



Rationale

Why are we doing this?

We believe that technology, and iPads in particular, have the potential to greatly increase the learning capacity of students. Based on research and successfully implemented programs from around the world, technology has the capacity to:

- Enable personalisation of student learning through access to rich learning resources. Facilitate the development of knowledge and skills necessary for the 21st century including digital literacy, innovative and creative thinking, effective communication and high productivity.
- Allow continuous access to educational materials allowing learning to happen anywhere, anytime
- Provide an engaging, interactive environment for learning.
- Strengthen links between home and school, allowing parents to see, every day, what their children are learning at school and have relevant, timely, accurate and quality conversations around student learning and progress.
- Allows students the opportunity to display prior knowledge of topics and thus be co-constructive in their own learning journey.

iPads in particular, give students:

- Access to knowledge and information through a range of content and apps to support student learning.
- Access to media including digital stories, images and videos.
- Increased productivity due to quicker loading times compared to PCs.
- The iPads operating system is reliable and works well within the EQ environment.
- Ability to personalise learning and provide targeted work to individuals.
- Provides maximum up-time.
- High engagement factor.

National and International research has shown that schools that employ a BYO program enjoy many benefits. These include:

- better student learning outcomes
- the maturing of students as digital citizens who embrace digital opportunities and responsibilities
- the normalising of technology use between the school and home
- greater autonomy in the classroom
- enhanced student motivation and engagement
- increased student comfort and confidence
- enhanced engagement with learning because students are familiar with their devices
- greater opportunity for inter-school collaboration.

(Alberta Government, 2012; Lee, Levins, Hubbard, & Freedman, 2013; Ministerial Council on Education, Employment, Training and Youth Affairs, 2008; Nielsen, 2013; Wainwright, 2013; Sweeney, & Intelligent Business Research Services Ltd., 2012).