

Google Apps for Education

Costs and Fees

How much is WPS paying for this?

Google Apps for Education (GAFE) is free to WPS.

Computer Access

What if I don't have a computer, how is my child going to get to use it?

Because WPS Google Apps for Education is safe and web based, it can be accessed from school, the public library, or other places where computers are available.

Should I get my child their own computer?

The use of WPS Google Apps for Education does not require students to have their own computer or any other personal device. That is an individual family decision.

How will my child access WPS Google Apps for Education?

With teacher guidance, students must first activate their GAE account. Once the student has an active account, there are a variety of ways to log in:

- Go to <http://www.google.com> and log in using his or her full GAFE mail address and password.
- Go to <http://www.google.com/a/wps.k12.va.us> and log in using his or her full GAFE mail address and password.

Will my child be required to access GAE at home?

The instructional use of WPS Google Apps for Education is optional, with decisions about GAE in the classroom often made at the school level by teachers. Since GAE is accessible from any device with access to the Internet, your child does have the opportunity to log in to his or her WPS Google Apps account from home to access their information or work on their documents, and collaborate on shared documents with other students and/or their teacher.

Why can't my child e-mail me with this account?

WPS Google Apps is a "walled garden." It will not allow students to send or receive email outside of the WPS Google Apps domain. You will not be able to email your student at his or her wps.k12.va.us address, nor will they be able to email you.

My child already has a Gmail account, why can't they use that one?

WPS Google Apps Mail is one of the applications offered. Please be assured your child's wps.k12.va.us account will work only within our secured environment. In other words, your child will only be able to use this account for messaging within WPS Google Apps. It will not allow him or her to send or receive email outside of our "walled garden." You will not be able to email your student at his or her wps.k12.va.us address, nor will he or she be able to email you.

Parent Access

Can parents use it?

Currently only WPS employees and WPS students can access WPS Google Apps for Education.

Can I see what my child is doing on Google Apps?

Will there be a Parent View account? No, there is not a Parent View account. Parents are encouraged to explore Google Apps with their child by logging in together. You will be able to have your child log in to his or her WPS Google account at home and show you what they are currently working on in class.

Privacy and Security

Online security—How protected is my student from outside people?

WPS takes security and privacy of student information very seriously. WPS Google Apps is not accessible by anyone outside of WPS, so your child will be able to work and collaborate in a safe and secure online environment.

What about Privacy?

WPS is responsible for protecting and safeguarding the confidentiality of student information. WPS has contracted with Google to provide access to Google Apps for Education to its users (students and staff) in a closed and secure environment that is not accessible by anyone outside of WPS. Google Apps is governed by detailed privacy policy and security measures which WPS 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 WPS, 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>.

Who has access to my child's account?

The Google Apps Terms of Service agreement with WPS 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 WPS 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 GAE that would apply to any other creation, provided the student is the sole owner.

What protection will WPS provide so that my child is not accessing inappropriate content on the web?

There are no advertisements used with Google Apps for Education. GAE is an online collaboration tool that is accessed using a web browser and requires a login and password.

Google Apps in the Classroom

What apps are available?

WPS Google Apps for Education will provide students with secure and easy online access to documents, spreadsheet, presentation and communication tools that can be accessed easily from home or school and enhance teacher and student collaboration in the classroom and beyond.

What if another student deletes their work?

The owner is the only person who can delete a document. Once a document is deleted, no one can access it, including those with whom it was shared.

How will Google Apps reflect in their grade?

The use of Google Apps for Education will not in itself impact grades. Consult with your child's teacher/s about individual class requirements.

Why is Google necessary for the students; can't the teachers just answer the students' questions?

The use of Google Apps for Education is another tool WPS provides to help students and teachers communicate, collaborate, apply critical thinking skills, and work creativity. Teachers will continue to answer students' questions in the classroom. Google Apps for Education provide students an additional opportunity to ask a teacher question electronically, helping students learn to communicate in a real world environment.

Why Use Google Apps in the Classroom?

Why is the school system doing this?

"Digital Citizenship" and "21st Century Skills" are concepts which help teachers, technology leaders and parents to understand what students/children/technology users should know to use technology appropriately. Digital Citizenship and 21st Century Skills are more than just a teaching tool; using these tools can be a way to prepare students/technology users for a society full of technology. Too often we are seeing students as well as adults misusing and abusing technology but not sure what to do. The issue is more than what the users do not know but what is considered appropriate technology usage."

•<http://www.digitalcitizenship.net/>

•<http://www.p21.org/index.php/>

Why do students need an e-mail in elementary school? Isn't there another way to communicate?

Google Apps for Education will provide students with a closed email address which will allow for streamlined collaboration among their peers and teachers, and provides a consistent digital tool that can be accessed from home and at school. This will also allow email to become an instructional tool and allows elementary students to participate in authentic online learning in a safe environment.

What is the value of Google Apps for Education (GAPE)?

It allows for classroom collaboration, students and teachers can open and edit their documents quickly. No more distractions like USB keys, outdated file attachments, or confusing client software. Anytime, anywhere access Google Docs lets users be productive at school, at home, and even on their mobile phones. Because Google Docs runs in a web browser, students can work from almost any family computer without having to purchase new software. Easily upload and share files Google Docs works on PC, Mac, and Linux computers, and supports popular formats such as .doc, .xls, .ppt, and .pdf. Files stored on Google Docs are always accessible and backed-up online.