



## FAQS

### **What is S.T.A.T.?**

BCPS S.T.A.T. - *Students & Teachers Accessing Tomorrow* is a fundamental shift in teaching and learning to meet Baltimore County Public Schools' (BCPS) Theory of Action: *To equip every student with the critical 21<sup>st</sup> century skills needed to be globally competitive, BCPS must ensure that every school has an equitable, effective digital learning environment.* All students will have access to a digital learning device and personalized, blended, interactive curriculum.

### **Why is it called S.T.A.T. – *Students & Teachers Accessing Tomorrow*?**

In November, a committee of students met to begin brainstorming a name and look for the new initiative. Committee members said they like the connotation of “Stat” as it is used in medical professions, meaning immediate and quick. The title captures both the urgency and the importance of the work the system is undertaking.

### **What is a Lighthouse School?**

BCPS Lighthouse Schools will lead the way for the S.T.A.T. initiative. BCPS used a multi-step process to select the Lighthouse Schools. Five schools were previously identified, and five were selected through an application process. The ten Lighthouse Elementary Schools are: Chase, Church Lane, Edmondson Heights, Fort Garrison, Halstead, Hawthorne, Joppa View, Lansdowne, Rodgers Forge, and the new school being built in the Mays Chapel area. The Lighthouse Schools will be the first in the system to receive individual digital learning devices for students; implement one-to-one personalized and blended learning; and create an innovative, comprehensive digital learning culture. Lighthouse Schools will become model demonstration sites, with a Teacher Leader Corp (TLC) turning their classrooms into learning labs.

### **What devices will teachers and students receive?**

The model selected for students and teachers is an **HP Elitebook Revolve 810 G2**, which is a tablet/laptop. Student devices will be specially imaged to include security features. Each school will be equipped with replacement devices and the ability to charge devices.

### **What will happen if a student damages the device?**

The HP Elitebook Revolve 810 G2 was selected for its premium materials like scratch resistant glass, magnesium chassis, and spill resistant backlit keyboard. However, accidents do happen. Each device comes with an accidental damage warranty. Each student and teacher will receive information regarding the proper care of the HP Elitebook Revolve 810 G2 when they receive the device.

### **What will happen if technical issues render a device unusable during the school day?**

Each school will have unassigned units to be used as replacements when technical issues arise.

### **When will teachers receive their devices?**

All teachers in the district will be receiving new devices by the end of the 2013–2014 school year.

### **What is the timeline?**

The current plan is for teachers and students to receive devices on the following timeline:

- Spring 2014     All teachers PreK–12 (minimum .6 FTE)
- 2014–2015     Students at Lighthouse Schools, Grades 1–3
- 2015–2016     Students at Lighthouse Schools, Grades K, 4, 5

- 2016–2017 Students at all elementary schools, Grades 1–3  
Students at all elementary schools, Grades K, 4, 5  
Students at all middle schools
- 2017–2018 Students at all high schools

### **Will students take their devices home?**

The current plan is that the student devices will stay in the building at the primary level, and that devices will go home with the students at the secondary level (Grades 6–12). It is undetermined if devices will go home at Grades 3 through 5.

### **What is happening with the printers in the school buildings?**

BCPS is moving forward with print management throughout the school system. Under print management, printers will be phased out, where applicable, and transferred to more cost effective multipurpose devices. Besides streamlining operations, print management can help save money and increase productivity. Toner cartridges will be furnished as part of the print management program and print management software will track when and where toner is needed. Additionally, print management will help with troubleshoot problems, catching them before they escalate. The need for major technical support will be reduced.

### **What is BCPS One?**

BCPS One is the new digital portal for curriculum and instruction, assessments, student data, reporting, and analysis. It is a fully integrated, customized, and user-friendly Web based solution.

### **Who will have access to BCPS One?**

As part of BCPS One, students, teachers, administrators, and parents will have access to a web-based portal 24/7. The portal will be designed to provide various functionality to support the instructional delivery specific to each audience. The portal will also allow parents and guardians to stay informed and engaged in their child's education by providing access to grades, transcripts, schedules, attendance, and various other data elements.

### **When will we be able to access BCPS One?**

The current plan is to phase in the functionality of BCPS One. Phase one will include an online grade book and access to resources within the learning management system. Phase one will launch for the 2014–2015 school year. BCPS is planning a pilot of the new grade book for the fourth-quarter marking period with 10–15 schools covering approximately 50 teachers.

### **What is being done to update curriculum and prepare for S.T.A.T.?**

Curriculum offices are currently collaborating on development of a framework and template for use in BCPS One. In addition, a five-year comprehensive curriculum development plan has been created to coincide with the S.T.A.T. timeline.

### **What support will teachers and administrators receive in this transition?**

BCPS will build capacity to implement S.T.A.T. through ongoing training. The training will develop a common understanding of the conceptual changes that will take place in this modern learning environment and improve knowledge and skills that increase student success. The training will be delivered in a tiered approach, beginning with school-based administrators, all curriculum and instruction staff, and staff development teachers who will then collaborate to train teachers.

### **How will technology support be provided to schools?**

BCPS' Department of Information Technology will provide a technology support specialist (TSS) to support the information technology based systems in our schools. The TSS will provide technical support of hardware, operating systems, and networking issues. They will support clients and provide technical guidance to the BCPS technology liaison in each school. A TSS support person will be assigned to 1 to 5 elementary schools depending on the enrollment of the school. At the secondary level there will be one TSS per school.

### **Since secondary school students will not be receiving devices until the 2016–2017 school year, how does S.T.A.T. impact them immediately?**

All secondary school teachers will be receiving new devices by the end of this school year. In addition, an additional 60 devices per school will be provided to support online testing. Secondary schools will be able to reallocate existing teacher devices for online testing and to support S.T.A.T. Secondary schools will also use a systemwide online grade book that will be accessed through BCPS One.

### **What professional development is being offered to BCPS staff in anticipation of S.T.A.T.?**

All curriculum and instruction staff, principals, and professional development teachers have been training on the conceptual age and the vision for modern learning environments. They have also received professional development regarding building a common understanding of the terms, blended learning, customized learning, personalized learning, and online learning. This same content is also being offered to assistant principals.

All schools should begin engaging in professional development planned by the principal and or staff development teacher regarding the conceptual age and the vision for modern learning environments. Additionally, schools should begin building a common understanding of the following terms: blended learning, customized learning, personalized learning, and online learning. This training should be complete by May.

Later this spring all teachers will begin receiving devices, pending funding. A systemwide professional development plan for device and operating system training is being finalized.

Before the end of the school year, the new online grade book, which will be used by all teachers next school year, will be piloted. Professional development is being planned.

The Lighthouse Schools staff began their professional development on January 8, 2014. Their focus was on creating learner-centered environments and establishing a Teacher Leader Corp (TLC). Specialized training and job embedded coaching for teachers in Lighthouse Schools will continue through the 2014-15 school year.

BCPS in partnership with several local universities will be offering masters degree cohort programs focused on the effective use of technology in instruction. These customized programs offer an in-depth course of study of the role of curriculum, instruction, assessment, and the educators in a technology rich learning environment. New cohorts are being formed regularly. For more information, go to <http://www.bcps.org/offices/dpd/spring-cohorts.html>

BCPS continually offers face-to-face and online courses for educators on specific tools, strategies, devices, and instructional designs. For a complete list of offerings, go to <http://www.bcps.org/offices/dpd/ContinuingProDev-Registration.html> and <http://www.casenex.com/casenet/jsp/registrationPages/classregBCPS.jsp>

BCPS staff has presented to many of the local colleges and universities about the S.T.A.T. initiative. This is being done to inform undergraduate and graduate programs so our employees are better prepared to lead, work, and teach in a digitally rich environment.

### **Why is BCPS eliminating the Elementary Technology Integration Teacher (ETIT) Position?**

Because all teachers will facilitate learning that includes the use of technology, BCPS is committed to preparing and expecting all teachers to appropriately integrate technology through systemic professional development. Technology instruction for students was never intended to be taught in isolation for certain groups or grades of students. In order to support the need for professional development, the ETIT allocations will be converted to professional development teacher (PDT) positions. There will be at least a half-time PDT in each elementary school and a full-time PDT in all secondary schools.

### **How will the new S.T.A.T. teacher support this initiative?**

In 2014, a S.T.A.T. teacher will serve as a school-based instructional leader whose job it will be to support the administrative team as they implement and monitor the school's *Progress Plan*. The S.T.A.T. teacher will provide a continuum of professional development experiences aligned with that plan and help the school through S.T.A.T. Some of the responsibilities of the S.T.A.T. teacher align with the job description of the ETIT position. Current ETITs who feel they have the appropriate qualifications have been encouraged to apply for this S.T.A.T. teacher position.

### **What role will the Library Media Specialist play regarding S.T.A.T.?**

As BCPS moves to 1:1 and shifts to personalized learning models, school library media specialists remain as critical partners in schools. Uniquely qualified to teach information and technology literacy, our library media specialists have

knowledge and experience of the ever-changing information landscape, collaborate with and offer professional development support to their colleagues, and are experienced in the use of technology tools for teaching and learning. School library media specialists have an understanding of the inquiry process and know that students are best engaged when they are able to pursue within curriculum limits topics that are of interest to them. They have knowledge and experience with [information literacy](#) and its role in the research process.