

About Us

What is the Common Core Technology Project?

The [Common Core Technology Project](#) (CCTP) is laying the foundation to provide an individualized, interactive, and information-rich experience for every student. There are many key components to the project including providing each teacher and student with a mobile device, creating systems to distribute content and configure devices easily and remotely (called mobile device management), provide every student with an individual online account (called identity management), email, software to enable sharing content easily among teachers, students, and parents (called a learning management system), and professional development for our educators to facilitate the transition.

Project Goals

The [Common Core Technology Project](#) at the [Los Angeles Unified School District](#) (LAUSD) will support student achievement and learning of the new [Common Core State Standards](#). Students will develop 21st century knowledge, skills and abilities that will be needed to graduate high school and become college and career ready. Through the Common Core Technology Project, LAUSD will equip classrooms with up-to-date technology and every student will be provided access to a personal computing device which will allow for a more individualized instruction

The Common Core Technology Project will provide an individualized, interactive, and information rich educational experience by:

- Providing educators with tools (devices) to advance student learning and create learning spaces that are designed to increase learner engagement
- Supporting the Common Core State Standards implementation by providing all students with the opportunity to engage with digital curriculum, interactive supports and adaptive assessments
- Closing the "Digital Divide" by ensuring all students have access to 21st century skills and technology

When fully implemented, LAUSD students will have access to

- E-instruction: Instruction geared for the 21st century
- E-curriculum: Individualized learning opportunities
- E-textbooks: Interactive, searchable textbooks
- E-tools: Calculators, audio/video players, digital

- camera, and more
- E-assessments: Ongoing feedback for personalized student learning plans

Why are we doing this?

The need to catch up to the way our students learn is long overdue. The District has been strategizing to improve the infrastructure to accommodate 21st century teaching and learning technology for the past three years. The decision to implement Common Core State Standards in LAUSD expedited the timeline for this an increased the imperative. Early pilots of 1:1 classrooms in the District have already begun to show improvements in student attendance, engagement, and achievement. By scaling up this transformational effort to every K-12 classroom in LAUSD, we will accomplish the following critical objectives:

1. Equip educators with tools to advance student learning in the classroom
2. Support the Common Core State Standards, including student engagement with a digital curriculum, interactive supports, and computer adaptive assessments, and
3. Close the digital divide by ensuring that every student has access to 21st century classroom technology.

Will tablets teach students now instead of teachers?

Absolutely not. Technology will never replace a classroom teacher. However, it can enhance the instructional possibilities for a teacher. For instance, a teacher can leverage multimedia content (video, images, interactive applications) to provide students with a more audio-visual and all around rich learning experience. Technology can assist with engaging students and helping with classroom management. Technology can help a teacher monitor and assess a student's progress as he or she learns rather than waiting for assignments to be turned in. It also facilitates communication among the student, teacher, and parents/guardians. Though the new possibilities are endless, they are all ways to enhance good teaching, not replace it.

Why don't we just use the money to hire more teachers?

The District is leveraging school bond funds that were approved by voters to invest in facility and technology upgrades. This money cannot be used for the District's payroll. The District is making simultaneous efforts to resolve the problems of high student-teacher ratios and outdated classroom technology. Both are necessary to provide our students with the best learning experience possible.

When will LAUSD schools get the new technology?

The CCTP is being rolled out in phases. The Board of Education has approved a first Phase—Phase 1—which is a pilot program to deploy and assess the merits of the transitional program at 47 LAUSD schools. Based on what we learn from this first phase, the District will approach the Board again to request funding for additional phases.

How were the 47 Phase 1 schools selected?

The 47 schools selected to participate in the pilot phase of the program were selected based on various criteria:

1. 13 are "Schools of the Future" schools; where innovative administrators have already demonstrated success with equipping classrooms with technology.
2. 29 are schools that were identified by the Office of Civil Rights as schools where students have the greatest need of access to modernized instructional content.
3. 5 are Proposition 29 charter schools that are co-located with schools that fell into one of the first two categories. Should the Board of Education approve a second and third phase of the program, all 28,000 teachers and 656,000 students in LAUSD will receive the fully-loaded devices by the 2014-15 school year.

Why do the devices cost more than the prices I see in the stores?

The per-unit cost the District negotiated includes a great deal more than just a device. Each device is delivered to the classroom pre-loaded with a digital curriculum (including e-textbooks) aligned with the Common Core State Standards; security configurations, including protective covers that keep devices safe from damage, embedded with the District's logo, bar codes, and internal tracking systems

that will allow police and/or District officials to recover the devices if they become lost or stolen; and comprehensive hands-on professional development provided for teachers and administrators. The District was able to secure low prices for all these items as a package due to the high volume being purchased.

How will the District sustain the cost of this program?

The Bond funds used for the transformation are considered a one-time investment to provide a much-needed upgrade to our education and technology infrastructure. The District will sustain the use of devices as well as digital curricula and assessments through regular ongoing costs in future years much in the same way it pays for the costs of purchasing, warehousing, and distributing textbooks today.

What are we doing to ensure the safety of our students?

Providing a high quality education in a safe and nurturing environment continues to be a strategic goal of LAUSD. LA School Police is taking the lead on ensuring our students' safety by building on existing methodologies to protect our students from surrounding dangers.

Within this framework, they are following a five-part strategy related specifically to the Common Core Technology Program:

A cyber security awareness campaign - aimed at teaching our students and families to use technology responsibly, keeping their devices, their information, and themselves safe from harm - also ensuring compliance with the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA)

1. Community outreach - starting with internal communications and public service announcements to be broadcast over the airwaves by October 18 - these will focus on the facts related to protecting our devices and our students, particularly:
 2. Application of Technology Innovation - the District has invested in a modern solution that enables us:
 - o - To LOCK devices - ensuring they are being used appropriately for educational purposes,
 - o - To FREEZE devices - disable their use if they fall outside the boundaries of authorized use for LAUSD purposes, and
 - o - To TRACK our inventory, so we can locate

precisely where they are should they go missing or get stolen.

1. Los Angeles School Police Dept - is collaborating with a Law Enforcement Working Group - which includes 12 law enforcement agencies, including the L.A. County Sheriff's Department, and all municipal law enforcement agencies who have jurisdiction over our schools
2. LASPD is also reaching out the local prosecutors to make Relevant Arrests and press charges when necessary to ensure the protection of our youth as well as the District's capital investments.

What about families who don't have Internet connectivity at home?

The advantage of the new digital curriculum is that roughly 90% of it does not require an Internet connection to function. Thus, students are still able to learn even when not connected to a network. Even so, recognizing that we live in the age of connectivity, the District is partnering with community based organizations and other public agencies to help get more families online. After all, leveling the playing field and closing the digital divide is a major strategic goal of this initiative.

Please contact us at cctp@lausd.net with any questions you have.