

Instructional Technology Initiative



Transforming Teaching and Learning in the 21st Century

Instructional Technology Initiative (ITI)

FAQ for Parents

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21st Century Learning

Q: Why does my child need to use technology for learning?

A: Integrating technology in teaching and learning ...

- Colleges, universities, and careers demand that students be proficient with technology; if they are not, then they will be at a competitive disadvantage on whatever path they choose to pursue when they graduate.
- Closes the Digital Divide by ensuring equity in access to 21st century technology and the 21st century skills it helps students and teachers develop
- Supports students' achievement of Common Core State Standards by giving *all* students the opportunity to engage with adaptive learning programs that provide instant feedback; online assessments; information and collaboration via the Internet; 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 with a different approach to the problem)
- Invites parents to be more involved in their children's learning
- Moves toward the [U.S. Department of Education Technology Plan 2010](#) goal that every student and educator have 24/7 access to the Internet

Q: What is installed on the District's digital learning devices to help students learn?

A: Different devices have different apps pre-installed. Please see the following links:

- [Phase 1 and Phase 2A iPads](#)
- Phase 2B iPads (App installation is in process)
- [Phase 2B and 1L Chromebooks](#)

- [Phase 1L Lenovos and Surface Pros](#)

Check with your child and teacher to learn whether additional apps have been installed.

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

A: All teachers receive professional development that starts with device basics and use of productivity and creativity apps. This supports them in guiding students to enhance learning with tools ranging from word-processing to movie-making. Additional classes are available to teachers throughout the year. Also, an ITI instructional technology facilitator works with teachers at their schools to develop lessons that use technology to promote problem-solving, creativity, and innovation.

Q: Will digital devices replace textbooks?

A: Someday, digital textbooks may replace printed books. However, that will not happen in the near future. For now, digital versions and supplemental materials for the MyMath textbooks are available on devices at 1:1 schools.

Student Safety Online

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.

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: <http://www.colapublib.org/libs/>
- Our teachers instruct students in digital citizenship -- 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, which all parents sign before their children use District digital learning tools.

- 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 Responsible and Acceptable Use Policy ([English](#) / [Spanish](#)), as well as in the Parent Acknowledgement form that goes home with students in schools that have 1:1 devices.

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 during routine use. The District explicitly prohibits removal of the protective cases. If the device is damaged while the case is removed, parents are responsible for any damage that occurs.

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 replacement cost will not include what the District paid for the software. Please see the District's [restitution policy](#) for more information.) 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: Can I buy insurance for the device?

A: At this time, insurance is not available for the District's digital learning tools. The District will continue to explore this option.

24/7: 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:

- Allows students to have access to information even if they lack access to a personal 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 allows learning opportunities and outcomes that would have been unimaginable just a few years ago

- Transform homework with collaborative projects and other 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 at home, if I'm not experienced with digital devices?

A: The Instructional Technology Initiative 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: What if we don't have Internet access at home?

A: Families are encouraged to check with [EveryoneOn](#), a national nonprofit organization that helps people find reduced-price or free Internet service. Parents also 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/libr/>

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: What happens to lost or stolen digital devices?

A: Any stolen device should be reported immediately to local police, to the school, and to 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.

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

A: It is important that parents review the "Safety First" flyer with their child regarding physical safety while traveling to and from school: [English](#) / [Spanish](#)

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 iPads locked?

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

A: If students can access their assignment from a computer or tablet at home, and can submit it to the teacher from that device, they can work on the assignment from the home device.

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

A: Each District device for 1:1 schools comes with a charger and earphones. Check with your school on the policies for replacement and for students new to the school. At schools with shared devices, the district's testing unit provides earphones for use by students on assessments.

Apple IDs

Q: Will my child need to create an Apple ID to access apps for school?

A: No, High School students will be given a school issued personalized Apple ID. A parent can choose to opt-out and they will be given a Generic Apple ID for educational purposes. Elementary and Middle school students will not need a personalized Apple ID in order to gain access to apps.

Q: Can my child use my Apple ID or another personal Apple ID to install apps on District devices?

A: Students are not allowed to use a personal Apple ID on a District device.