

Common Core Technology Project (CCTP) Parent Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

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Learning with 1:1 Digital Devices

Q: What is the purpose of the 1:1 digital device program?

A: Integrating 1:1 technology in teaching and learning...

- Closes the Digital Divide by ensuring equity in access to 21st century technology and develops 21st century skills
- Supports students' achievements of Common Core State Standards by giving *all* students the opportunity to engage with digital curriculum, adaptive assessments (including CCSS assessments), and a world of other digital tools that enhance learning
- Provides educators tools to advance student learning through engaging instruction that supports students in thinking critically, exploring curiosity, expressing creativity, working collaboratively, and recovering from failure with a smile (and a different approach to the problem)
- Allows parents to be more involved in their children's learning.

Q: What is installed on the devices?

A: The devices are pre-loaded with a variety of [apps](#) to enhance learning, along with security software to protect students from inappropriate content online. They also are pre-loaded with Pearson Education digital curriculum for math and language arts. The Pearson software was selected as the best available curriculum built around state-mandated [Common Core State Standards](#).

- Apps list: <http://achieve.lausd.net/Page/569>
- More parent information on the Common Core State Standards: <http://www.capta.org/sections/programs/e-standards.cfm>

Q: What professional development do teachers receive to use the digital devices effectively?

A: All teachers receive professional development that starts with device basics, use of productivity and creativity apps, and an introduction to the Common Core State Standards-based Pearson curriculum. This supports them in guiding students to enhance learning with tools ranging from word-processing to movie-making. Also, a CCTP tech integration facilitator works with teachers at their schools to develop lessons that use technology to promote problem-solving, creativity, and innovation.

Digital Devices Going Home

Q: Why is my child's school sending digital devices home?

A: There are enormous benefits when students have access to learning with the devices beyond the school campus and outside of school hours. Among the benefits are that 24/7 access can:

- Foster college and career readiness for all students, and assure equity for students who lack access to a computer, tablet, or similar learning tool at home

- Support English language learners with more access to technologies that reduce language barriers
- Enhance learning for students with special needs with technology that makes possible learning opportunities and outcomes that would have been unimaginable just a few years ago
- Transform homework with collaborative projects, assignments that support independent development of 21st century skills, and assignments that free up more time in-class for in-depth explorations that require teacher guidance
- Break down time and space barriers to learning. Along with offline projects, a growing infrastructure for lifelong learning is available in an online world of libraries, labs, museums, and other venues. Even if students don't have Internet access at home, it is available at libraries and many public locations.

Q: How can I support my child's learning, if I'm not experienced with digital devices?

A: CCTP has provided materials for your child's school to offer workshops for parents. These sessions will focus primarily on two areas: digital citizenship and digital literacy.

- In digital citizenship workshops, parents will learn how to keep their child safe online, what to do if they encounter cyberbullying, and how to help their child make responsible choices in school and at home.
- In digital literacy workshops, parents will learn how to create their own email account (if they don't already have one); and how to use the digital device, navigate the LAUSD website, and assist their child with projects ranging from presentations to movies.

Q: Should my child bring the device charger to school each day when the device goes home?

A: Devices must be fully charged before students leave for school in the morning. Whether students bring their chargers to school varies, depending on the school.

- We strongly urge that elementary school students keep their chargers at home. If they need to charge the device during the day, each classroom has a charging cart.
- Secondary schools will decide whether students need to bring their chargers to school. If they do, the chargers should be clearly identified, because they all look alike. Please remind your child that the chargers will not be replaced by the District.

Q: What do families need to know about the passcode that keeps tablets locked?

A: Each device has a passcode that is intended to protect student privacy. Repeated attempts to unlock the device with an incorrect passcode will disable the device, and it will require repair by CCTP technical staff.

Q: What if my child's school sends 1:1 devices home, but I don't want the device to come home?

A: Although all students must have access to devices during school hours, parents have the option to refuse to allow 1:1 devices to come home with their children. This is why it is essential that parents have a solid understanding of the learning benefits that 24/7 access brings. If a parent declines, then the child's teacher(s) will make alternative arrangements for homework, such that the student can achieve the homework assignments' learning goals without taking the device home.

Q: What if we don't have Internet at home?

A: Parents are encouraged to bring their children to a local public library, which offers free Wi-Fi (Internet connectivity). The [city](#) and [county](#) of Los Angeles have many library branches. Also, many coffee shops and other businesses have free Wi-Fi; even some cities, including Culver City and West Hollywood, have free Wi-Fi in some public areas.

- Los Angeles Public Library locations: <http://www.lapl.org/branches/>
- County of Los Angeles Library locations: <http://www.colapublib.org/librs/>

Q: If we don't have Internet at home and we can't access free Wi-Fi somewhere else, will my child be able to complete homework?

A: LAUSD realizes that not every home has Internet connectivity. Again, the child's teacher(s) will make alternative arrangements for homework, such that the student can achieve the homework assignments' learning goals without Internet access at home.

Q: Can students use a home computer or tablet instead of their District digital device to work on assignments at home?

A: If students have access to a computer or tablet with the same app or software they used to create a project on their school device, if the project is available online or in the cloud, and if they have Internet access at home, they can work on the project from the home device.

Q: Do I need to buy any digital device accessories for my child?

A: There is no need for additional accessories. The District tablets come with a charger and a sturdy case that was designed specifically for LAUSD.

Q: Will digital devices replace textbooks?

A: Long-term plans are for students to have access to digital curriculum on their devices for all subjects, so that all textbook content is available wherever and whenever they need it. Digital curriculum offers great advantages over printed textbooks, including video, highlighting and text-to-speech capabilities, and access to more current information.

Student Safety

Q: Can students go to inappropriate websites?

A: Pre-installed web filtering, which LAUSD has improved since the first wave of digital device distribution, is intended to prevent students from accessing inappropriate material. However, no filter is guaranteed to block all targeted material all of the time. This is part of why digital citizenship -- how to be safe and responsible online -- is essential for students and parents to explore together. (Please see next question.)

Q: How do I know students will use the digital devices appropriately?

A: Students, teachers, parents, and the District need to work together to support responsible use of the devices. In addition to the District's filters (see previous question), education on digital citizenship -- how to be safe and responsible online -- is essential.

- Students learn about digital citizenship at school, with lesson activities that address online safety privacy, anti-bullying and more. These lessons begin with an activity based on the District's Responsible and Acceptable Use Policy, which all students and parents sign before students receive digital devices to use at school.
- Parent workshops on digital citizenship are available through your school.
- The District has partnered with Common Sense Media, a non-profit organization dedicated to helping kids thrive in a media- and technology-rich world. Common Sense Media has a wealth of resources -- videos, articles, and blogs -- that can help parents understand the possibilities and navigate potential problems of life in the digital age.
 - Common Sense Media parent resources:
<https://www.commonsensemedia.org/parent-concerns>
- Our teachers instruct students in digital citizenship, including online safety, privacy, anti-bullying, and more. At the start of every year, that includes a review of the District's Responsible and Acceptable Use Policy.
- Ultimately, parents are responsible for their child's online activities.

Q: How can we keep children safe when they are on the Internet?

A: For online safety and privacy, the District’s network and device filters comply with federal laws, but parents ultimately are responsible for monitoring student Internet use while students are away from school. This responsibility is noted in the District’s Acceptable Use Policy and the revised Parent Acknowledgement form.

Q: What about students’ physical safety while traveling to and from school with digital devices?

A: Los Angeles School Police are working on a “safe passage” plan for students traveling to and from school without supervision.

Apple IDs

Q: Why does my child need an Apple ID?

A: Apple IDs are needed to update and download apps for learning, and to save student-created work in iCloud. The Apple ID provides 15 GB of free storage.

Q: If a parent or student already has an Apple ID, can this be used on the District’s device?

A: Personal Apple IDs belonging to parents or students may not be used on District devices because the devices are available only for educational use, with apps selected by the school. Using parents’ or students’ personal Apple IDs can lead to personal information, photos, videos, and music from their iCloud accounts ending up on District devices.

Q: Why is parental consent required for my child’s Apple ID?

A: For students under 13 years of age, federal law requires parental consent for downloading and updating the apps that students use for learning. The consent, which complies with the [Children’s Online Privacy and Protection Rule](#) (COPPA), also allows students to keep their academic portfolio in their own iCloud account. Consent is a one-time requirement for a District Apple ID that students can use for as long as they’d like while they’re in school and beyond. (Information on COPPA:

<http://www.business.ftc.gov/documents/0493-Complying-with-COPPA-Frequently-Asked-Questions#General%20Questions>)

Q: If I don’t give consent for an Apple ID, what impact will there be on my child’s educational experience? For example, can the District device still be brought home?

A: Lack of an Apple ID does not prohibit students from taking devices home to enhance their learning. However, they will not be able to save their work in iCloud, and will need assistance from school staff to download or update apps for learning on the device.

Q: Can my child use the Apple ID to make purchases?

A: Apple IDs allow purchase. Access to the App Store can be closed and opened on District student devices, at the school’s discretion.

Lost, Stolen, and Damaged Devices

Q: Are the digital devices likely to be damaged?

A: The devices are set in sturdy cases that will protect them from damage from routine use. The District explicitly prohibits removal of the protective cases. If the device is damaged while the case is removed, parents are responsible. (Please see next question.)

Q: Who is responsible if a digital device is lost or damaged?

A: As with textbooks, devices that are lost or accidentally damaged in a way that leaves them unusable will be replaced by the District. If a student purposely damages a digital device, at school

or at home, then state law and district policy dictate that the student's parents may be responsible for the replacement cost, just as they would be if a student purposely damaged any other school property. (The cost will not include what the district paid for the software.) Each school has discretion to deal with these situations case-by-case, and a special arrangement may be worked out if a family can't afford to pay for willful damage.

Q: What happens to lost or stolen digital devices?

A: Any stolen device should be reported immediately to local police and to the school/Los Angeles School Police Department (213) 625-6631. The District has the ability to remotely disable a lost or stolen digital device so it can't be used until it is recovered. The screen will say "Property of LAUSD" when it's turned on and will not be able to access student data or be used in other ways.