

A Parent's Guide to

The logo for Google Apps for Education features the word "Google" in its signature multi-colored font (blue, red, yellow, blue, green, red). Below the word "Google" is the text "Apps for Education" in a smaller, grey, sans-serif font.

Q: What is Google Apps for Education?

A: Google Apps for Education (GAFE) is a suite of web-based productivity tools that is made available to school districts at no cost. Businesses and schools all over the world, including colleges and K-12 institutions, are using these products.

Q: What products are a part of GAFE?

A: Google Apps for Education includes a wide variety of applications, but the two primary apps that students will use at our schools include...

Gmail - a full-featured email account.

Google Drive - online file storage as well as the ability to create documents, spreadsheets, and presentations. All items can be shared with other students as well as educators. Drive eliminates the need for students to save their work to removable media and allows students to access their saved work from any Internet-connected computer or device.

Q: Does the district filter the content that my child is allowed to access when using their GAFE account at school?

A: Yes, the district has two filters in place- while students are working in GAFE on a school network, a content filter checks all Internet traffic and, per rules established by the district's technology team, blocks students from gaining access to inappropriate content, such as pornography and violence. Additionally, all email messages that pass through the Gmail system are searched for specific keywords. If the messages contain these keywords, the message is sent to the technology director for review instead of the intended recipient. The rules and consequences that are a part of the Acceptable Use Policy that all students and parents must sign before a student receives his/her network accounts are applicable to all uses of GAFE.

Q: I monitor all of my child's online activities, so can I log in to my child's account to see

what he/she is doing?

A: Yes, we encourage parents to explore Google Apps with their children and to look over the things they are doing with these tools.

Q: Will my child be exposed to advertisements as they use GAFE?

A: No, advertising is turned off for all Google Apps for Education accounts.

Q: Will my child be allowed access to YouTube while at school?

A: Google offers a special YouTube channel for education called YouTube EDU. When students browse to YouTube, they are re-directed to this special channel where the content is geared towards education and is more appropriate for students.

Q: Will my child be allowed to use Google+?

A: Only students 13 or older are allowed to create a Google+ account. Students who utilize Google+ are held to the same standards for conduct and behavior that they are for all other forms of communication.

Benefits

To see some of the benefits of Google Apps for Education, visit

<http://www.google.com/enterprise/apps/education/benefits.html>

Privacy

A concern that many parents have is privacy. To read more about Google's privacy policy, visit

<http://www.google.com/policies/privacy/>