

Choosing digital devices for K-12 learning: Enabling student success in a fast-changing world



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Hybrid learning is here to stay

When the pandemic caused most U.S. schools to stop offering in-person classes in the spring of 2020, more than 1.2 billion K-12 students across the globe shifted to solely virtual learning.

While that number has decreased as schools have reopened and pandemic-related restrictions have eased, many students continue to rely on online learning. According to a RAND corporation report from mid-2021, roughly one-third of schools plan to keep “remote learning as an option going forward for any family that wants it, and more teachers prefer remote learning than ever before.”¹

Staying ahead of changing educational needs

The dynamism of the modern learning environment requires students to find their work quickly and easily, engage with others in a wide range of scenarios, and work seamlessly online and offline. With collaboration of growing importance to learning and post-school success, voice and video calling have become a normal part of many students’ education.

Even for the majority of students who return to in-person attendance as their primary mode of schooling, the flexibility, collaboration, and personalized learning enabled by digital technology will become ever more crucial in a fast-changing world. Educators carry significant responsibility for choosing technology that supports a diverse array of student needs—whether using classroom apps, doing research, completing homework, or learning entirely from home.

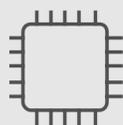
Behind the scenes, educators have discovered the importance of easy deployment and management. With the explosion in school-provided endpoints due to the pandemic, many faced significant challenges operating vastly larger device fleets. Digital learning can only happen when devices are available, properly configured, and operating at full potential.



Protecting students and schools requires device-level security

As the digital learning and endpoints increase, so does the importance of securing those devices. According to a recent report from the K-12 Cybersecurity Resource Center, 2020 was a record-breaking year for cyberattacks against U.S. public schools.² Another study reports that nearly 7.7 million enterprise malware encounters came from the education sector, making it the worst-affected industry overall.³

And these attacks are not only targeting applications and operating systems—they are going after vulnerabilities at the hardware level.



Firmware attacks: Malicious code enters a device through a backdoor in a processor's software.



Kernel attacks: Attackers install a compromised driver to gain access to a system.



Hardware direct memory access (DMA) attacks: Systems are compromised through high-speed expansion ports with access to device memory.

One way to protect against these types of vulnerabilities is to choose systems featuring integrated hardware and software, designed and built by one vendor with a proven track record of security investment and innovation. With hardware, firmware, and the operating system designed to work together securely from the start, these systems can provide higher levels of protection.





Enhancing learning for all students with Surface Laptop SE and Windows 11 SE

Flexibility for today's dynamic education needs. Intuitive, dependable experiences that support students wherever they learn. Manageable, security-optimized devices that deliver high value for the investment. Educators can meet all of these needs with one device: Microsoft Surface Laptop SE, which now includes Windows 11 SE for one affordable price.

Surface Laptop SE helps schools meet the needs of every student wherever they are learning, streamlines and simplifies device management, and supports high levels of security to help protect against emerging threats.

Hardware and software, working in harmony. Microsoft Surface Laptop SE includes Windows 11 SE, a new edition of Windows 11 streamlined for students in primary and secondary education. This cost-effective, high-performance solution gives students access to built-in apps, web experiences to help them learn and develop essential skills, and tools that meet them where they are, no matter their abilities.

Increased engagement. Windows 11 SE optimizes performance with curated, education-first apps designed for budget-friendly devices. In addition, Windows 11 SE enables high-quality digital experiences through an HD camera, a digital mic, and stereo speakers and provides seamless web experiences to help students learn and develop critical skills.

Integrated learning. Windows 11 SE works together with Microsoft 365, including Microsoft Teams, Office 365, and Minecraft: Education Edition, to help students build skills for the future. Surface Laptop SE supports a wide range of accessories to support diverse learning styles and accommodate special needs.

All-day performance.⁴ With battery life exceeding 10 hours, Surface Laptop SE powers creativity through the entire school day, whether students are completing assignments in class or finishing them up at home.

Appropriate for any age. Microsoft Surface Laptop SE is a sleek 11.6-inch display laptop that fits easily into a student's backpack and is easy for younger students to use. It's also durable and designed to withstand the wear and tear of everyday student use.

Enterprise-grade security. Microsoft builds security into its devices with chip-to-cloud protection and regular updates that protect against emerging threats based on one of the world's largest and most proactive security monitoring organizations.

Simplify digital learning

Students access files and productivity apps both online and offline, in a streamlined environment designed to limit distractions. All apps in Windows 11 SE launch in full-screen mode, so students more easily find their work. This helps them quickly follow teacher prompts and find learning materials. They can easily collaborate in shared documents through a web browser or using desktop apps.

Offline access to OneDrive enables them to work even when they're out of the classroom or offline. Cloud-first storage helps them find files and learning materials faster, without worrying about where they are stored.

Prepare students for tomorrow

Among Fortune 500 companies, 95 percent use Windows devices, meaning that Microsoft Surface Laptop SE with Windows 11 helps students build skills they'll need for the future. A connected, collaborative experience sets students up for higher education experience and the professional world.

Intuitive devices can help students engage with information in the way that works best for them, focusing on critical thinking and problem-solving skills rather than managing files and learning programs. With tools for independent learning in a virtual or hybrid setting, students can take charge of their education and forge a path to success.

Ease management and reduce costs

Schools are deploying more devices than ever, but IT budgets remain limited. Simplified deployment and management are essential. Surface Laptop SE and Windows 11 SE work together with the Microsoft device management ecosystem for maximum ease.

Using Microsoft Intune, administrators can easily deploy Surface Laptop SE devices, apply settings, and distribute apps with high levels of control—including over peripherals such as mics, USB ports, cameras, and Bluetooth. Easier management contributes to device availability, performance, and security.

Deploying Surface Laptop SE with Windows 11 also helps schools reduce costs and save management time. Microsoft sells spare parts through its authorized service providers, helping schools replace components on site instead of having to send devices for costly repairs and wait days or weeks for them to be fixed. Cloud storage also reduces the need for expensive infrastructure and enables schools to buy lower-cost devices with less memory.

Protect students and data with chip-to-cloud security

It doesn't matter whether an attacker targets firmware, the operating system, or a cloud application: educators need to know that they are keeping students and sensitive information safe. Surface Laptop SE and Windows 11 SE support this level of end-to-end assurance, bringing a defense-in-depth strategy across design, manufacturing, software, updates, and ongoing protection. Built-in Zero Trust safeguards protect devices, data, apps, identity, infrastructure, and networking. IT administrators control app installation so they can prioritize learning and reduce the likelihood of app-based attacks. That means students get continued high performance, a focused learning experience, and protection against cyber threats. Surface Laptop SE also supports Microsoft's commitment to sustainability, through hardware and accessories that are made with recycled materials.

Use Emergency Connectivity Fund dollars to get Surface Laptop SE and Windows 11 SE for your school

Buying devices with the [Emergency Connectivity Fund \(ECF\)](#)⁵ program? You have between April 28 and May 13, 2022 to finalize your selection. Even if you've already used your funding to purchase other devices, you can submit a request to change the service provider or the equipment and/or service through a Post-Commitment Request Form in the ECF Portal.

Enable exceptional learning

Effective hybrid and digital learning experiences require capable devices that meet diverse student needs—with high levels of security and manageability. Together for one affordable price, Microsoft Surface Laptop SE with Windows 11 SE meets the learning needs of all K-12 students, wherever they are.

- Streamline learning with an intuitive, education-focused environment
- Increase collaboration and communication among students and educators
- Help prepare students for the professional world
- Manage and deploy devices easily and cost-effectively using modern, cloud-based tools
- Control apps and settings to protect students and optimize learning
- Guard against sophisticated cyberattacks with chip-to-cloud security

Help each student reach their full potential, wherever learning takes place. Discover how you can get Surface Laptop SE with Windows 11 for your school.

1 [The Remote Learning Paradox: Some Educators, Parents Want to Keep Online Classes Option Even Though Instruction Suffered.](#) RAND Corporation, 2021

2 [The State of K-12 Cybersecurity.](#) K-12 Cybersecurity Resource Center, 2020.

3 [Cyberthreats, viruses, and malware](#) – Microsoft Security Intelligence. Microsoft, 2021.

4 Battery life varies significantly with settings, usage, and other factors.

5 The Emergency Connectivity Fund (ECF) is provided by the Federal Communications Commission and is not affiliated with Microsoft. Microsoft makes no representation or guarantee about ECF eligibility



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