Contestant: **A-7**

There are a lot of things I could do right now that I technically shouldn’t, like go blow $100 of my last paycheck on new shoes. Similarly, even though many schools have the ability to switch to textbooks on tablets, schools should refrain until they can guarantee proper teacher teacher training, Wi-Fi and affordability of the tablets.

Just because much of the world is heading online doesn’t mean it is the right choice for textbooks. According to procon.org, despite tablets averaging $263 in 2015, the actual implementation cost 552 percent higher for tablets over textbooks. With tight funding in many school districts, the actual cost, over just the device price, must be considered.

Along with completely overlooking implementation cost, many districts fail to consider other factors necessary for textbooks on tablets. New York City Public Schools, for example, had to stop students from using their new iPads because of poor Wi-Fi that couldn’t handle all the devices. Without proper Wi-Fi, tablets’ textbooks aren’t even accessible and are minimally useful blocks of metal.

NorFolk Junior High teacher Leann Widhalm believes that, although using tablets has some benefits, like increasing students independence and performance, that can only happen if teachers actually know how to use the tablets.

“I’ve seen mini iPads sit in a box because teachers didn’t know what to do with them,” Widhalm said. “We need to be deliberate with professional development so teachers can feel confident using this technology.

Although I can’t deny that tablets are lighter, more current and have the ability to hold many different textbooks, this doesn’t make up for the fact that many other factors must be considered before switching.

LIke I said before, there are some things, like my grandpa getting Facebook, people just shouldn’t do even though they have the ability. There is much to consider before schools assume jumping into the tech trend is the right choice.