What is BYOD?

An acronym for "bring your own device," BYOD is a type of blended learning program that utilizes students' own devices in the classroom. BYOD devices can be anything from a laptop to a Nintendo DS® and everything in between.

Why Try BYOD?

- Minimize budget impact on the district
- Encourage any time, anywhere learning with devices that go with the student
- Empower students with the choice of their device
- Personalize learning
- Offer a more efficient alternative to outdated school technology
- Promote student-to-student and parent-to-student collaboration
- Increase student engagement
- Encourage shy students within the context of a collaborative learning platform
- Teach students responsibility by allotting time to use devices
- Prepare students for their next step: higher education or the workforce
- Limit drain of IT resources through individual troubleshooting

Challenges of BYOD

- Digital equity among students
- Teacher management of devices in the classroom
- Setting up networking infrastructure
- Variety of devices for IT troubleshooting
- Network safety

The Lightspeed Systems Solution

With the Lightspeed Systems LMS (My Big Campus), MDM, and our content filter, you can have a complete solution for safe, mobile, collaborative learning that will make your BYOD program an innovative resource in the classroom. Our Dual-bridge Rocket allows your network to be safe for school-supplied and student-owned devices with policy settings for both. Assign quizzes that students can access immediately, encourage safe online discussions, and more with My Big Campus. However you choose to use BYOD in your class, our 3-in-1 solution will make it a success.

Together we do amazing things.

Top Tips for BYOD

1. Cover the whys.

What makes BYOD a good fit for your district? You'll need to think through the options and outline the benefits.

2. Get buy-in.

You'll need a solid, written plan to get approval from your board and buy-in from parents and teachers.

3. Determine the devices.

Determine what you will allow on campus, including whether you'll only allow devices with Wi-Fi connectivity or also those with 3G connectivity.

4. Update all AUPs.

Set and share policies for what, when, and how students can use their own devices on campus, and determine how you'll enforce them.

5. Plan your IT support protocols.

Determine what IT will and won't do on personal devices, and what hours IT support will be available.

6. Educate teachers.

Give them basic advice to support lessons across multiple platforms.

7. Address equity.

What will you do about students who don't have a device? Make supplemental devices part of your plan.

8. Prepare your network.

Get your wireless infrastructure ready for BYOD demands, determine how you will secure your primary network, force personally owned devices onto a separate LAN, and provide filtered access through the LAN.

9. Provide a platform.

BYOD encourages any time, anywhere, any device learning—so make sure you have a platform compatible with any device that students and teacher can access for schoolwork, discussions, resources, assignments, and more.

10. Be prepared, but flexible.

BYOD is a big change for many districts. Prepare yourself by reading and listening to districts who have done it—but also be flexible and ready to adapt to unexpected surprises (good and bad).