“Change, Change Change”

B.Y.O.T. and Assistive Technology

Chris Swaim, Assistive Technology Facilitator
Forsyth County School System
Cumming, Georgia
Ch...Ch...Changes......

Transform  Evolve  Shift

Turn  Adjust  Modify
Quotes about Change

- “The only thing that never changes is that everything changes.” Louis L’Amour

- “The only lasting truth is change.” Octavia E. Butler

- “Those who cannot change their minds cannot change anything.” George Barnard Shaw
Cases Against Change

“Students today depend on paper too much. They don’t know how to write on slate without getting chalk dust all over themselves. They can’t clean a slate properly. What will they do when they run out of paper?”

- Principals Association, 1815

Adapted from “The Case Against Assistive Technology” by Don Johnston, Inc.
Cases Against Change

“Students today depend on store bought ink. They don’t know how to make their own”
  - The Rural American Teacher, 1929

“Ball point pens will be the ruin of American education”
  - Federal Teacher, 1950

Adapted from “The Case Against Assistive Technology” by Don Johnston, Inc.
Cases Against Change

“Until technology is reliable and cheaper, teachers should stick to paper assignments and the classroom should not spill over onto computers.”

- High School Journalism class, 2008

Adapted from “The Case Against Assistive Technology” by Don Johnston, Inc.
Ch-Ch-Changes……
Ch-Ch-Changes......

58% of children aged 2-5 know how to play a “basic” computer game.

More small children can open a web browser (25%) than swim unaided (20%).

Two thirds of young children are proficient with a computer mouse.

Twice as many kids aged 2-5 can play with a Smartphone application as tie their shoelaces.

More 2-3 year olds can play a computer game than ride a bike.
What is B.Y.O.T?

- **Bring Your Own Technology** is a practice which encourages students to bring their personal technology tools to school for learning.

- Shouldn’t we have students use what they are already using everyday and allow it to become a part of our educational system?
Top Tablets Sold in 2013

- Apple iPad  70.4 million sold
- Samsung Galaxy  37.4 million sold
- Amazon Kindle  6 million sold
- Microsoft Surface  4 million sold
- Google Nexus 7  3.1 million sold
- Barnes and Noble Nook  1 million

BYOT is not *all* about the devices......
It’s about engaging students

*Our students are “digital natives” and adapt to changing technologies faster than their parents and teachers.*

(Marc Prensky)
What is a Digital Native?

Today’s students represent the first generations to grow up with this new technology. They have spent their entire lives surrounded by and using computers, videogames, digital music players, video cams, cell phones, and all the other toys and tools of the digital age.

“Our students today are all “native” speakers of the digital language of computers, video games and the internet.”

Marc Prensky
So What are We?

“Those of us who were not born into the digital world but have, at some later point in our lives, become fascinated by and adopted many or most aspects of the new technology are, and always will be, compared to them, Digital Immigrants.”

Marc Prensky
Initial B.Y.O.T. pilot began in 2010 with 40 teachers in 7 schools. 100% of schools now participate in the program.

Every school has a guest "BYOT" wireless access point that provides filtered Internet access.

FCS provides each school with an instructional technology specialist and a media specialist who are both high-quality educators and experts in the integration of technology in the classroom to facilitate learning experiences in BYOT
Ch-Ch-Changes...

- Teachers are more facilitators in the learning process rather than lecturers.

- Students experience the freedom of using their own technology to assist in their learning every day at school.

- Students learn new ways to use their devices for collaborating and interacting with their teachers and each other to research information, solve complex problems, create original products, and publish their work.
September 1, 2011

Dear Parents:

As new technologies continue to change the world in which we live, they also provide many new and positive educational benefits for classroom instruction. To encourage this growth, students may now bring their own technology to school. This Bring Your Own Technology (BYOT) initiative is designed to see how our students will leverage their own technological tools for learning during the day.

Definition of “Technology”
For purposes of BYOT, “Technology” means privately owned wireless and/or portable electronic hand-held equipment that includes, but is not limited to, mobile communication systems and various smart technologies.
BYOT Agreement Points

- The use of personal technology to provide educational material is **not** a necessity but a privilege.

- Students and parents/guardians participating in B.Y.O.T. must adhere to the Student Code of Conduct, as well as all Board policies, particularly Internet Acceptable Use (Policy IFBG) and Internet Safety (Policy IFBGE).
BYOT Agreement Points

- Responsibility to keep the device secure rests with the individual owner. **FCS is not liable** for any device stolen or damaged on campus.

- If a device is stolen or damaged, it will be handled through the administrative office similar to other personal artifacts that are impacted in similar situations.
BYOT Agreement Points

- May **not be used to record, transmit or post photographic images or video of a person, or persons** on campus during school activities and/or hours.

- May only be used to accesses files on computer or internet sites which are relevant to the classroom curriculum. **Games are not permitted.**

- Printing from personal devices **will not** be possible at school.

- Personal technology is charged prior to bringing it to school and **runs off its own battery** while at school.
B.Y.O.T for Students with Disabilities?

- Special Education students will follow the same guidelines as General Education students
- Parents and students sign the form
- Special Education students whose disability prevents them from signing the form are not required to sign
Ch-Ch-Ch- Change...... Is BYOT Friend or Foe?

Bring Your Own Technology  Traditional AT Tools
Assistive Technology Policies and Procedures

GPAT, WATI, and the SETT framework
The AT Consideration Process

- Review present levels of performance and evaluation data
- Identify tasks necessary to accomplish goals
- Determine which tasks are difficult for the student at this time
- Consider what accommodations/assistive technology is already in place
- Identify AT supports and services that may allow the student to progress on IEP goals
The AT Consideration Process

- Various trials of technology used to support the student’s ability to access the curriculum or “show what they know” should be documented in the AT Consideration Process.

- If the technology proves effective, then it must be documented into the IEP and listed in the Special Consideration Factors area.

- Documentation of AT is an IEP team decision.
AT in the IEP

- AT documented in the IEP becomes the responsibility of the School System (following the completion of the AT Consideration Process and a trial period)

- This would not be considered B.Y.O.T.
B.Y.O.T. in the IEP?

- Bring your own technology is a personal choice made by the student or the family.

- B.Y.O.T. devices are NOT documented into the IEP

- A general statement that the student prefers to use a B.Y.O.T. device may be included in the present levels or in the Consideration of Special Factors section.
“Johnny benefits from the use of advanced screen reading software and digital text to support academic success. However he chooses to bring a personal device to support his needs.”
What do students say about B.Y.O.T?
Meet Payton
Meet Morgan
Meet Ashley
Meet Hannah
Is it A.T. or B.Y.O.T?
Example:

- R. is a middle school student who has spelling and written expression difficulties.
- The IEP team trialed and recommended the use of a word processor, with phonetic spelling software (Co:Writer) and talking word processor software (Write:OutLoud).
- The parent bought a Netbook type laptop and sent it to school with the student.
Example:

- Carol is a physically challenged student whose IEP lists the following AT solutions:
  - Kurzweil
  - Accessible Instructional Materials (electronic texts)

- Carol’s parents sent in an iPad with various apps that provide similar access
Example:

- Will is an autistic student with reading and writing difficulties. He receives reading and writing support in a Resource classroom.
- He has access to Co:Writer, WriteOut:Loud and Kurzweil.
- His parents have asked the school to provide an iPad for him to do reading and writing work.
B.Y.O.T and AAC Devices

- The AT Consideration Process helps determine the appropriate communication system for a particular student. This may include an AAC Consult as well.

- The school system is responsible for ensuring access to the communication system deemed appropriate for the student, using this process.

- Our goal is to provide a communication system that promotes the student’s ability to improve communication skills.
B.Y.O.T. and AAC Devices

- There are instances when a private therapist recommends and orders a device for the student without our input and even sometimes without our knowledge.

- The AAC Device recommended by the school team using the consideration process continues to be our recommendation.

- The teachers and staff support the student’s use of the family device in a good faith effort to support the family and student.
Example

- Ron is a non-verbal student with Autism whose parents have purchased an iPad with Proloquo2Go. (The school team felt the app was not the best choice)
- The parents want the school to use it as the preferred communication device
- The school team/SLP followed the consideration process and decided the GO Talk 9 was the appropriate communication device
- What would you do?
Example

- Sally has a Dynavox communication device procured by her private therapist.
- The school AAC team using the consideration process deemed a 32 message communicator was the appropriate device.
- If Sally brings the Dynavox to school is this a B.Y.O.T. device?
Impacts of BYOT on AT

- Students needing assistive technology no longer stand out as much, and feel more confident to use their technology around others.

- Students are showing off their assistive technology to their peers, who sometimes end up using it too, if it fits with their learning style.

- Students are showing teachers how to use their personal devices, taking a leadership role.

- Reduction of AT funds spent on laptops, etc.
Impacts of BYOT on AT

- Teachers are amazed at what their students can do with technology!
Points to Remember

- Assistive Technology is based upon student specific abilities and needs and documented into the IEP only when proven to be effective.

- Follow the AT Consideration Process for determining the solution that meets the student’s needs.

- Are there tools currently in place that provide the student access to the curriculum and meet his/her needs?
Conclusion

- Sometimes these are difficult decisions. We continue to make decisions on a case by case basis.

- We do not document items into the IEP without going through the AT Consideration Process (which includes a trial period).

- Data collection and/or work profiles should show that the ‘typical tools” are not meeting the student’s needs before considering “specialized” for FAPE.
Discussion

What are you doing in your districts?

What issues are you facing with BYOT and AT?
Thanks!

Christine Swaim, M.Ed., CCC-SLP
Assistive Technology Facilitator
Forsyth County School System

cswaim@forsyth.k12.ga.us