Privacy and security 🔒

Safer learning with Chromebooks

What are Chromebooks?

Chromebooks for Education are lightweight, durable laptops designed for the classroom. Made for learning and online exploration, Chromebooks are perfect for schools that are evolving to keep up with the increasingly digital world. Chromebooks are simple, versatile, easy to share, and secure, and are used by over 50 million students and educators worldwide.
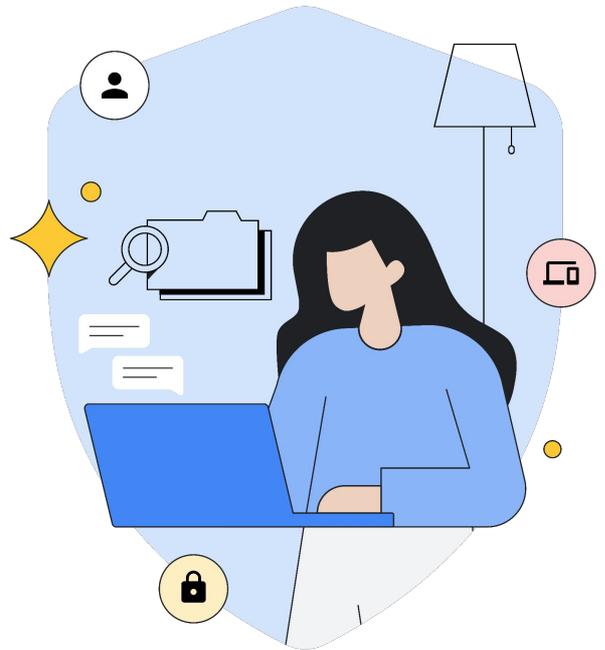
#1 selling device in K–12 schools worldwide[1]

ZERO reported successful ransomware attacks on Chromebooks. And Chromebooks have never had a virus.[2]

What are the benefits of Chromebooks?

✓ Simple

Administrators control Chromebooks from the cloud, not locally, which makes them very easy to manage. Cloud-based systems make Chromebooks scalable so administrators can deploy as many laptops as their school might need, whether it's 10 or 10,000.

⤴ Versatile

Chromebooks offer a broad spectrum of capabilities, tools, apps, and features so they can be customized for everyone in your school. They also feature longer-than-average lifespans and can help reduce IT staff time spent on management by 76%.[3]

⇗ Collaborative

ChromeOS makes it easy for schools to collaborate from anywhere. Chromebooks provide a secure experience, even if they're shared among multiple users, with features like two-factor authentication when signing in. Many applications store student files on the web, and local files can be 256-bit encrypted, keeping students' information private. Students can access classwork, apps, books, and videos securely by signing in to any Chromebook.

🔒 Secure

ChromeOS, which powers every Chromebook, is the most secure OS out of the box,[4] so there's no need for antivirus software. Along with built-in, multilayered security and centralized admin controls, Chromebooks employ ongoing security measures like regular automatic updates and giving users access to 24/7 Google support. With Google for Education, schools own their data, and it's our responsibility to keep it safe.

1. Internal data from Futuresource Consulting, 2024.
2. According to monitoring of crbug.com, chromium.org, National Vulnerability Database, and customer feedback in Chrome's vulnerability reward program.
3. The Total Economic Impact™ of Chromebooks in Education.
4. Atredis Partners, ChromeOS Competitive Analysis.

→ View the Privacy & Security Center at **google.com/edu/privacy**

Privacy and security features helped make Chromebooks the top-selling device in K–12 schools. Administrators can manage settings to give students as much or as little access as the school desires. Chromebooks also help your school stay compliant with robust security, third-party audits and certifications, documentation, and legal commitments.[5]

Chromebook security features

Chromebooks use the philosophy of "defense in depth" to provide their users with multiple layers of protection, so if any one layer is bypassed, others are still in effect. Chromebooks have the following features built-in:

- **Automatic updates:** Keep your device secure and up to date against security threats with 10 years of automatic security updates
- **Verified boot:** Allows Chromebooks to self-check for malware and auto-repair if corrupted
- **Security sandbox:** Helps prevent the spread of viruses by making sure each webpage and application runs in its own walled environment
- **256-bit data encryption:** Helps protect Chromebooks and maintain resistance to attacks
- **Chrome Sync:** Allows students to sign in to any Chromebook or Chrome browser to access all their apps, settings, and preferences
- **Two-factor authentication:** Strengthen security with 2-step verification by using your Chromebook's power button when signing in
- **Data security controls:** Helps IT admins monitor, secure, and manage data, so organizations can teach and learn anywhere on any network

Are Chromebooks secure for my students?

Chromebooks are designed with multiple layers of security to keep them safe from viruses and malware. In fact, a full 10% of boot time is dedicated to re-verifying that the device has not been tampered with. Because they can be managed from the web, Chromebooks make it easy for school administrators to configure policies and settings, like enabling safe browsing or blocking malicious sites.

How is data used and protected for students on Chromebooks for Education?

Chrome Sync enables Google Account holders to sign in to any Chromebook or Chrome browser and find all their apps, extensions, and bookmarks. For students, this means that they can get to work right away on any computer. When our systems do compile and collect data, it's only used after the information has been completely scrubbed for information about individual people.

This data is used to improve the services we provide. For example, if data shows that millions of people are visiting a broken webpage, that site would be moved lower in the search results. If they choose to, administrators can disable Chrome Sync, and users can choose what information to sync. Google Workspace for Education users' Chrome Sync data is never used or sold to third parties for targeting ads.

Are Chromebooks compatible with online testing?

Chromebooks are a secure platform for administering student assessments. During an exam, you can disable features such as web browsing, external storage access, screenshots, and the ability to print. Both the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) and the Smarter Balanced assessment consortia have verified that Chromebooks meet their hardware and operating system requirements for students.

If my Chromebook is lost or stolen, how can I keep it secure?

Chromebook device settings include a Lost/Stolen mode, so you can lock a device that has been stolen and prompt a message of how to return the device. You can also apply sign-in restrictions, so only school users can sign in with their education account. You fully control your Chromebooks and can choose that they be used only by your school and always with your settings.

→ **View the Privacy & Security Center at google.com/edu/privacy**