

South Hadley Schools

Chromebook Program

South Hadley IT Department



CHROMEBOOK PROGRAM SUMMARY

Overview

During COVID the Federal Government released money, in the form of grants, to help K-12 Districts purchase Chromebook for at home learning. Since then, our district has been responsible for their upkeep and now that the equipment is beyond repairs due to damage or just simply the age of the machines. We are now at a point where a decision needs to be made on the future of the one-to-one program.

Benefits

Chromebooks in education offer several advantages, making them a valuable tool for students and staff. They are cost-effective, lightweight, and easy to use, providing access to a wide range of educational apps and resources. Their cloud-based nature allows for seamless collaboration, real-time updates, and easy storage, ensuring that students can access their work from any device. Chromebooks help promote digital literacy and help prepare students for future careers that will almost certainly utilize technology in some way, shape or form.

PROBLEM

SOLUTION

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- Due to the current state of our budget and the lack of Federal Funding we are struggling with keeping aged Chromebooks in working condition.
 - Our current fleet started with 2000 devices and are now over 5 years old. The hardware in these devices is at a point where they can barely handle the applications currently being used on a daily basis at the high school and middle school levels.
 - Between lost, stolen, or damaged beyond repair approximately 20% of the fleet is no longer usable.
 - Due to this program being a first in our district, policies and procedures were introduced that served their time but have aged and now need updating.
- Change the dynamics of the program to update the Chromebooks in the schools with high usage (SHHS, MESMS). This will cut the number of devices needing replacement from 2000 to 1200.
 - The current devices will continue to get updates from Google until 2029 giving us time to continue to bolster the other schools (Mosier and H.J. Skala School) and since the students don't remove them from school their damage/loss rates are a lot lower.
 - Current policies need to be updated and clarified to the community based on situations that have come up over the course of the initial program.

Current Program

2000 Qty – HP Chromebook 11A G8 EE Google Support end date: June 2029

1:1 initiative to place one Chromebook in the hands of every student. Cases were distributed with each Chromebook and each were assigned to a specific student for the duration of one school year at a time. Each student was allowed to take the Chromebook home for at home learning. When students returned to school they brought their Chromebook back and forth from home to school. We ran into an issue where we were getting repair requests at a rate where we couldn't keep up with the demand. We moved to only the High School and Middle School taking the devices home which reduced the amount of damages although damage rates still remain high at MESMS.

Insurance was offered to help reduce the overall cost of the devices as well as help the community with damaged machines. An invoicing system was created to help manage the damages and keep track of what our current costs are for repairs owed to the district. Invoices are sent out on the initial report of damage and are sent out monthly until payment is received. The current policies surrounding Chromebooks do not clearly define the district's stance on how nonpayment of damages gets enforced.

New Program Proposal

1200 Qty – Acer Chromebook 511 C736 Google Support end date: June 2033

- Purchase 1200 new devices for High School and Middle School. This will cover each current student (~1000) as well as any new student enrollments at the High School or Middle School not exceeding 200 over a 4 year period.
- Any student who has a new Chromebook out for repair will be provided 1 HP (old Chromebook) and will be responsible for any damage to that loaned device while in their possession.
- Mosier will retain the HP Chromebook due to Google extending the support period through 2029. The technology usage is much lower and the hardware is adequate for their needs. They will be assessed each summer and any repairs needed will be done as needed.
- H.J. Skala School had Lenovo 300e's purchased in the 2022-2023 School year and end of support is June 2029.
- A yearly usage, take home, or optional insurance will be required for each student to cover the cost of damages beyond the ADP.

Vendor Proposal

With the help of Ockers Technologies (Ockers) we have put together pricing options for the new program for considerations.

Hardware		*Contains Optional Items			
OPTION - 1					
<u>Description</u>	<u>Price</u>	<u>Qty</u>	<u>Ext. Price</u>		
Acer Chromebook 511 C736	\$297.77	1200	\$357,324.00		
Chrome OS MGMT LIC	\$33.74	1200	\$40,488.00		
*Acer 3yr Extension + 4 Year ADP	\$99.02	1200	\$118,824.00		
ADP Covers up to the value of the system					
Total Cost				\$516,636.00	
OPTION 2					
<u>Description</u>	<u>Price</u>	<u>Qty</u>	<u>Ext. Price</u>		
Acer Chromebook 511 C737	319.69	1200	\$383,628.00		
Chrome OS MGMT LIC	\$33.74	1200	\$40,488.00		
*Acer 3yr Extension + 4 Year ADP	\$99.02	1200	\$118,824.00		
ADP Covers up to the value of the system					
Total Cost				\$542,940.00	

SHPS Requested Option

After meeting with Acer and having time to handle the C736 (due to the C737 not being produced at the time) we feel that the cost difference does not justify the differences in the products. The key difference is the C737 provides an LTE chip in it enabling the device to connect to cellular networks, which would be an additional cost due to the need of a data plan. Both are rugged and MIL-STD 810H certified.

Product Description-Attached to the end of the document

Lease vs Buyout

Due to the difference between the lease and the buyout options we would like to buy these devices outright. We tentatively estimate a savings of \$42,500 over the life of the 4 year lease option. In addition, if we choose to buy them outright we are not locked into a lease contract and can push out their usage past 4 years. This will allow us to distribute them into the Elementary schools and looking to replace the Chromebook at the high school and middle school at that time.

Conclusion

This new program will benefit the students overall learning and enhance their abilities with the ever-changing technology. We welcome any further discussions that arise and look forward to the future of the Chromebook Program at South Hadley Schools.



Acer Chromebook 511 C736

Portable & Classroom Ready



The Acer Chromebook 511 is our latest 11" Chromebook for education. Students will be ready to achieve more at school with its optional 11.6-inch IPS display, serviceable keyboard, and webcam with privacy shutter.

Futureproof Processing

Enjoy a long battery life and responsive software with the latest Intel[®] processor. The extra performance and advanced Intel Wi-Fi 6E ensure classroom projects run smoothly and consistently.



Rugged Durability

This rugged Chromebook features MIL-STD-810H certification⁴, widened brackets, a shock-absorbent bumperto protect from drops as high as 122cm, and a spill-resistant keyboard that protects components from up to 330ml of liquid.



February 2025

Serviceable Keyboard Design

This serviceable keyboard design with mechanically anchored keys protects from accidental key removal while also allowing quick keyboard replacement with the removal of just two screws.



Powering Your Studies

12 hours¹ of battery life goes a long way. With just a single charge, the powerful, long-lasting battery gets you through a full day's worth of learning without needing your power adapter.