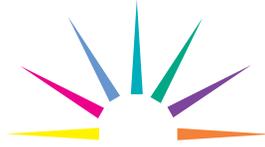


# WIRELESS MOBILE COMPUTING DEVICE



## **Component:**

Provide for a wireless mobile computing device for each teacher and student.

## **Description:**

The wireless mobile computing device (a wireless laptop in the Texas TIP immersion package) allows teachers and students at technology immersed campuses to have on-demand access to teaching and learning tools regardless of location.

## **Policies and Procedures**

- Establish policies and discipline procedures for broken/damaged laptops or inappropriate use of the Internet or computer.
- Notify students, parents, and community of Acceptable Use Policies for use of laptops and Internet.
- Provide for Internet safety/filtering at school and home; explain to parents that no filter is foolproof so parent supervision of student use is important.
- Ensure that there are fair discipline policies that fall into normal school policies for use of school property; do not use laptop as punishment or reward.
- Provide incentives for appropriate laptop utilization.

## **Hardware Specifications and Pricing**

- Explore a variety of options to find the best wireless mobile computing device that meets the instructional and curriculum needs of your students and is affordable.
- Consider minimum hardware specifications and network requirements to support use.
- In addition to bidding, use state or other cost-saving resources for securing best price for the wireless mobile computing device (e.g. Department of Information Resources—DIR <http://www.dir.state.tx.us>).
- Ensure that the wireless device integrates with all of the other components of the immersion package and with the local classroom and technology environment.
- Consider size and weight and ensure that the device does not weigh too much for students.
- Determine if battery life and battery recharging capabilities are satisfactory.

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### **Accessories**

- Find a laptop bag that supports your laptop and provides for easy transportation of the laptop from class to class and school to home; consider computer bag requirements for lockers and student fit.
- Develop a nametag system on all package components for easy student/grade level identification.
- Investigate necessary accessories such as pen drives/memory sticks, extra batteries, and extra AC adapters.
- Include costs for laptop protection features and peripherals.
- Include an inventory system designed to track laptops assigned to students and deal with those students coming to or leaving the campus.
- Consider the appropriateness of furniture configuration in classrooms for use of laptops and for shift to collaborative learning (tables, individual desks, desk clusters, size of desk surface, slope of desk, etc.).

### **Hardware Use**

- Explore a variety of options to find the best wireless mobile computing device that can support the school's instructional goals.
- Ensure that device is compatible with district gradebook and attendance system.
- Determine what device provides the best on-demand access to the instructional, assessment and other materials that are part of the technology immersion package.
- Determine how well the device promotes teacher-teacher, teacher-student and student-student collaboration.
- Determine how easy the device is to use for novice users.

### **Warranty and Insurance**

- Determine if laptop insurance is needed and affordable for technology use at school and off-site.
- Evaluate warranty costs and ensure that there is an appropriate warranty for the laptop (consider how many years and price per year).
- Consider methods for deterring stealing including anti-theft resources.

*See more under the component entitled Technical Support.*