

Chromebooks privacy and security



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 extremely secure, making them the #1 selling device in K–12 schools with 50 million students and educators using them worldwide.

#1

selling device in K–12 schools worldwide¹

ZERO reported ransomware attacks on any business, education, or consumer Chrome OS device – ever²

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.



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 a longer-than-average lifespan and significant operational savings³, which can free up budget and IT staff time for initiatives that provide direct student support.



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 of 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.

¹ [Supporting education with a new line of Chromebooks](#)

² [Safer learning with Google for Education](#)

³ [The Economic Value of Chromebooks for Education](#)



View the privacy and security center
google.com/edu/privacy

Privacy and security features helped make Chromebooks the top-selling device in K–12 schools across the globe. 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.⁴



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 webpage 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.



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 log 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. 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. Google Workspace for Education users’ Chrome Sync data is not used to target ads to individual students.



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 settings.

⁴ [Compliance resource center](#)

