Avon STEPUP Frequently Asked Questions for Families

What is the cost?

The cost of the student device is $53 annually and is paid by families as a part of student book rental. It is a lease-to-own program and after four years, the family will keep the device. Families who qualify for free or reduced book rental will have the laptop rental adjusted accordingly.

Which grade levels of students are receiving devices?

Students in grades 6, 8, and 9 will be issued a device in the fall of 2015. Students will keep the same device for a four year period. After two years, each student in grades 5-12 will have a device.

2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019
Grades 6, 8, 9	Grades 5, 6, 8	Grade 5	Grades 5 and 9

Students renting a device as an 8th grader will rent in 8th, 9th, 10th and 11th grades as seniors they may bring their own device or rent a different device for their senior year.

Students renting a device as a 6th grader will rent in 6th, 7th and 8th grades. They will then have the option to buy the device (4th payment of $53) or give it back to the school. They will rent a new device in 9th grade.

Students in 11th grade in the 2016-2017 school year will have the option to bring their own device or rent a device for one year. The same option extend into their 12th grade year.

In 2018-2019 only 5th and 9th grade students will begin their first year of the 4 year rental program.

How will computers be used for learning?

Students will learn in a variety of ways using computers with the guidance of our Avon Technology Curriculum and Technology Literacy Skills Guide including:

- Taking notes in One Note, a Microsoft business application
- Producing multimedia presentations
- Using their school-issued e-mail account for collaboration and communication with faculty members and other students
- Turning in assignments to be graded electronically
- Getting back assignments that have been graded electronically
- Taking quizzes and tests
- Creating web pages
- Reading documents
- Blogging
- Evaluating content
- Doing research

Will any additional software be required? Will students modify their device?

No. ACSC has a core set of required applications that will be installed on the device. This set of applications includes Windows 10 for Education, Microsoft Office, and access to Office 365 on the web. ACSC will maintain administrative rights until the time the computer is owned at the conclusion of year four of the lease.

Can I use a mouse or other USB Device?

Yes

When will students be issued their devices? When will they start bringing them home?

Each building will communicate specific dates for issuing devices and sending devices home with students. It is anticipated that all students will be using devices in class within the first two weeks of school. While older students will start bringing devices home sooner than younger students, all students will begin bringing devices home by Labor Day.

Will there be training for students?

There will be an orientation for students when the laptops are distributed. Training will be ongoing and will be tailored to each grade level.

Will there be education for parents?

Each school will provide communication to families at the start of the school year in addition to updates from the district this summer.

What about insurance?

Insurance is optional. Parents are encouraged to check about insurance coverage through homeowner's or rental policies and review optional insurance information provided by the school.

What will we do if the device has to be repaired?

ACSC will have a device-repair program for these devices. Families are discouraged from seeking repairs outside of ACSC. If the laptop problem is a warranty-related one, we will provide a loaner computer. If the problem is not warranty-related, we will still provide a loaner, but the student will be charged for the repair.

How will the laptop be identified as my child's?

A sticker affixed to the computer identifies its owner and the serial number of the device is recorded as assigned in ACSC inventory.

Will students have to purchase a laptop sleeve to carry the laptop in?

Every student is encouraged to protect this device with a bag or sleeve. Families may purchase these at their own discretion and some schools may offer one for purchase as well.

Will students be allowed to take devices home over breaks from school?

Yes

Do students need a printer at home?

Students do not need to own a printer since they will have the capability to print at school. An emphasis will be placed on submitting work electronically.

What will the school do to help prevent students from going to inappropriate sites?

ACSC uses software and hardware to filter inappropriate content, monitor and log Internet activity on all ACSC owned devices. Students who attempt to find inappropriate sites will be disciplined. This content filter meets federal CIPA (Child Internet Protection Act) guidelines. Filter definitions are the same for all students and are not individually customizable by the user or their families.

Parents may consider content filtering on their home network to ensure the safety of their student(s) while accessing the internet. As a starting point for whole home Internet filtering, families may explore https://signup.opendns.com/homefree/

What about computer viruses?

Each device has endpoint protection installed as a preventative measure.

Will students be able to use the laptops for Internet access at home?

The device will be equipped with wireless network capability. If parents have a home network, students may connect via Wireless. Parents will be responsible for monitoring student Internet access at home. ACSC will not be responsible for troubleshooting connection problems outside the school district buildings.

What if a student does not have Internet access at home?

Internet access at home will not be mandatory. Students will be able to work offline and sync their work the next time they connect to the Internet. Several options also exist in our community for access to the Internet. These include some local businesses and the public library.

What happens if a family moves out of Avon mid-year?

Families who move mid year will be expected to return the laptop to the school or pay the depreciated cost of the laptop if they intend to keep it.

Will someone come to my home and connect the laptop to the Internet for me?

No. You are responsible for connecting the laptop to your home computer. ACSC will not troubleshoot or come to your house for home connection problems. Student orientation will include the process for connecting the device to non-ACSC wireless networks.

STEP-UP it's yours, it's your parents', and it's the school's...#avonpride