

Chromebooks Privacy and Security

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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, affordable, easy to share, and extremely secure, making them the #1 selling device to US classrooms.

#1

Chromebooks are the #1 device in US K-12 schools

50

School districts in all 50 states & DC use Chromebooks

13

Manufacturers make over 30 models of Chromebooks

What are the benefits of Chromebooks?

Simple

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

Affordable

Designed with affordability in mind, Chromebooks start at just \$149. More importantly, research finds that the total cost of owning and supporting Chromebooks is over 60% less than alternative devices.

Shareable

Chromebooks are designed to provide a secure experience, even if they're shared among multiple users. Many applications store student files on the web and local files are 128-bit encrypted. This means that every student's work and information is kept completely private and also that students are able to access all their own classwork, apps, books, and videos securely just by signing into any Chromebook.

Secure

Multiple layers of security are built into every Chromebook so that they are safe for use right out the box — no antivirus software required. Along with the built-in security features, Chromebooks employ ongoing security measures such as regular automatic updates and Chromebook users have access to 24/7 support directly from Google.

Chromebooks Privacy & Security

Privacy and security features helped make Chromebooks the top selling device to US K–12 schools for the past two years. Administrators can manage settings to give students as much or as little access as the school desires. Chromebooks adhere to the Student Privacy Pledge so that schools can use these in compliance with COPPA and FERPA. Specifically, we ensure that no data entered into a Chromebook is used to target advertisements to students.

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. Your Chromebook has the following security features built-in:



Automatic updates: Chromebooks automatically manage their updates because the most effective way to protect against malware is to ensure all software is up-to-date.



Verified Boot: Upon startup, Chromebooks perform a self-check called “Verified Boot” and will repair themselves if they detect their system has been corrupted in any way.



Sandboxing: On a Chromebook, each web page and application runs in a restricted environment called a “sandbox,” so if it is directed to an infected page, the rest of the machine won’t be affected.



Data Encryption: Chromebooks are completely 128-bit encrypted for every user, so every user’s space is unique, totally secure, and never accessible by another user.

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

Chrome Sync enables Google Account holders to log into 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. This makes Chromebooks popular for schools that can’t afford a device for every child. When our systems do compile and collect data, it is only used after the information has been completely scrubbed for information about individual users. This data is used to improve the services we provide. For example if data shows that millions of people are visiting a webpage that is broken, 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. G Suite for Education users’ Chrome Sync data is not used to target ads to individual students.

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.

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 PARCC (see TestNav) and the Smarter Balanced Assessment consortia have verified that Chromebooks meet their hardware and operating system requirements for students.

Can others steal school-assigned Chromebooks?

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 your settings.

Learn more about Google for Education’s commitment to privacy and security at google.com/edu/privacy