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What is G Suite for Education?

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If you are new to Google, or if you want to become a Google Certified Educator, you should learn the basics of G Suite for Education. (It will be on the Level 1 exam.) What is it? What does it include? How does it help teachers and students?

What is G Suite for Education?

G Suite for Education is a suite of tools that can help you increase opportunities for critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and creativity, all while supporting the learning objectives that you have for your students.

G Suite for Education is a suite of free Google tools and services that are tailored for schools and homeschools. It is available globally to all educational institutions that qualify.

Requirements for G Suite for Education

K-12 schools, higher-education institutions, and homeschool co-ops are eligible for G Suite for Education if they meet certain criteria. The institution applying for G Suite for Education must submit the application.

- K-12 and higher institutions must:
 - Have verified not-for-profit status.
 - Be a government-recognized, formally-accredited educational institution delivering nationally or internationally-approved certifications at primary, secondary, or third level.
- Homeschools must be verified by a state homeschool organization.

G Suite for Education tools are:

- free,
- ad-free,
- reliable,
- and secure.



These tools are already used by millions of students in schools around the world. Of course, free is great, but the best thing is that these tools are relevant to students, easy to use, and open doors to many new ways to learn.

- 24/7 Access
- One Login for EVERYTHING!
- Collaborative
- Use on Any Device/Cross-Platform

What Applications are Included in the [Core Services](#)?

The G Suite core services are the meat and potatoes of the suite, and you will find these are probably where you spend the bulk of your time. Each one of these can be managed and enabled/disabled through the admin console. (Ex: Some schools choose to use a different email program and will disable Gmail for their users.)

The core services include:

- [Google Classroom](#): is a free application designed to help students and teachers communicate, collaborate, organize and manage assignments, grade and give feedback, go paperless, and much more! Note: (For information about getting started with Google Classroom, check out my [Google Classroom Master Class](#), and all of the [Google Classroom resources on Shake Up Learning](#).)
- [Google Chrome Sync](#): is a feature that allows End Users to synchronize bookmarks, history, passwords, and other settings across all the devices where they are signed in to Chrome.
- [Gmail](#): Gmail is a free, web-based email platform that offers SPAM protection and is completely ad-free in G Suite for Education accounts.
- [Google Drive](#): Google Drive allows you to store your files securely and access them from any device, as well as create, open and edit your files. You have UNLIMITED storage space with G Suite for Education.
- [Google Calendar](#): Google Calendar is a free, web-based calendar platform that is completely ad-free in G Suite for Education accounts.
- [Google Vault](#): Google Vault lets you retain, hold, search, and export your organization's mail and chat messages. You can also search and export your organization's files in Google Drive.
- [Google Docs](#): Google Docs is a free, web-based word processing tool that allows you to create and edit documents online and collaborate in real-time.



- **[Google Sheets](#)**: Google Sheets is a free, web-based spreadsheet tool that allows you to create and edit spreadsheets online and collaborate in real-time. It is great for data analysis and organization.
- **[Google Forms](#)**: Google Forms is a free, web-based form tool that allows you to create forms, surveys, and quizzes that collect response information in real-time.
- **[Google Slides](#)**: Google Slides is a free, web-based presentation tool that allows you to create and edit presentations online.
- **[Google Drawings](#)**: is a free, web-based diagramming software. It allows users to create flowcharts, mind maps, concept maps, and other images.
- **[Google Sites](#)**: Google Sites is a free and easy way to create and share websites and web pages. (Please note: The NEW Google Sites is tested on the Google Certified Educator Level 1 and Level 2 exams.)
- **[Google Meet](#)**: Google Meet is a free communication and collaboration tool for video calls, and screen sharing.
- **[Hangouts Chat](#)**: Google Hangouts Chat is a free online chat system for individual and group chats.
- **[Jamboard](#)**: is a web-based service that allows End Users to create, edit, share, collaborate, draw, export, and embed content within a document.
- **[Google Keep](#)**: is a web-based service that enables End Users to create, edit, share, and collaborate on notes, lists, and drawings.
- **[Google Tasks](#)**: Keep track of your daily tasks, organize multiple lists, and track important deadlines with Google Tasks.
- **[Google Groups](#)**: allows you to create and participate in online forums and email-based groups with a rich experience for community conversations.
- **[Google Contacts](#)**: is a web-based service that allows End Users to import, store, and view contact information, and create personal groups of contacts that can be used to email many people at once.



Where/What Are the “[Additional Services](#)”?

Google has other tools outside of G Suite for Education that can be used in the classroom, which you may be able to access with your same username and password.

G Suite for Education administrators determine which Google services their users can access, and are required to provide or obtain consent for the use of the services by their minor users. When a school obtains appropriate consent, Additional Services that allow it, such as YouTube, Maps, and Blogger, can be used without age restrictions by G Suite for Education users.

These are consumer products and are not covered by the G Suite for Education Terms of Service. They include:

- **YouTube:** Online video hosting and sharing
- **Google Maps/Earth:** Interactive maps and satellite imagery
- **Blogger:** Publishing blogs

How Is This Different From Your Personal Gmail/Google Account?

Has your school gone Google yet? If not, you may be wondering, “What’s the difference between using a personal account and a G Suite for Education account?” A LOT!!! ([Here’s a full comparison.](#))

I do not recommend using personal Google accounts in a K-12 setting. The creation and control of student accounts are crucial to organization and classroom success. And G Suite for Edu offers UNLIMITED storage space! Hooray!

G Suite Enterprise for Education

G Suite Enterprise for Education gives educational institutions a set of tools to manage their entire organization, including administrative departments that have needs similar to businesses. Features include advanced controls, enhanced analytics and search, and enterprise-grade communication tools. (This version is not free.) [Learn more here.](#)



Why Do You Need to Know All This?

If you plan on taking the Google Certified Educator Level 1 exam, you will be asked questions about G Suite for Education. Maybe you don't feel you need to know this, but it is helpful for teachers to better understand administrative decision-making and to know what to request when it comes to G Suite. Sometimes certain applications are not enabled because no one has asked to use it. Other times, certain applications are disabled because they require users to be 13+.

Yes! G Suite Tools Can Be Enabled for Specific User Groups

Don't let IT drive curriculum and instruction! There are applications that do fall under the [COPPA 13+ rule](#), or there may be other reasons that applications have not been enabled for you and your students. The idea that a G Suite application is all or nothing, meaning everyone has it--or everyone doesn't, is simply not true. G Suite allows us to control access by user groups. Schools may want teachers and secondary students to have access to Gmail, but not give Gmail access to K-5, and that is possible through user groups. Let's remember to use these tools for the betterment of our students and to increase learning and engagement.

G Suite for Education Support

- Google for Education Support Center: support.google.com/edu
- Product Forum: productforums.google.com
- 24/7 Email and Phone Support: gsuite.google.com/support

Want to Learn More About Using G Suite Tools in the Classroom?

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