partnership of the Norwalk Public Schools, that preclusion has been mitigated.

- Conn. Gen. Statutes ch. 172, § 10-266aa

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## PROGRAM BACKGROUND

The Open Choice Program creates reciprocal learning opportunities for students and families (K-12) to choose between urban and nearby suburban school settings through a selection process based on seat availability. The Open Choice Program was established as a State strategy to address the 2003 Sheff vs. O'Neill student desegregation settlement agreement. Additionally, the program operationalizes the legislated State expectation that school districts make efforts to reduce racial, ethnic and economic isolation among students. While several districts participated in an informal version of the program known as Project Concern as early as 1966, this legislation formalized the previous arrangement between several towns in the Greater Hartford Region. What is known today as the Open Choice Program has since expanded to Southern Connecticut with inclusion of New Haven and Bridgeport Public Schools. Over 3,000 students participate in Open Choice Program across the State. The recent expansion includes Norwalk and Danbury.

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## STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP



Cooperative Educational Services (CES), serves the Bridgeport region with the Open Choice Program. Currently six suburban districts participate in the program including Fairfield, Trumbull, Stratford, Westport, Weston, and Easton. Presently, approximately 296 students are participating in the program. CES recently hired a full-time Family and Community Outreach Coordinator to ensure program success.

Wilton is currently considering participation in FY23 and New Canaan is considering participation in FY24.

The administration is recommending that the District welcome students in kindergarten where classroom size permits. Receiving students at the youngest age positions them to be most successful. The District would receive \$4,000 (\$3,000 plus \$1,000 year one bonus) per Open Choice kindergarten student admitted and registered. The District could potentially accept 16 kindergarten students with revenue of \$64K.

## STUDENT LEARNING BENEFITS

The Open Choice Program benefits students in both the Darien and Norwalk learning communities. Darien resident students will have the opportunity to build relationships and understand the experiences of a more diverse peer group. This is a need expressed by current and former students. Program participation also enhances our schools by authentically preparing students for their post-secondary experiences. Norwalk resident students receive a rigorous and robust education with all benefits of being a student in the Darien Public Schools.

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## SELECTION PROCESS

Norwalk resident students are invited to join the Darien Public Schools if identified in the selection process. Interested families apply for the Open Choice Program through Cooperative Educational Services (CES). The selection process determines who will fill the predetermined number of available seats indicated by receiving school districts. Each sending school district holds an independent selection process. Not all students who apply are guaranteed a seat in the Open Choice Program. Should families choose not to accept the district placement if their child is selected, they may decline the placement, thereby losing their place in the queue. Once students are enrolled they are guaranteed their seat through graduation.

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## FINANCES

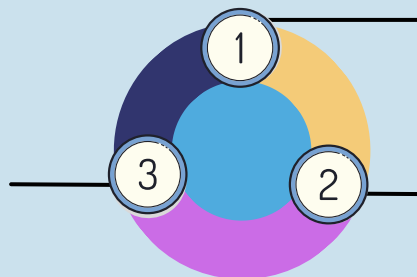
The State offers an initial grant of \$4,000 (\$3,000 plus \$1,000 year one bonus) per student enrolled, and \$3,000 per student in subsequent years, if the number of Open Choice students is less than 2 percent of the total population of the receiving district. The amount increases incrementally with additional levels of participation. There is no cost to parents. The approximate cost per student to the District ranges from \$400-\$500 for instructional materials and technology. Expenditures will fluctuate at the secondary level depending on student program participation. The District could potentially accept 72 students between FY 24 and FY 28. With the addition of 72 students over time, Middlesex enrollment would still be below their peak enrollment in FY 11. The projected costs and revenue applies to these 72 students.

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## SPECIAL EDUCATION SUPPORT SERVICES

### REIMBURSE

Darien submits reimbursement for services to Norwalk Public Schools and receives reimbursement less \$4,000 (\$3,000 plus \$1,000 year one bonus) from initial grant.



### FUND

District receives \$4,000 (\$3,000 plus \$1,000 year one bonus) grant funding for each student regardless of special education status.

### COLLABORATE

District's collaborate to determine educational needs for students who qualify for special education and support services.

## PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

Staff is currently engaged and will continue their professional learning with diversity, equity and inclusion. The addition of the Open Choice Program will support the District's commitment to focusing on creating positive learning environments, setting high expectations for all learners, developing curricula that are inclusive/representative, and navigating difficult/challenging conversations. CES will partner with the District to provide additional professional learning for staff regarding program implementation.

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## OPEN CHOICE LIAISON

The Open Choice Liaison fosters relationships with and between students to offer support in developing communication skills as students acclimate to their academic and social learning environments. The liaison will work with staff by sharing program updates and offering strategies to support school-based climate work. As a resource to families and a bridge to the community, the liaison will facilitate connections to encourage program participation, connect families with outside agencies when needed, and support the students' learning experiences in the program. The Open Choice Liaison will also work in tandem with the CES Family and Community Coordinator.

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## RECIPROCITY

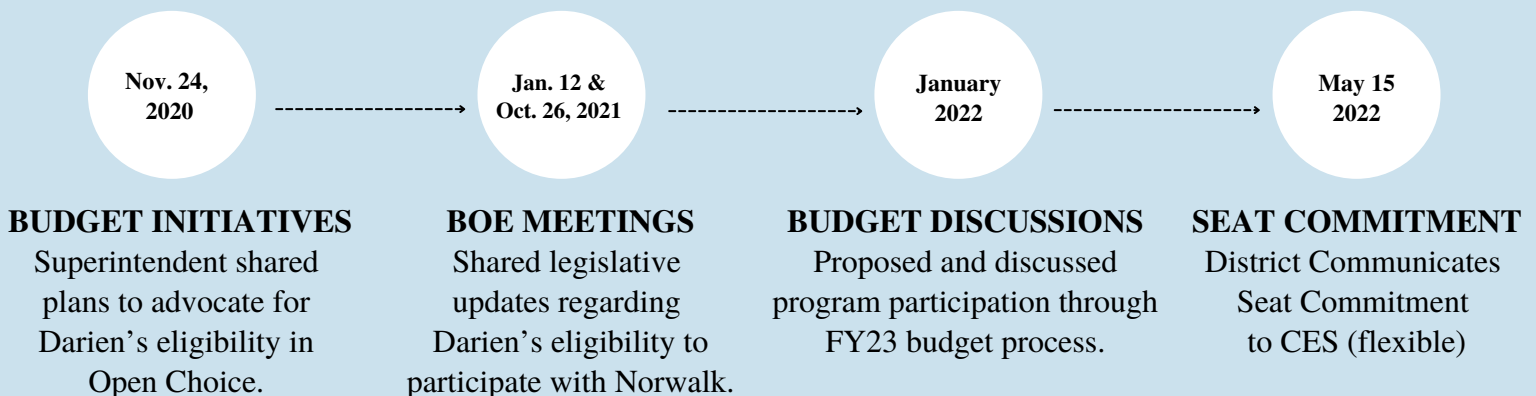
Darien resident students may elect to attend school in Norwalk if seats are available.

## TRANSPORTATION

Daily transportation to and from school is paid by the State and arranged through CES. The District would need to develop an independent plan or partner with CES to arrange for transportation for after school activities.

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## TIMELINE







# Useful Links

[Norwalk Open Choice Application](#)

[May 2018 Policy Briefing](#)

[2021 Section 401 Implementer Bill](#)

[March 2015 Open Choice Program Study](#)

[CES Open Choice Information Fact Sheet](#)

[Superintendent Testimony 3/3/2021](#)

[Open Choice Statute](#)

[Century Foundation: Racially Diverse Schools](#)

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## BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING VIDEOS

[November 24, 2020](#)

[January 12, 2021](#)

[October 26, 2021](#)

## VOICES OF CHOICES VIDEO

[Success Experiences](#)

**FY 23 Questions - Open Choice**  
**January 08, 2022**

#	Question	Response	Source								
<b>RC's 5 - 10 Elementary</b>											
1	What is the K-12 enrollment model with Open Choice students?	<p>Yes, see attached schedule. <a href="#">Open Choice Projection</a> Assuming 4 students are added in Kindergarten at Hindley, Holmes, Royle and Tokeneke and no other students are added in future years, Tokeneke would break a section in FY25 and FY26 based on current enrollment projections. Hindley, Holmes and Ox Ridge would remain the same.</p> <p>The second tab of <a href="#">Open Choice Projection</a> shows additional students being added in subsequent years in Kindergarten. As the document shows we could add 72 students between FY24 and FY28 without breaking a section assuming the current enrollment forecast. It would also bring MMS enrollment to 1,124, which is below the peak enrollment seen in FY11. As shown above this would include the tipped section at Tokeneke in FY25 and FY26. Should Tokeneke Open Choice Students be removed from the forecast to avoid breaking a potential section in the future it would drop to 84 students. Royle would be able to absorb Open Choice students in FY26, 27 and 28. However, each year's recommended Open Choice students would depend on updated enrollment figures each year.</p>	BOE								
2	What is the incremental cost for Open Choice students at all levels, elementary, middle and high school?	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Grade</th><th>Materials</th><th>Tech</th><th>Total</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>K</td><td>\$140</td><td>\$270</td><td>\$410</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Grade	Materials	Tech	Total	K	\$140	\$270	\$410	BOE
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		<table><tr><td>1st</td><td>\$140</td><td>\$270</td><td>\$410</td></tr><tr><td>2nd</td><td>\$125</td><td>\$270</td><td>\$395</td></tr><tr><td>3rd</td><td>\$118</td><td>\$330</td><td>\$448</td></tr><tr><td>4th</td><td>\$108</td><td>\$330</td><td>\$438</td></tr><tr><td>5th</td><td>\$108</td><td>\$330</td><td>\$438</td></tr></table> <p>The above reflects the per student cost for materials and technology for each open choice student. The materials represent consumables, periodicals, paper, textbooks, classroom reference based on the elementary allocation of resources. Technology represents either the K-2 Tablets or Chromebooks for the 1:1 program at the elementary school.</p> <p>As the student progresses through the system should they participate in intramurals, theater, athletics those per student costs would apply as well.</p> <p>Providing no class section is broken, there are no direct costs for salaries or benefits for staff, transportation is paid for by C.E.S. through a State grant and Special Education services are billed back to the home district.</p>	1st	\$140	\$270	\$410	2nd	\$125	\$270	\$395	3rd	\$118	\$330	\$448	4th	\$108	\$330	\$438	5th	\$108	\$330	\$438	
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3	How are other districts dealing with the impact of COVID on kindergarten and Open Choice enrollment?	<p>Participation in Open Choice is being considered this year in Wilton and for 2023-2024 in New Canaan. Fairfield, Westport and Weston have been strong supporters of the program. Westport and Weston are shifting some of their seats to Norwalk beginning next year to reduce transit time for students.</p> <p>Generally, 2-8 students a year with the exception of Fairfield, who take more students as required for their State required imbalance</p>	BOE																				



		<p>plan.</p> <p>K enrollment is definitely a consideration for districts and managing class sizes is important. Some districts reported higher Kindergarten enrollment. Generally, districts accept students in Kindergarten where they have capacity.</p>	
4	What is the deadline for committing to the number of Open Choice Students that we accept?	<p>Applications Opened in Norwalk Region January 15, 2022</p> <p>April 15, 2022 Requested seat commitment from districts</p> <p>May 15, 2022 Final seat date commitment from districts</p>	BOE
5	How is transportation addressed for after school activities?	The District would need to develop an independent plan or partner with C.E.S. to arrange transportation for after school activities.	BOE
6	Is there a maximum number of students that MMS can handle?	<p>Based on enrollment projections adding 16 open choice students in FY23 would create enrollment of 1,068 in FY29, 1,078 in FY30 and 1,100 in FY31.</p> <p>This is still lower than peak enrollment at the MMS in FY 16 of 1,170.</p>	RTM ED
7	Can C.E.S. attend a Special BOE meeting to answer questions about the program?	C.E.S. will attend the BOE meeting on Monday, January 24th.	BOE
8	Please send out the previous presentation on Open Choice.	<p><a href="#">Previous Open Choice Presentation</a></p> <p>Previous Superintendent Open Choice Testimonies:</p> <p><a href="#">March 9, 2009</a></p> <p><a href="#">February 21, 2017</a></p> <p><a href="#">March 3, 2021</a></p>	BOF
9	What is included in the \$2,240 that we budgeted for Open Choice	The \$2,240 includes funding based on the elementary allocation of resources. This includes textbooks, consumables, paper, classroom	BOE

	students?	reference and periodicals.	
10	How does ECR reimbursement work with Open Choice?	If a student attends an Open Choice School District, the receiving district is the nexus and reports the student for the SEDAC on October 1 for the Federal Child Count. For the Excess Cost Grant they will bill back the sending district, which can then apply for the grant.	BOF
11	Do we share the cost of special education for these students?	Special Education services are billed back to the sending district (Norwalk). Typically, if a student is in need of special education services the Darien SESS department will contact the sending district's SESS department to determine appropriate services. Once agreed, services are then billed to the sending district and reimbursed less the initial \$4,000 (\$3000 plus \$1000 year one bonus) grant.	BOE
12	How are students chosen for this program?	There is a selection process determined and managed by C.E.S.	RTM ED
13	Is there professional development planned for teachers relating to Open Choice?	In addition to the District's current efforts to support teachers with professional learning related to diversity, equity and inclusion, CES offers professional development to support the staff with successful program implementation.	BOE
14	Have we engaged with students and teachers about Open Choice? Especially high school students?	Participating in the program would directly address concerns expressed by current and former students regarding their lack of exposure to diversity in experiences and learning as Darien students. The program is enthusiastically supported by the elementary principals.	RTM ED
15	Can you include a comparison with the ABC program including the rollout of that program?	The ABC Program was established in Darien in 1981 as part of a national non-profit program giving talented minority students the opportunity to attend DHS. The program is application based and successful minority scholars admitted to the program reside in Darien, making those students Darien residents. Eight girls attend DHS through the program.	RTM ED

		<p>The ABC Program was designed to provide Darien students with friendships with students from different backgrounds. Its success reflects positively on Darien’s values and diversity.</p> <p>All funds are privately raised.</p>	
16	Is Darien allowed to raise money to support this program?	Funds can be raised to support these students in the same manner that other fundraising in the District takes place.	RTM ED
17	What are the long-term benefits of Open Choice?	<p>Research cites several benefits of learning in a diverse environment including social-emotional benefits, comfort working with diverse populations, intellectual self-confidence, student leadership, success in the global economy and opportunities for critical thinking, problem solving and creativity. Specifically:</p> <p>Racially and socioeconomically diverse schools offer students important social-emotional benefits by exposing them to peers of different backgrounds. The increased cross-cultural dialogue that results from these interactions are beneficial for civil society.</p> <p>When school settings include students from multiple racial groups, students become more comfortable with people of other races, which leads to a dramatic decrease in discriminatory attitudes and prejudices.</p> <p>Integrated classrooms can improve students’ satisfaction and intellectual self-confidence.</p> <p>Learning in integrated settings can enhance students’ leadership skills.</p> <p>Diverse classrooms prepare students to succeed in a global</p>	BOE



		<p>economy.</p> <p>Integrated classrooms encourage critical thinking, problem solving, and creativity.</p>	
18	How does the Open Choice selection process work?	Norwalk resident students are invited to join the Darien Public Schools if identified in the selection process. Interested families apply for the OCP program through Cooperative Educational Services (C.E.S.). The selection process determines who will fill the predetermined number of available seats indicated by receiving school districts. Each sending school city holds an independent selection process. Not all students who apply are guaranteed a seat in the OCP. Should families choose not to accept the district placement if their child is selected, they may decline the placement, thereby losing their place in the queue. Once students are enrolled they are guaranteed their seat through graduation.	RTM ED
19	What were the meetings and dates that open choice was discussed?	<p>Video recording of Open Choice segment of BOE Meeting <a href="#">November 24, 2020</a></p> <p>Video recording of Open Choice segment of BOE Meeting <a href="#">January 12, 2021</a></p> <p>Video recording of Open Choice segment of BOE Meeting <a href="#">October 26, 2021</a></p>	BOE
20	How many children does Darien send to State funded programs such as, but not limited to, Rogers International in Stamford, AITE or Brien McMahon Center for Global Studies?	<p>4 Students at Center for Global Studies in Norwalk</p> <p>5 Students at Rogers International in Stamford</p> <p>4 Students at AITE in Stamford</p> <p>3 Students at JM Wright Technical School</p>	BOE

21	<p>Do we have room to take in more students now and in the future? Are we at max capacity across the district? Are we maxed out at MMS? Do we expect we could/would be in 6 years when the first class with Open Choice students would be headed to MMS?</p>	<p>MMS is currently projected to be 61 students below its peak enrollment of 1,159 in FY11. We expect to be at 1100 students by the time the proposed open choice students reach 8th grade.</p>	RTM ED
22	<p>Are we confident that our enrollment projections are as accurate as they can be? And do they indicate there is room for OC students to start in K in FY23 and continue through DHS?</p>	<p>In years in which the district has used a demographer the projections have been over 99% accurate, while the years in which the district's in house enrollment model has been used have been 96% accurate.</p>	RTM ED
23	<p>Do our existing enrollment projections factor in all of the new projects in development/under construction in town?</p>	<p>Yes, they factor in the new developments in town.</p>	RTM ED
24	<p>Is it always better to have fewer students in a classroom? Our elementary class size standards identify "low end, optimal and high end", suggesting that 'low' does</p>	<p>Darien's class size guidelines are aligned with best practices in teaching and learning. The introduction of the Open Choice Program to Darien preserves these guidelines and the high-quality instruction that our entire learning community expects. In the context of the guidelines, optimal, by definition, indicates most favorable. For budget purposes, class size is calculated using the high end guidelines.</p>	BOE

	not necessarily mean better. Please explain.		
25	How much will the state provide per student, \$3K or \$4K?	In year one of program implementation the State pays \$3,000 plus a \$1,000 year one bonus per student to Darien. Following the implementation year, the State pays a grant of \$3,000 per student enrolled if the number of Open Choice students is less than 2 percent of the total population of the receiving district; \$4,000 per student enrolled if the number of Open Choice students is greater than or equal to 2 percent but less than 3 percent of the total population of the receiving district; or \$6,000 per student enrolled if the number of Open Choice students is greater than or equal to 3 percent but less than 4 percent of the total population of the receiving district; \$6,000 per student if enrollment is greater than 4,000 students and the number of students in the program increased by 50 percent; and \$8,000 per student enrolled if the number of Open Choice students is greater than or equal to 4 percent of the total student population of the receiving district.	BOE
26	Where does the \$23K per student per year number come from and why can't we assume that the BOE budget will have to increase by: number of OC students X \$23K each year (plus appropriate annual increases)?	<p>The \$23k per student number comes from the state issued NCEP (Net Current Expenditure Per Pupil). It is important to note that not all expenses in your operating budget are included in the NCEP (such as home to school transportation) and expenses not in our budget are included in the NCEP (In-Kind Services from Town, select capital expenditures).</p> <p>The reason we would not have to increase our budget by \$368,000 (16 students at \$23k) is because there are fixed expenses within our NCEP that would not change with the addition of Open Choice students. Items such as utilities, copier contract, out of district tuition, out of district transportation, in-kind services, health insurance are all items that would not change with the addition of Open Choice students. The main cost</p>	BOE



		driver would be if a section is broken and a staff member would have to be hired. We have recommended added Open Choice students where enrollment projections show capacity to add without tipping a section.	
27	How much will it actually cost annually to students in the Open Choice Program?	The amount to educate Open Choice students will vary based on grade level. Based on Darien's budget it would be approximately \$410 per student in Kindergarten for materials and technology.	BOE
28	If we do not fund Open Choice in FY23, where would those funds be redirected? Or, from where have they been taken? In short, is something being taken away to add this?	Nothing is being taken away by adding Open Choice. If the BOE elects not to participate in Open Choice or reduce the recommended amount we would have to reduce the revenue budgeted of \$3,000 per student and reduce the per pupil allocation in the elementary school \$140 per student.	BOE
29	<p>What is the threshold for giving this program a proper chance in year 1?</p> <p>Please confirm: starting from year 1, the OC students would be factored into the ongoing enrollment numbers. Therefore, if year 2 saw more first graders than anticipated at a particular elementary school, we will accept that the unanticipated enrollees broke a section versus the OC</p>	<p>There is no threshold or requirement for program participation. If the program goal is to diversify learning experiences for students in Darien, the number of students participating will contribute to supporting that goal.</p> <p>Ideally, four students per school would allow for the placement across two classes with two Open Choice participants in each class or one student in each of the four classes. This decision will be made by each school as it considers the placement of all students and actual enrollment numbers.</p> <p>Open Choice students will be factored into the ongoing enrollment numbers. Once enrolled students will be considered DPS students and not the cause of breaking sections.</p>	BOE

	students breaking a section.		
30	<p>Will the host schools need support to optimally welcome these students and help them integrate? Who will provide that? How is that funded?</p>	District professional development and our partnership with CES will provide support. District PD is already budgeted to support DEI, this will not add to that.	BOE
31	<p>Will the OC students be able to participate in extracurriculars at school AND in Darien community programs with their peers/classmates (i.e., youth soccer, daisy troops, etc.)? Who will coordinate that? How is that funded?</p>	Yes, participation in after school activities is an important component of the program, partnership and student experience. The Open Choice Liaison will have a role in coordinating these efforts. The District will need to develop a plan for transportation with C.E.S. if that becomes necessary. This may be an added programmatic expense.	BOE
32	<p>Do we believe that ongoing or lasting Covid effects on our schools/kids would make this the wrong time to launch this program? Or might those effects do anything to jeopardize the success of this program?</p> <p>I.e., if kids are still having to spread out at lunch, the teacher/driver shortages continue, are we</p>	The administration believes that there is an opportunity to enhance teaching and learning in our schools through this program. Darien resident and Norwalk resident students benefit from this partnership, with or without Covid. We can manage the number of students proposed as we intentionally do not break sections or unnecessarily tax the system.	BOE

	overtaxing the system?		
33	Please share any relevant info. on successes/experiences/growing pains other districts have faced in implementing Open Choice that could help us prepare.	This <a href="#">video</a> offers program highlights from the perspective of some Hartford Region Open choice participants. Similar to what we've heard from our current students, there are challenges students experience as a result of their differences. However, the challenges are outweighed by the successes and opportunities. Successful districts commit to the program, welcome students and families as their own and make every effort to work together to ensure student success.	BOE
34	Please explain how this can or will provide some diversity in our district.	Norwalk is demographically different from Darien. Welcoming students from a community that is demographically different diversifies our student population.	BOE
35	Are there any concerns that there could be safety risks for the incoming students?	Incoming Norwalk resident students would be part of the same culture and climate that our Darien resident students experience. We continue our work in this area and believe that the diverse background and experience of learners will offer progress in this direction.	BOE
36	Are there any other/similar programs to consider? Are there other ways to provide these same benefits other than Open Choice?	There are no parallel educational programs to Open Choice.	BOE
37	How is this NOT regionalization?	Regionalization is the combining of towns to create a school district that is overseen by a Board with representatives from all towns included in that regional district. It also includes combining central office staff. K-12 regionalization is often promoted with the goal of reducing costs by leveraging economies of scale and eliminating duplication of services.	BOE



		Welcoming a predetermined number of students to Darien will classify those students as DPS students. There is no change in school governance structure as there would be if regionalization was a factor.	
38	How will the Open Choice Liaison be chosen? What will this person do?	This stipended position will be advertised in the same manner as other vacancies in the District. Candidates will be interviewed by the administration. This person will serve as the primary liaison between the District and C.E.S. and the District and the Open Choice Families. The person will identify the potential needs of these students and families and work with the administration to ensure that these needs are met. These needs will include anything from obtaining additional school supplies, supporting families so that they are able to attend after school events and connecting students and families to additional resources that may be available to them.	RTM Education
39	Open Choice Program comment: Although these student costs are “non-break” in next year’s budget, what if they do cause a new section “break” next or the following years....Please provide incremental cost under both break and non-break scenarios. Perhaps this could be presented as a range of costs?	When the district breaks a section the cost would be that of the additional teacher. Typically for a new section we budget at the Master, Step 10 level, which next year would be \$72,807 plus health insurance benefits of \$22,232, payroll taxes of \$1,055 for a total of \$96,094.	RTM Education

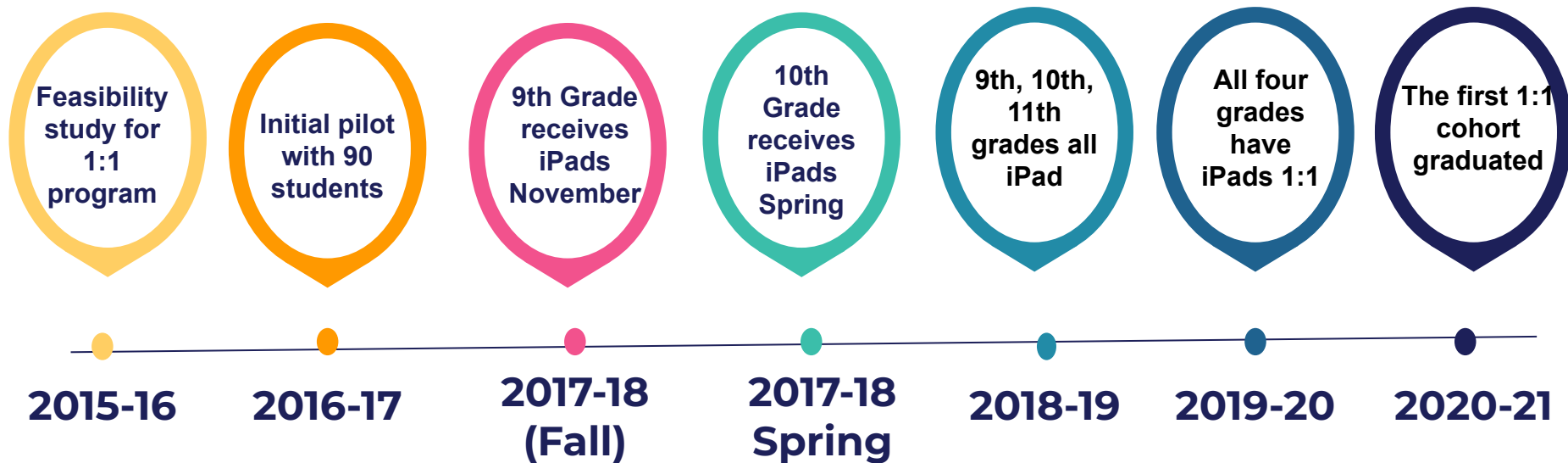


# 1:1 BYOD @ DHS



January 24, 2022

# History of DHS 1:1 iPad Initiative



To date, over 40 teachers have completed the Vanguard training on the Mac Air, iPad Pro and Apple Pencil. By providing this exemplary professional learning experience, the District has developed a strong teacher-led instructional foundation of teaching with the Apple devices.

# Catalysts for Change

- Student Usage
- Staff Feedback
- Integration with Instruction
- Personalization to Learner
- Student Choice in Device
- Developmentally Appropriate
- Allocation of Resources





# Instructional Drivers



- BYOD will provide space to focus on instruction
- Diversity of devices promotes opportunities for innovative teaching practices
- Student choice supports personalization, versatility and creativity with tools students prefer
- Ownership grants a level of comfort and skill leading to increased and more sophisticated usage
- Google Apps have higher functionality with laptops or desktops

# Instructional Model

- Teachers are currently equipped with an iPad Pro & Pencil, desktop computer and an Apple TV.
- Desktops are at the end of life and can no longer be updated.
- Desktops will be replaced with MacAirs to keep all teacher devices in the same ecosystem and support their mobility between classrooms as well as home and school.
- This setup will support continued integration of iPads when carts are used in the classroom.
- Aligns most closely with student preference for device (85% students use Apple devices)



# Transition Roadmap

A winding road with white dashed lines curves from the top left towards the bottom right. Four location pins are placed along the road: a red pin at the top, a blue pin on the left side, an orange pin on the right side, and a green pin at the bottom right. Each pin is associated with a text box of a matching color.

Students register personal device with school network and prepare device with needed applications.

Professional learning offered to teachers to support technology integration over the summer and throughout the school year.

Families with need may work with their school counselor to complete waiver process.

Student iPads collected and recycled or repurposed to carts / ELP / Library / Special Education.

# 1:1 Student Expectations



- ☐ Bring a charged device to school daily
- ☐ Adhere to District policies related to acceptable use
- ☐ Work with school counselor if a device is needed
- ☐ Borrow a device from the library when needed



# Minimum Device Specifications

<i>Minimum requirements:</i>	<b>Chromebook</b>	<b>Windows Laptop</b>	<b>Apple Laptop</b>
<b>Operating System</b>	Chrome OS 92	Windows 10	OS X 10.14
<b>Storage Capacity</b>	32GB	128GB	128GB
<b>Battery Life</b>	8 hour	8 hour	8 hour
<b>Screen Size</b>	11" minimum	11" minimum	11" minimum
<b>Wireless</b>	802.11ac	802.11ac	802.11ac
<b>Security Software</b>	yes	yes	yes
<b>RAM</b>	4GB	8GB	8GB

# Secure Browsers for Testing



Students will use a school-issued device (iPad or computer lab) to complete testing that requires the use of a secure browser.

If a different device is needed for a particular accommodation, the District will provide the device.

# Data Sources

Various data sources informed the decision to move to a BYOD Model. Findings from a December focus group of over 40 teachers and administrators include:

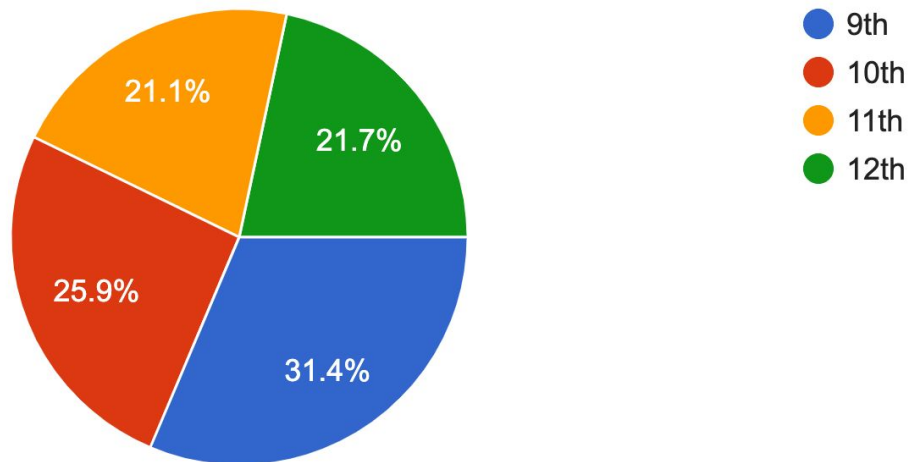
- There is inconsistent use and implementation of the iPad program across content areas and grade levels.
- Technology integration has shifted allowing for different opportunities to access learning.
- Students have become adept to using a device of their choice, partially as a result of the pandemic.
- Many students bring devices with larger screens and faster processors allowing them to access the work on a more powerful device.



# DHS Student Survey Responses

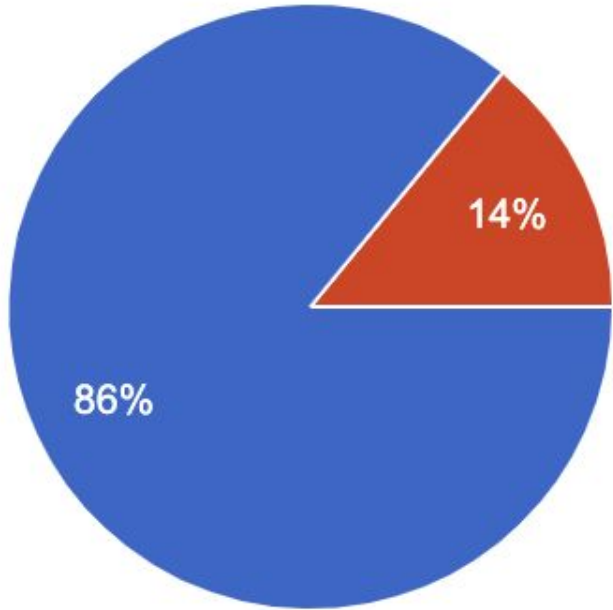
Current Grade:

928 responses



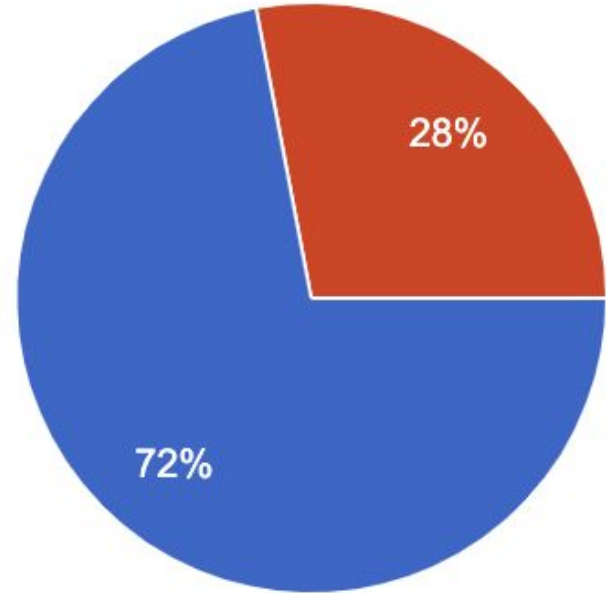


# DHS Student Survey Responses



Do you have a personal device other than your iPad and phone?  
(928 Responses)

● Yes  
● No



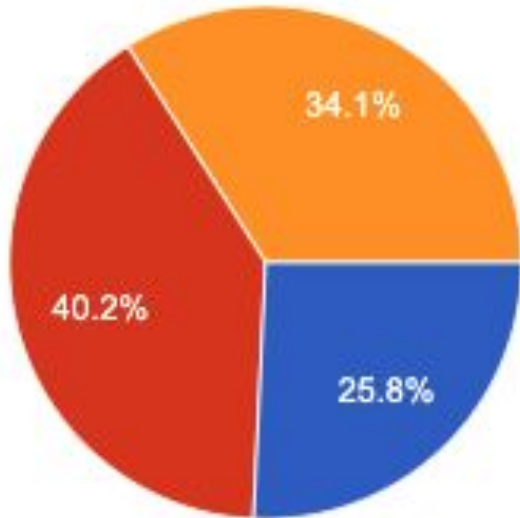
If yes, do you bring this other device to school? (854 Responses)

# Device Choice Responses by Grade Level

Grade & # of Respondents	Do you have a personal device other than your iPad and phone?		If YES, do you bring this other device to school?	
	YES	NO	YES	NO
<b>9TH</b>	<b>251</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>81</b>
291	86%	14%	75%	25%
<b>10TH</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>82</b>
239	83%	17%	67%	33%
<b>11TH</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>38</b>
196	88%	12%	83%	17%
<b>12TH</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>64</b>
201	87%	13%	86%	14%

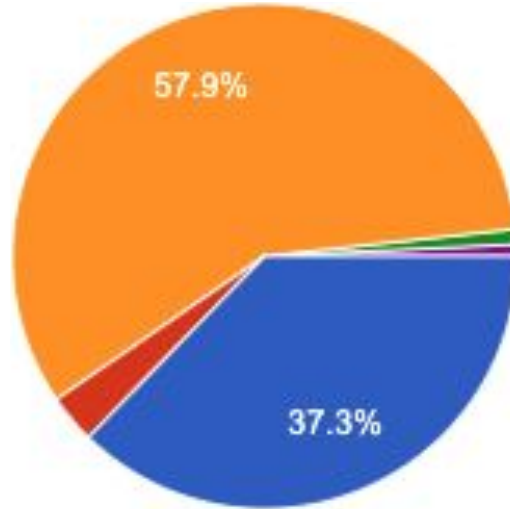
# DHS Student Survey Responses

I need to use my school issued iPad for learning in:



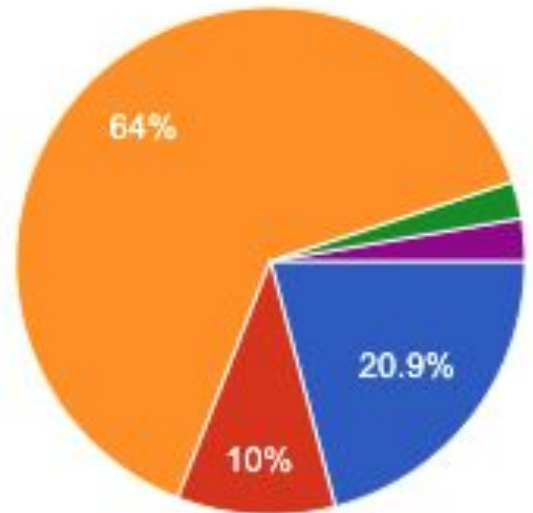
- All of my classes
- Some of my classes
- None of my classes

What device do you use most often at **school** to participate in classes?



- School issued iPad
- PC Laptop
- Mac Laptop

What device do you use most often at **home** to complete school-related work?

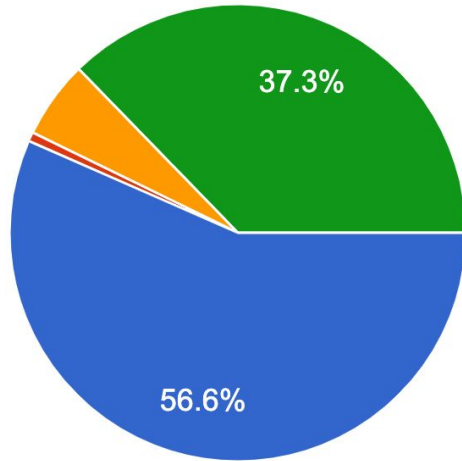


- Mac Laptop
- Chromebook
- Other Tablet or Device

# DHS Student Survey Responses

My school-issued iPad is mostly used for:

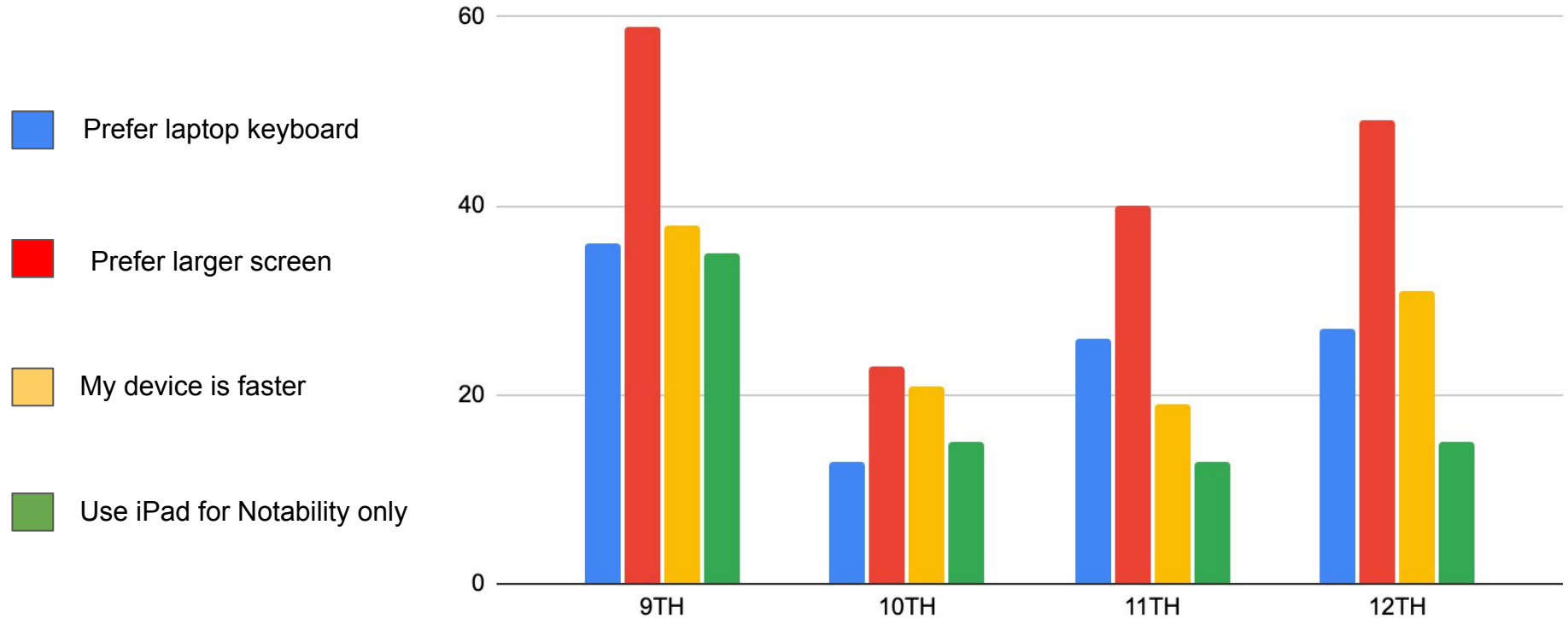
928 responses



- School work
- Personal use
- Equally for both school and personal use
- Neither, I rarely/never use my school issued iPad



# Reasons why I have another device:



# Discussion



**FY 23 Questions - Bring Your Own Device**  
**January 08, 2022**

#	Question	Response	Source
<b>RC 15 Technology</b>			
1	Could we consider an opt in model for the devices at the high school?	An opt in/out model is not preferred by the Administration. After speaking to our peer districts, this is not a model that is implemented in those districts and that it is an expectation that all students bring a device. All students will be provided a device if they do not have one. Those who are unable to purchase a device due to financial reasons will receive a school-issued device, as will students who refuse to participate in the BYOD program. If students forget to bring a device to school they may borrow a device for the day.	BOE
2	Can we have data about who brings their own devices?	In a recent survey of Darien High School students, 86% of the 928 respondents reported that they have a device other than an iPad and phone and of that group, 72% bring this additional device to school.	BOE
3	Can you do a survey about who would bring their own device? Who would opt out of using an iPad? Would they opt out for all four years?	We recently surveyed the Darien High School students about their device usage. When asked, "What device do you use most often at school to participate in class?", the 928 respondents (fairly equally distributed across grade levels), responded as follows: 58% use their Mac laptops, 37% use their school-issued iPads and the remaining roughly 5% use a variety of PC laptops or Chromebooks.	BOE
4	Can we look into ways to help parents if they are	We have applied to have a DPS Apple store with two choices (basic and upgraded) with an educational discount and we are in the process of doing	BOE

	required to buy devices? Do we have any buying power?	the same on the PC side.	
5	Can you describe how the BYOD program would be implemented?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• End of 21-22 school year students turn in iPads</li> <li>• The DHS iPads will then be distributed as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A small number of iPads will be diverted to ELP and to the DHS library (as loaner devices)</li> <li>○ Some iPads will be housed in carts at DHS for testing and for classroom use</li> <li>○ Some iPads will be recycled</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Professional learning will be provided to faculty to transition to new instructional model over the summer</li> <li>• Students returning to school for the 22-23 school year will be instructed how to configure their device for use on the DHS network</li> <li>• Applications will be available for any student needing a device (either because of financial need or other reason)</li> <li>• Continued PD will be targeted to best practices centered on enhancing teaching and learning with technology</li> </ul>	BOE
6	Has Joan McGettigan changed her mind about iPads at the high school?	The administrative team is in support of the BYOD program as presented to the Board.	RTM Education
7	Will we revise the tech plan to reflect a new BYOD policy?	Yes, the tech plan will be revised to accurately reflect our 1:1 model.	CDSP
8	Will an equity audit	All students will have access to a device whether or not it is provided by	BOE

	address a new BYOD policy?	the school. Therefore, a close examination of a BYOD program would not be part of an equity audit.	
9	How often will we need to replace the iPads on carts that we will use for testing or for students who don't bring a device?	If the plan is implemented as presented we will determine replacement needs based on device usage with signed out carts. When that data is available an accurate response can be provided.	RTM F&B
10	What liability do we have when it is not our device?	All devices conform to the District's acceptable use policy.	BOE
11	Can we provide a minimum specification for devices?	<a href="#"><u>Min Specifications</u></a>	BOE
12	How will we handle testing?	Students will be provided with a school-issued device (iPad or computer lab access) to complete state testing that requires a secure browser.	BOE
13	What price do you expect to receive when you liquidate the iPads and, if you are selling them, would you allow families the ability to purchase them?	Each device is graded by a recycling company for the condition it is in and assigned a value. They typically range from \$40 to \$75 per device.	BOF
14	Is this being proposed as a cost-saving measure?	While this transition will result in cost savings, the main drivers are student usage and integration with instruction. BYOD will allow us to focus more on instruction.	BOE



15	What is the threshold for providing a device to a student? Free/reduced lunch? Some other metric?	If a student qualifies for an economic hardship as determined by the school's guidance counselor, and school administration.	BOE
16	If we decide to go with an opt in/out approach, how do we estimate demand and budget accordingly?	Logistically an opt in/out model is not preferred by Administration. All students will be provided a device if there is need. Those who are unable to purchase a device due to financial reasons will receive a school-issued device, as will students who decline to participate in the BYOD program. If students forget to bring a device to school, they may borrow a device for the day.	BOE

**Those members of the community wishing to view only, should do so through the Darien Youtube link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUnnvYKBFbFrTWQRuoB6OZA>**

**In order to reduce audio interference, members of the community are requested not to simultaneously view by Youtube while participating on Zoom.**