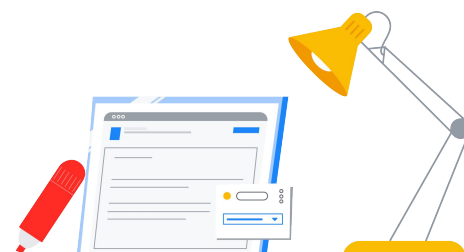


Teachers at Wichita Falls Independent School District (WFISD) use Chromebooks to improve productivity and efficiency

Adopting Chromebooks beyond the classroom

Organic Chromebook adoption among teachers is setting the stage for confidence in using the technology in and out of the classroom.



Why Chromebooks?

- Earlier this year, WFID delivered Chromebooks to all teachers to enhance teaching and flexibility
- Teachers and staff **save 45 minutes per staff meeting** because they're able to prepare materials more efficiently
- WFISD plans to use Chromebooks so schools can create more collaborative spaces – rather than traditional classrooms

The technology leaders at Wichita Falls ISD constantly look for ways to enhance teaching and learning with technology. So when new solutions are available, Frank Murray, director of instructional technology, and Shad McGaha, WFISD CTO, spend a good amount of time training staff and educators to help them gain confidence using the new technology in and out of the classroom.

“Back in 2014, we created a Learning With Technology Committee where we designed a plan to present to the board what technology solutions we wanted to try,” Murray explains. “Our goals were to evaluate devices for potential district-wide use, develop a plan for professional development and technical support, and create a culture of collaboration and communication between staff, students, and parents.”

Many teachers have been working with Chromebooks since 2014, although Murray and McGaha had limited Chromebooks rollouts for teachers who received Educator Level 1 and Level 2 certification. Some principals used them with discretion.

Earlier this year, however, that all changed. The district delivered 1,050 new Chromebooks – one for every teacher. Murray and McGaha are hopeful that the 400 teachers who are new to using Chromebook, will join the rest of their colleagues in seeing the improved efficiency and productivity.

District facts (Public school district)



Total district enrollment

13,400 Students



Grades Served

Early childhood - 12



Number of Schools

25



Chromebooks in use

1,050+
to teachers and staff

Organization Profile

The Wichita Falls Independent School District (WFISD) serves 13,400 students:

3 early childhood schools	16 elementary schools	3 middle schools
3 high schools	2 alternative campuses	

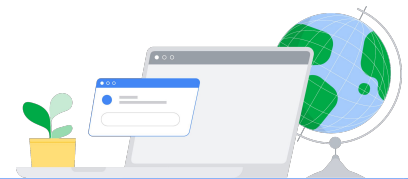
WFISD also operates the Career Education Center – a state-of-the-art facility that opened in 2017.

[Google Workspace](#) [Classroom](#) [Chromebooks for Education](#)



When we started asking teachers the pros and cons of the devices they were using in their classroom, they'd say to us, 'Please don't take my Chromebooks away.' So we knew we were on the right track in terms of devices."

Frank Murray, Director of Instructional Technology, WFISD



Elevating productivity with devices – in and out of the classroom

Choosing a device that's flexible and accommodates a variety of employee and curriculum needs is important to Murray. "Most teachers wanted devices with keyboards, and the same experience from any Chromebook that they signed in to – a rapid boot-up time and no software update disruptions," Murray says. "Teachers don't want to waste instructional time waiting for computers to boot up or update."



As a teacher, I'm always looking for ways to save time, and my Chromebook is the ultimate time-saver."

Chris Preston, Honors Biology teacher and eSports Coach, Rider High School

Teachers also liked the ability to add extensions to Chrome browser that could help students succeed in subjects like math. "Every student and teacher can now have a Desmos scientific calculator on their Chromebooks," Murray adds.

The Wichita Falls technology leaders prefer devices and apps that favor easy organic adoption. "As a teacher, I'm always looking for ways to save time, and my Chromebook is the ultimate time-saver," says Chris Preston, an honors biology teacher and esports coach at Rider High School. "I actively share my experiences with my Chromebook with fellow educators because Chromebooks have changed the way I work. I want others to have that same opportunity."

During the 2021–2022 school year, IT leaders equipped teachers with Dell 3100 2-in-1 Chromebooks, both as new devices and as replacements to existing teacher devices. The latest Chromebook rollout is intended to enable teachers to use Chromebooks for lesson planning, scheduling meetings, easier collaboration, and more from anywhere.