

Parent FAQs

How will this initiative better prepare QACPS students for their future?

Our students are graduating into a world where they will be required to do modern work on modern tools. Our Queen Anne's County school system initiative will better prepare students for this new reality and will help level the playing field of opportunity for all of our graduates. Additionally, 91% of employers now report that they check out a candidate online as a part of their hiring process. College Admissions officers are increasingly doing this as well. It is our duty as educators, community members, and parents to ensure our students are prepared to meet this new reality by creating a powerful, positive digital footprint.

Device Deployment Questions

When will my child get a device?

Current middle school students will receive Chromebooks by the end of September 2014. Our plan is for high school students to receive laptops in 2015-16 and elementary students in grades 3-5 during the 2016-17 school year. If we are able to accomplish this plan, our school system will be fully transformed by the end of the 2016-17 school year.

What type of device will my student be receiving?

Students in the middle schools will receive an HP Chromebook 14.

How will the Chromebooks be handed out?

Each school will stage deployment nights during which parents and students will receive a Chromebook, power cord, and protective carrying case.

What if I am unable to attend the deployment night? Can my child still take his/her Chromebook home?

Yes, your child can still take his/her device home. If you are unable to attend deployment night, please review the online information, review the AUP 05 - Student Chromebook Procedure, the AUP 05 Form 1 - Student Chromebook Agreement, and sign the AUP 05 Form 2 - Student Chromebook Agreement Form. Once this is complete, your child will be able to take his/her Chromebook home. Schools are providing multiple opportunities for parents to come in to receive the Chromebook and it is preferred that this be done in person, if at all possible.

Insurance Questions

Do I have to pay for my child to use these devices?

No fee payment is required. Optional insurance is available for parents to provide coverage for damage and theft.

What does this optional insurance cover?

Accidental Damage, Theft, Fire, Flood, Natural Disaster, Power Surges and Vandalism. This insurance policy will provide full replacement cost coverage and will protect the item on and off school grounds.

What does this optional insurance NOT cover?

Deliberate or negligent damage, as determined by the school principal. Specific costs for specific types of damage are listed in the AUP 05 - Student Chromebook Procedure.

Do I have to pay repair costs for damage?

If for any reason the device is damaged during the time that it is issued to the student, the student and the student's parent/guardian may be assessed. Please see the AUP 05 - Student Chromebook Procedure, section 10.c.

No fees will be charged for repair or replacement of the device that is fully covered by a manufacturer's warranty or by the optional insurance.

What if the device my child is issued gets lost or stolen?

Lost or stolen devices must be reported immediately, and in the case of suspected theft a police report must be provided. Fees may be assessed as described in the AUP 05 - Student Chromebook Procedures.

How/Where can I pay my insurance fee?

Schools will not collect monies. Insurance can only be purchased online. Information for the insurance can be found in the Insurance Flyer on the QACPS website at chromebook.qacps.org.

What if I can't afford to pay the insurance fee? Families can apply for financial assistance, confidentially through the school principal. QACPS is committed to working with all families to provide home access to devices. Please see the AUP 05 - Student Chromebook Procedure, section 10.d.

Google Chromebook Questions**Can we install software to my student's Chromebook?**

No. However, students will have access to load preselected apps from the approved QACPS Chrome Web Store.

I've heard that some websites don't work on the Chromebook?

Websites that use Java or certain plugins will not work on Chromebooks. Chromebooks take full advantage of the "modern web". Most websites that utilize Java are older or outdated sites. It is expected in the next few years that the vast majority of useful tools on the Internet will convert to the "modern web" standard of html5.

Will my child be able to use Microsoft Office products on their Chromebook?

Students will be able to view any MS Office document but will create new documents with the Google Apps equivalents:

 Google Apps for Education	 Microsoft Office
 Google Document	 Microsoft Word
 Google Presentation	 Microsoft PowerPoint
 Google Spreadsheet	 Microsoft Excel

Will my child have access to charging at school?

Yes, but this will be very limited. QACPS expects students to charge their Chromebook overnight so it is fully charged and ready for a full school day of use.

Wireless Internet Questions

Will the Internet on the Chromebook be filtered at home the same as it is in school?

Yes. QACPS filtering will apply to the Chromebook on whatever network it is used.

I don't have wireless Internet at home. Can my child still use a Chromebook?

Yes. Chromebooks run the Google Apps suite, of which several apps can be utilized offline. These include word processing, presentations, and spreadsheets. There are also many apps that work offline and more will be added to the approved QACPS Web Store as they are reviewed.

How can I acquire wireless Internet at home?

Queen Anne's County Government is currently in contact with our local Internet Service Providers to see if there could be reduced rates offered for QACPS school families.

Where in my area can I go to utilize free wifi?

QACPS is looking to partner with businesses and local organizations to provide free wifi for our families.

Google Apps for EDU and Privacy Questions

What tools or applications will my child use with their Chromebook?

The main set of tools will be Google Apps for Education.

What other web tools will my child be using?

QACPS will also encourage students to utilize many more web tools that allow students opportunities to use their devices to collaborate, create, and publish. Resources can be found at chromebook.qacps.org.

What is Google Apps for Education?

A free, secure, web-based suite of tools for students and teachers to create and share documents in the cloud. This allows for many advantages in the classroom- easy collaboration for students and teachers, documents that are automatically saved, the ability to view and edit documents from anywhere, at anytime, and much more. Google Apps for Education is hosted by Google and managed by QACPS, which provides our staff and students with a secure “closed campus” online environment.

Does Google obtain access to my child's personal information?

No. Our Google Apps domain is a “walled garden”- it is set up by Google but completely managed by our district. No student personal information is tied to their accounts.

Will working with Google Apps for Education expose my child to ads targeted to them?

No. Our domain has this feature turned off.

Can I log into my child's accounts to check up on what they are doing?

We encourage parents to be vigilant in monitoring student work and use, just as teachers and staff will monitor at school.

Why can't my child email me with their QACPS Google Apps email?

Our Google Apps domain is a “walled garden” where students in grades 3-12 may only email other users within our domain (other students, teachers, and staff of QACPS). We do this for security purposes and to keep your child safe from outside, unwanted email.

What about Privacy?

QACPS is responsible for protecting and safeguarding the confidentiality of student information. QACPS has contracted with Google through the Maryland Educational Enterprise Consortium (MEEC) Google Apps for Education Agreement dated 6/30/2010 to provide access to Google Apps for Education to its users (staff and students) in a closed and secure

environment that is not accessible by anyone outside of QACPS. Google Apps is governed by detailed privacy policy and security measures which QACPS has reviewed and is satisfied they appropriately protect the privacy of its users of these tools. Under our Terms of Service Agreement with Google, like QACPS, they are obligated to comply with FERPA regulations. Additional information about GAE security & privacy may be found at <http://www.google.com/apps/intl/en/edu/privacy.html>.

What assurances has Google given QACPS that they will not collect data on my student?

QACPS has a signed agreement with Google based on the terms of this agreement and meets the Maryland Educational Enterprise Consortium agreement dated 6/30/2010.

http://www.google.com/apps/intl/en/terms/education_terms.html Please see Section 7. QACPS Google Apps for Education is compliant with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA.)

Who has access to my child's account?

The Google Apps Terms of Service agreement with QACPS contractually ensures that our institution (students, faculty, and staff) are the sole owners of their data. Google will only access content stored on Apps when an administrator from QACPS grants Google explicit permission to do so. One example would be to investigate inappropriate use.

Does my child retain copyright of their creations?

The same copyright rules apply to content in Google Apps for Education that would apply to any other creation, provided the student is the sole owner.