



One 2 The World in MISD Device FAQ's

1. Who is the first group of students getting the new devices in the program?

Students classified as Freshman on the first day of school in the fall of 2014 will be the first group of students to receive the new laptops.

2. When will freshmen receive their laptop device?

Freshmen students will receive their laptop computer in January of 2015. The official date of deployment to all high schools will be determined by the technology department.

3. Will my student be allowed to bring their laptop home from school with them?

Yes! The goal of the One 2 The World initiative is to connect students with learning resources outside the four walls of their classroom. Students will be issued a MacBook Air laptop and this device will serve as their technology tool for 4 years of high school. It will come home each night and go back to school the following day, just a like a binder or a textbook would.

4. Why Freshmen? It makes more sense to start with Seniors

"One 2 The World" is an evolving program aimed at providing personal technology to all high school students over 4 years. Starting from the bottom, and moving up, creates a sustainable plan that will refresh every 4 years. It makes the most sense to provide the initial round of technology to the students who will be involved with the initiative the longest. Freshmen.

5. What about other grade levels in high school. How will they be supported with technology if they won't be getting a personal device?

All high school content area departments will be upgraded with new laptop carts to support student use of technology. The BYOT program will continue to be supported in classrooms as well as computer labs and Learning Commons Labs.

6. Why are we waiting until the second semester to give students the laptops. Doesn't it make more sense to give them to students in the fall when school starts?

MISD is committed to a quality implementation for students to ensure that our goal of student engagement in the classroom is achieved. For this reason, we are waiting a semester to deploy to students in order to give teachers a semester of quality training on what a true digital classroom should look like. The change will include lesson design, questioning, and a focus on 21st Century Skills.

7. Is there an “Opt Out” choice?

No. One 2 The World is an instructional initiative supported by technology, students will be expected to bring their laptops to school each day to use at school as well as at home.

8. I am not comfortable with my child being responsible for such an expensive piece of equipment. I can't afford to replace it if it gets broken.

Any student device that is lost, broken or stolen will be fixed or replaced. The insurance plan currently being considered for this initiative will cover the cost of a replacement. Any device that is out of service for any amount of time for repair will be replaced as well.

9. How can I be sure that my student will be safe on the Internet while using this technology at home?

As with all technology, parent supervision is critical to student safety on the Internet while at home. The district will support cyber-safety by adding a filter to each device. Student's Internet access will be filtered at home as they are at school.

10. How did MISD fund this learning initiative?

The "One 2 the World" program is being funded through technology funds approved by voters during the 2011 McKinney ISD Bond Election. The District will reduce its reliance on campus computer labs and traditional textbooks in lieu of the new devices and resources such as digital textbooks and online curriculum and software.

11. Why a Mac? There are much less expensive laptops or tablets on the market.

After much research, planning, goal setting etc. the district made a final decision that a Mac would best serve our student's needs as well as be the most cost efficient device. The Macs we currently have in the district have the longest life span of any of our laptop devices, and users report half the issues we see with other Windows based units. We have options for all of the Office tools on a Mac as well as the iLife and iWorks suites for students. The MacBook Air was also the choice of students and teachers who were asked to try out different options in devices.

12. When will Freshmen parents be able to get more information on the One 2 The World plan?

Parent and student meetings will be held multiple times per month during the fall semester to outline the expectations, goals and answer questions. We will work to hold these meetings in the mornings and in the evenings on all 3 high school campuses.