

# Save the day: **The secret** to reducing K-12 IT hassles

Modern classrooms are easier to deploy, manage, and secure — with Lenovo devices and Windows 11

The demands on IT are never-ending in educational environments, and the last thing busy IT professionals need is another major upgrade. In fact, IT workloads increased exponentially during the pandemic — and resources for remote and blended learning continue to be strained.

More than half of K-12 IT teams are understaffed, hampered in their ability to provide remote support to educators and students, with 31 percent of IT leaders planning to retire within the next five years.<sup>1</sup> Meanwhile, school districts are a prime target for cybersecurity attacks. Schools must safeguard educator, staff and student data, identities, and devices. Simplified, secure IT is imperative for the modern classroom.

With Lenovo devices and Windows 11, K-12 IT leaders can empower educators to do more from anywhere, with the latest collaboration tools and superior reliability. Teachers and staff can spend less time on computer hassles, and focus on creating better learning experiences. What's more, the integrated platform makes fleet management easier, with support for the same IT management tools that are already in use. As the classroom evolves, Lenovo and Microsoft focus on embedding the right productivity, manageability, and security features into our education solutions — so that IT teams can turn quickly moving pieces into a solid foundation for teaching and learning.

## Simplifying IT in the digital learning era

The educational landscape has changed dramatically in recent years — and so has IT management. Today's IT teams need integrated hardware and software that's easy to deploy, secure, and manage, without interruption. Teachers and staff need powerful tools to work, collaborate, and create in a secure and trusted environment. And end-to-end services are crucial for lightening the load on IT throughout the device lifecycle, so they can focus on other school priorities.

Sixty percent of technology leaders believe the biggest challenge in making a decision about classroom digital content is evaluating its quality.<sup>2</sup> Lenovo devices with Windows 11 are built for the requirements of blended learning, backed by cloud-based management of content and access.

## Why Lenovo and Microsoft?

- Lenovo devices with Windows 11 provide built-in security for digital learning, including hardware-based isolation, encryption, and malware protection.
- Windows 11 is based on the same foundation as Windows 10, so it's consistent for IT and supports your existing IT management tools and processes.
- Microsoft and Lenovo combine unmatched reliability with purpose-built education design — and lead the way with innovation aimed at core K-12 IT challenges.



Windows 11 is built on the same core as Windows 10, which means IT staff can use their favorite tools for the technology refresh and streamline migration. In addition, most applications, devices, and accessories that worked with Windows 10 will be compatible with Windows 11. Plus, Windows 11 supports remote deployment of PCs via the cloud, in compliance with district policies. Windows AutoPilot cloud-based provisioning technology allows for easy pre-configuration of new devices for use throughout the school year.

## Safeguarding the learning experience

With the rise of remote and blended learning, K-12 school districts are more vulnerable than ever for cybersecurity attacks. In fact, in the 30 days before June 28, 2022, educational organizations were the target of 82 percent of malware attacks.<sup>3</sup> Ransomware has surpassed data breach attacks as the largest category of attacks on schools, and the costs can be extreme even when a ransom isn't paid. For instance, Maryland's Baltimore County school system spent almost \$9.7 million responding to a late 2020 ransomware attack.<sup>4</sup>

Lenovo devices with Windows 11 are secure by design, with chip-to-cloud security features that make it easier for schools to guard against attacks. Built-in security ensures that protections are ready without having to configure anything. Microsoft has increased the security baseline by requiring a security chip (TPM2) and ensuring that privacy controls are turned on by default to protect from malware and sophisticated attacks — from the device to the cloud.

Windows 11 also comes with a Zero Trust-ready option to offer districts a suite of risk-mitigation and cloud-migration solutions. Lenovo devices have design features, like a Privacy Shutter (a manual slider directly above the webcam lens), as well as advanced innovations like Absolute<sup>®</sup> cybersecurity software and SentinelOne<sup>®</sup> endpoint protection, to provide layers of defense in educational environments. Microsoft's AI-driven software acts to combat cyberbullying. Plus, cloud-managed security updates can happen automatically with Microsoft Intune for Education, helping to keep your school and student data safe.

## Key features for IT teams

- **Zero Trust-ready OS** to protect data and access, anywhere
- **Simple user experience** to improve educator productivity and reduce troubleshooting
- **Powerful, built-in security** for a trusted learning environment that keeps school and student data safe
- **Cloud-based provisioning** to easily pre-configure new devices for use during the school year
- **Hands-free setup and management** for rapid installation of key apps, including Microsoft Teams, OneNote, Word, Flipgrid, and Minecraft: Education Edition

## Find the right devices for your school

Partner with us for better outcomes. Lenovo education devices running Windows 11 help facilitate educator collaboration, staff productivity and learning outcomes — without sacrificing manageability or security. To equip your schools and students, visit:

[Lenovo.com/SchoolWorks](https://lenovo.com/SchoolWorks)

1 Consortium for School Networking. (2022) State of EdTech Leadership Survey Report.

2 Preliminary Speak Up 2021-2022 Research Project Findings (October 2021-June 2022) Project Tomorrow.

3 Microsoft Security Intelligence.

4 Alyson Klein. (March 14, 2022) "Ransomware Attacks Up, Overall Cyber Attacks Down for K-12." Government Technology.