



EQUIPMENT & FUNDING GUIDE

DESKTOPS OR LAPTOPS

Ideally, programs will want high-end, Windows-based computers with a dedicated graphics card. While expensive, esports should also be seen as an investment in STEAM as the same devices used for esports can be used during the school day to enhance STEAM offerings for students.

EXISTING COMPUTERS

Schools may already have the computers they need to participate. Most computers built in the last 5 years should be able to work for esports. The games GSE offers are playable on low to mid-end computers so check or consider upgrading existing equipment!

NINTENDO SWITCH & CHROMEBOOKS

Schools on a budget may want to consider getting a Nintendo Switch. At \$330 per Switch, teams will be able to participate in 8 out of 10 GSE competitions with a Switch - more than any other console.

Chromebooks aren't made for esports, but could be used as a last resort in conjunction with a cloud gaming service like GeForce Now.

RECOMMENDED SPECS

Good

CPU: i5 or Ryzen 3

Ram: 8mb

Video Card: 1050 Ti

Monitor: 22in 720p 60hz

Price: < \$1000

Better

CPU: i7 or Ryzen 5

Ram: 16mb

Video Card: 1660 Ti

Monitor: 24in 1080p 120hz

Price: ~\$1750

Best

CPU: i9 or Ryzen 9

Ram: 32mb

Video Card: 2060 Super

Monitor: 27in 1440p 144hz

Price: ~\$2250

- Teams can participate in all GSE competitions with just six computers or 3 Nintendo Switches.
- While 'gaming' chairs, desks, and peripherals are nice, they are in no way a necessary expense.
- Save money: most students will likely want to use their own controller, keyboard & mouse, and headset.

\$ GRANTS \$

While grants for esports are basically nonexistent, there are plenty of grants available for STEM, Career & Technical Education (CTE), and Social & Emotional Learning (SEL) programs - all of which are part of a robust scholastic esports program. GSE teams have been funded using Title I, II, & IV, ESSER, and Perkins grants as well as state-level and local foundation grants.

\$ CROWD SOURCING \$

There are a lot of ways to launch your scholastic esports program. GSE teams have used Bring Your Own Device initiatives, PTA, local business, and Booster clubs support. As well as community or online fund raisers like Donors Choose, sponsorships from local or national businesses, and even Twitch Prime subs to get what they need to run a successful program!

GSE IS HERE TO HELP

Garden State Esports has the expertise and vendor relationships to help you get started no matter your equipment needs or budget. We also have lists of current funding opportunities as well as pre-made and example grant packages and successful crowd sourcing campaigns for you to use to help fund your program.

What are you waiting for?

Join 115 Other Districts And Get Your School In the Game For Free At GSEsports.org!