**AoW Directions:**

1. Annotate (write your thoughts, questions, etc.) the text (10 points)
2. Identify (circle, underline, highlight, etc.) key words in 1-4. (10 points each question)
3. Circle the BEST answers for 1-4. (10 points each question)
4. Write a well-written paragraph summary of this text. Your summary must be 4-6 sentences. (10 points)

# **A school's decision to use iPads in class and at home causes controversy**

By The Mercury News, adapted by Newsela staff

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CUPERTINO, Calif. – Not too far away from Apple's headquarters in California, public middle schools in the city of Cupertino want to require students to use iPads in class and at home.

School district officials and many teachers say the iPads are great learning tools. Students seem thrilled to have them. But, many parents in the district question the benefit of the devices, and hundreds have signed a request to limit the use of iPads.

Some parents say the iPads have introduced new problems, like protecting private personal information and distracting kids with games. And they do not want to pay hundreds of dollars for school equipment that state law says is the district's responsibility.

**IPads Are For Entertainment, Not Education**

"iPads are entertainment devices," said Noemi Berry, a network engineer and mother of a seventh-grader and two other children. "They're not designed for education, and they're very hard to restrict. I have a 12-year-old boy who has a horrible screen-addiction problem."

So far, the iPad proponents are winning. This means hundreds more middle-schoolers in Cupertino will be expected to use iPads for schoolwork.

Cupertino Union School District spokesman Jeff Bowman said putting iPads in every middle-schooler's hands has improved the quality of their work. Language ability, behavior and organizational skills are better, although the district doesn't have numbers to measure how much better. Also, principals talk to parents about how to rein in excessive video-gaming.

Apple had no comment on Cupertino's program, and Bowman said the company didn't influence the district's decision to use its product.

**Some Students Use Devices For Homework Too**

It's common for school districts to provide students computers or tablets for class use. A small but growing number now require students to use those devices, or their own, for homework, too.

Few districts, however, decide which manufacturer they use. Manufacturers are the businesses making the technology, such as Apple, whose products tend to cost more than devices like Chromebooks, which are made by Google. Bowman said they chose iPads because they considered them more durable and to offer instructional advantages.

Cupertino has a one-device-per-student program that has cost the district at least $363,000 this school year for hardware, software, management, security and teacher training. The program is in three middle schools and expanding to two others. If parents do not provide students with an iPad, they use a loaner one.

But school officials implied that it was families' responsibility to provide the devices, which cost $563.

**It's Against The Law To Require Parents To Buy IPads**

It is against the state law that parents pay for required supplies at public schools. So, the district hasn't required parents to buy them. But parents say they feel pressure to go along with the iPad program.

Parents like Vaishnavi Sridhar, mother of a sixth-grader, said Bragg indicated at a meeting that district-owned devices were reserved for needy students.

"A lot of families that day went back home thinking they had to buy an iPad," Sridhar said.

Victor Leung of the American Civil Liberties Union's Southern California branch said that, technically, Cupertino complies with the law by offering to provide devices. But he added that, legally, districts cannot pressure students to buy equipment and supplies.

**Some Parents Struggle To Control Their Kids' Usage**

The cost is only a small part of some parents' objections to the iPad program. Linda Wang said her son's grades dropped after he delightedly received his iPad. She takes the device with her when she leaves the house, and hides it from him at night.

"We cannot control his usage at all," Wang said.

For some instructors, however, the devices have transformed teaching. Andi Jackson, who teaches eighth-grade English and social studies, said iPads offer students many ways to show what they've learned. "Before the iPad," Jackson said, "there was basically one way: Write an essay and turn it in."

Of about 180 parents who responded to a district survey last year, just under half said they valued their children's iPad work. A third said it had improved their kids' attitude toward school. The district plans to form a task force to review its educational technology use; meanwhile, it's expanding its iPads-for-all program to two other middle schools.

**School IPads Have Received Positive Feedback As Well**

Some parents have arranged for their children to use a district-owned iPad while at school. Those devices don't come home. An online request is asking the Cupertino district to standardize that practice of providing iPads for students and keeping them in the classroom. It has more than 650 signatures.

Peter Chu, a software executive whose daughter Ashley is a ninth-grader at Cupertino High School, sees the iPad as a wonderful education tool that's "creative, engaging and appropriate for this day and age."

Ashley said the classes at Lawson in which teachers embraced the iPads were her favorites. One assignment she remembers well was creating a video to explain how paleontology proves evolution, the gradual change of living things over time.

"Making a story about an event lets me better remember that," Ashley said.

1. **Which section of the article highlights the controversy about who pays for the iPads?**

1. "IPads Are For Entertainment, Not Education"
2. "Some Students Use Devices For Homework Too"
3. "It's Against The Law To Require Parents To Buy IPads"
4. "Some Parents Struggle To Control Their Kids' Usage"

2.  **Circle the paragraph from the section "School IPads Have Received Positive Feedback As Well" that BEST explains students' positive feelings about iPads and learning.**

**3. How does the author convey the importance of parents' feelings about iPads in school?**

1. by explaining the problems of screen addiction at home
2. by quoting parents about their children's experiences with iPads at school and home
3. by providing evidence for the claim that iPad usage at home hurts children's learning
4. by explaining the reasons why children cannot control their usage of technology

**4. According to the article, which of the following groups MOST supports iPads in the school?**

1. educators
2. parents
3. students
4. Apple