

**WELLESLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
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January 18, 2013

Dear Parents,

Over the last several weeks we have been discussing with the community a proposed expansion of our pilot 1:1 learning program. At last week's parent forum, PTO meetings, and other venues, we've shared our experiences with the initial pilot at Schofield Elementary School and engaged in a dialogue with parents about expanding this initiative to all 5<sup>th</sup> grades in Wellesley. Through these discussions, we have heard some thoughtful concerns about the "take home" element of the proposed pilot expansion. While there is great educational potential in a device that can be taken home to extend the learning day and offer continuity between the classroom and homework, we also recognize that there are concerns about managing and monitoring these devices when students are not in school.

Taking this feedback to heart, and after discussions with our pilot teachers and administrators, we are amending our original plan to remove the take home element in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade for the coming year. This will give us an additional year to build capacity among students and parents to implement this portion of the program in the future with greater confidence.

In addition to creating a longer phase-in of the take-home element of the 1:1 initiative, we have also redesigned our funding model. In order to proceed with funding the 1:1 program next year, we are proposing the following partnership model to provide the necessary resources:

- The District will assume the costs of the student iPads for the 5<sup>th</sup> grade.
- These iPads will remain at the 5<sup>th</sup> grade and be used by subsequent 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes.
- The iPads will remain in school, with no take-home component.
- We are asking PTOs to support this initiative by providing funds for secure charging carts and A/V improvements in each of the 5<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms.
- We are asking the Wellesley Education Foundation to provide funds for teacher iPads and a summer professional development institute.

I encourage you to visit our 1:1 Program website for more information about this revised proposal and full details on the Schofield pilot:

<https://sites.google.com/a/apps.wellesley.k12.ma.us/wps-1-1-technology-pilot-program/>

Best Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David F. Lussier".

David F. Lussier, Ed.D.