

Device Evaluation

Our Apple leases and repairs are expensive to sustain so the district started the examination of alternative device solutions that would still support our staff and student technology needs. The process started by taking a look at different devices, such as Chromebooks, Windows devices and iPads.

The iPad checked most of the “needed features” boxes. We began researching to see if it could be a fit for our district’s needs at the high-school level. Upon digging into iPad use, we found that other school districts in surrounding states had already made the switch and some additional ones in Kansas were doing exactly what we are doing.

To further evaluate the possibility of iPad devices, a representative group from KCK, DeSoto, and Spring Hill visited Nebraska districts that adopted the iPad for K-12 use. Those districts are Omaha, Westside, and Bellevue public schools, representing 75,000 students. These districts have been using the iPad for two years, and their data has shown that the iPad works in most areas without issues. Since all state testing and most of our curriculum are web-based, any device is feasible.

When Logitech produced a keyboard that fits adult hands, but also has a mouse trackpad, this change enabled us to look at the iPad for the secondary level. This is a game-changer when it comes to the iPad competing with the MacBook.

To dive deeper into the iPad evaluation, we purchased 80 devices, and in October, set up pilots in both high schools with students and staff. Areas that we are evaluating:

- Education in the classroom and software.
- Budget and the ability to sustain the yearly lease costs.
- Repair costs.

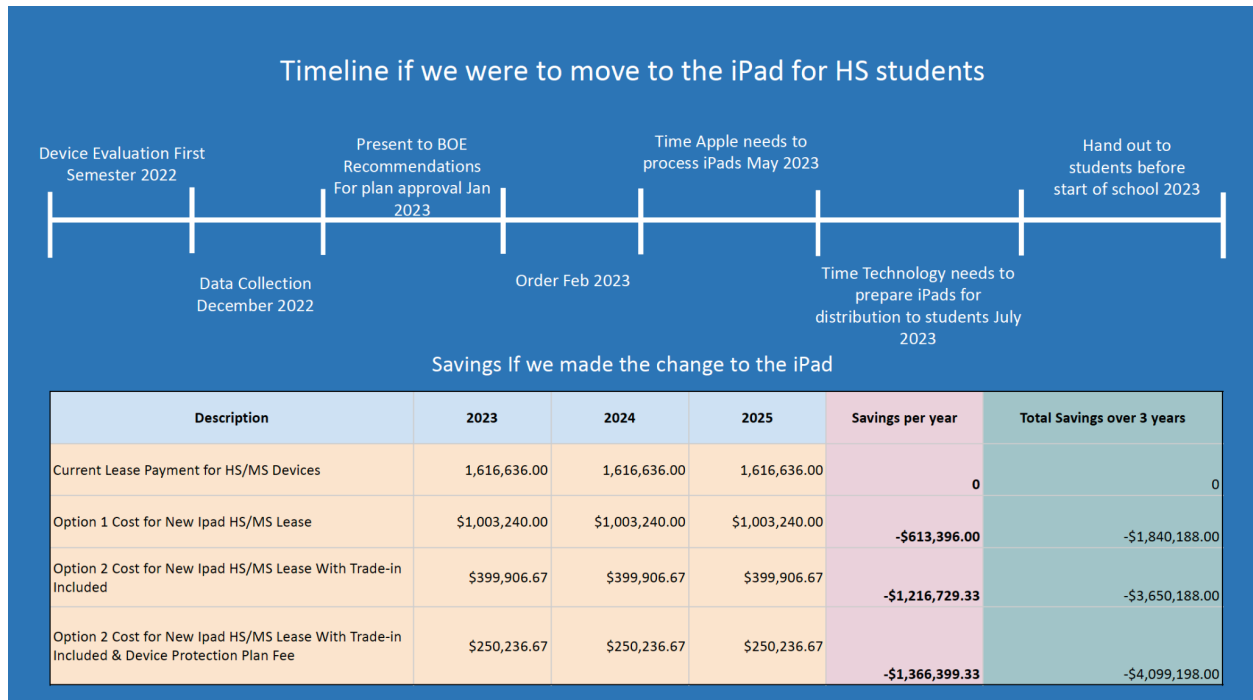
We plan to collect the devices at semester and review data from the users as part of the evaluation process.

The first MacBook lease the district had was for our staff and high school student devices. The initial payment was just under \$500,000 annually. When we refreshed the lease, it jumped to a little over \$1 million a year. This really placed us in a cycle that will be difficult to sustain moving forward.

In addition, we have encountered an enormous increase in the amount of repair issues with the most recent lease. Most of these repairs are due to screen breakages, which are the most costly repairs on a MacBook.

Last year the district had more than \$250,000 in repair costs on the MacBooks. We are currently repairing around 20-25 broken screens each week and have done so since we entered the lease 18 months ago. The initial lease repair cost us around \$30,000 annually.

I have added the chart below that shows the potential cost savings if the district moved to the iPad with trade-in value included.



My recommendation is that we utilize a three-year lease instead of a four-year lease for the purpose of value in return on our investment. This also enables our students to have newer technology through their school years. If we leased iPads for three years and returned them as trade-ins, we would see a potential savings of \$4 million over three years. If we entered a 4-year lease, we would receive close to \$700,000 less trade-in value. We will also see nearly non-existent repair expenses, because the iPads include AppleCare Plus, which takes care of repairs like an insurance policy.

Technology is changing faster today than it ever has. Sometimes when we enter into long-term lease agreements, we can put ourselves in a situation of having technology that does not keep up with the current software that's available.



High School Device Evaluation

Past to Present

- Annual technology review
- Review utilization of our resources
- 1:1 Devices in 2016-2017

Currently, 11,311 student devices:

- 3,712 MacBooks (HS)
- 650 Windows devices (LVS)
- 2,377 iPads (MS)
- 4,572 iPads (EL)



Technology Leases

- **INFRASTRUCTURE: \$430,670**
 - (Lease and Technology Refresh Spring 2024)
- **ELEMENTARY DEVICES: \$507,297**
 - (Lease Device Refresh Spring 2024)
- **STAFF DEVICES: \$500,000**
 - (Not renewed in Spring 2022; Reallocated to fiber network project.)
- **MS DEVICES: \$549,348**
 - (Looking at Refreshing Spring 2023)
- **HS DEVICES: \$1,067,288**
 - (Looking at Refreshing Spring 2023)
- **TOTAL TECHNOLOGY LEASES: \$3,054,603 annually.**



Repair Cost Year to Date Last 5 Years

2018-2019 - \$12,975.10

2019-2020 - \$16,575.00

2020-2021 - \$16,834.67

2021-2022 - \$69,509.67 (Apple repair credits: \$300,000)
for a total of \$369,509.76.

2022-2023 - \$78,961.03 (\$120,000.00 encumbered;
\$41,038.97 left for remainder of year. Anticipate needing
another \$75,000 for all repairs by end of June.)
PROJECTING: \$195,000.



Evaluation

- Challenge to financially sustain status quo.
- Examined different student devices.
- IT Dept. evaluated devices for adaptability to our environment, potential cost savings, and durability.
- Evaluated Windows, Chromebooks, and iPads.
- The iPad came out on top in all three areas and is the closest device to our current technology to ease transition.



School Visits & Research

- Students adapt regardless of device.
- Education is happening; devices are tools.
- Other Districts looking to change devices.
 - Spring Hill, KCK, Shawnee Mission, and De Soto visits.
 - All currently using MacBooks but looking at different devices to reduce costs.



Research

- Districts Using HS iPads / Colleges Using iPads
 - Omaha (55,000 Students) Year 3 for iPads
 - Westside (12,000 Students) Year 3 for iPads
 - Bellevue (15,000 Students) Year 3 for iPads
 - Shawnee Heights (4,500 Students) Year 6 for iPads
 - Atchison (1,700 Students) Year 11 for iPads (no keyboards)
 - KU School of Pharmacy (Requires iPads)
 - Goodland (Using iPads)
 - Garden City (8,000 Students) Year 10 of iPads
 - Liberty, MO (Using iPads)
 - Northwest Kansas Technical College (Using iPads for all Colleges)
- Districts looking at moving to using iPads
 - KCK (18 months out)
 - Spring Hill (Looking for the fall)
- [Apple Case Study of Schools Using iPads](#) (link)



Pilot Program

- October-December
- Both HS: 30 iPads each
- Administrators chose pilot classrooms (Math/English)
- Pre-Meeting with each class.
- Encouraged iPad use. Students also kept MacBooks.
- Math: Advantages of touchscreen, and ability to draw, write, chart math problems, and present to class.
- English: General unwillingness to try iPads; Want to keep their MacBooks.
- Student and staff feedback varied: Love it, like it, don't like it, or don't want to change.
- No feedback that iPads would not work, except from teachers of specialized classes.



Plan for Specialized Classrooms

Goal = Continue to operate as they do while thinking differently.

May be differences between buildings/classrooms based on needs.

- Computer Apps - Combination of iMac and MacBooks.
- Coding - iPads, unless MacBooks needed.
- Journalism - Combination of iMac and MacBooks.
- Video - Combination of iMac and MacBooks.
- Photography - Combination of iMac and MacBooks.
- Computer-Aided Drafting (CAD) - They use Windows. Upgrade needed (Capital/CTE Funds).
- Science - iPads, access to MacBooks for some activities, such as probes and experiments.
- Debate - One HS uses MacBooks; other HS uses Windows.



Budget

- Thinking differently, evaluating devices, and maximizing technology budget with same or better results.

Description	2023	2024	2025	Savings per year	Total Savings over 3 years
Current Lease Payment for HS/MS Devices	1,616,636.00	1,616,636.00	1,616,636.00	0	0
New Ipad HS/MS Lease With Trade-in Included & Device Protection Plan Fee	\$311,935.17	\$311,935.17	\$311,935.17	-\$1,304,700.83	-\$3,914,102.50

- Included in the \$311,935.17 cost: iPads, cases with keyboards and trackpads, Pens, and Apple Care Plus Protection.
- Totals above do NOT include General Fund savings in repairs of approx. \$200,000-\$250,000 annually.



Timeline for Fall Device Distribution

- Technology hardware orders require more lead time. Must order in Feb. for Fall distribution.

Timeline if we were to move to the iPad for HS students

