

iPads: Benefits, Drawbacks, and Concerns

iPads are a hot topic in technology discussions. They boast ultra-portability. They are easy to use. And let's face it - they're just plain cool. iPads have many benefits. However, it should be known that they are not intended to replace a full-blown laptop. They do have limited capabilities.

“So what's the big deal with these iPads, anyway?”

Some of the areas where the iPad shine are checking email and calendar events. There is a huge variety of useful applications available. iPads are small, convenient, and have terrific battery life. They are easy to use while on the go. For example, one could easily check powerschool records and email while wondering the halls of their school. Although this can be done with a laptop, laptops are tiring to hold and difficult to type on with one hand.



With an iPad at your side, you could quickly display graphs and charts with Google spreadsheets. You could readily show brilliant photos from a class project or data fair. You could schedule appointments with relative ease, and sync them to your workstation. You would have access to your email anywhere there is a wireless network available.

“The iPad looks really cool. Are they a cheaper alternative to laptops?”

Unfortunately, iPads are not much good for everyday computing tasks. They are cumbersome to type on. They have a relatively small display. They are virtually un-customizable. They have a very limited ability to display presentations like laptop computers. They have no USB ports or flash-card readers. This makes them difficult to transfer files to and from unless you have a [drop-box](#) account.

A concern about the iPad is the need for an iTunes store account. Problems arise when you transfer personally acquired media to a district owned iPad. Once you transfer personal media to your district iPad, consider it donated. The district will not reimburse your purchase.

Another concern is people using their personal credit card to acquire content. The iPad stores that credit card number. iPads are easy to steal, and the thief would be able to buy as many applications as your credit limit would allow. The damage that can occur could be significant. Don't rely on a weak password to protect your credit card.

Fortunately there is a new solution that addresses these issues. The district now has a volume purchasing agreement with Apple. This allows us to purchase apps in bulk at a discounted, tax-exempt rate without a credit card. [Click here](#) for more information.

When considering the iPad, it's easy to see it's benefits. One look and you will surely be enamored with it's beautiful display, sleek design, and intuitive touch-interface. You will be impressed by it's ultra-portability and exceptionally long battery life. However, it is equally important to consider their limited capabilities. It is also important to be aware of potential problems they can cause should you be considering one for yourself.

