

1. What is APS Digital Bridge?

The Accountability and Information Division is committed to closing the “Homework Gap” for Atlanta Public School’s students. Therefore, we are working in partnership with T-Mobile’s EmpowerEd Program to provide devices and data (if needed) for students to have internet access at home. The “homework gap” is the result of barriers that students face when assigned digital based homework assignments but lack access to reliable internet service to complete the assignment. To address this issue of the “Homework Gap” APS is proud to introduce the APS DIGITAL BRIDGE to CLOSE THE DIVIDE and OPEN OPPORTUNITIES for all of our students. Currently the T-Mobile EmpowerED Program in APS will target 6th and 7th grade students.

2. How can I learn more about the APS Digital Bridge Program?

atlanta.k12.ga.us/apsdigitalbridge

3. How does this program impact my school or student?

This program allows for your school to move closer to a 1 to 1 digital program. The instructional possibilities are endless when each student has a device in his/her hand. Teachers can use a variety of digital instructional resources to engage students in 21st Century Learning skills.

4. What type of device will students/teachers receive?

Students and teachers will receive a Lenovo 300E Windows 10 touchscreen laptop device and a digital pen. This laptop comes with digital inking capabilities. Students can use the digital pen to scribe notes, draw and annotate over websites.

5. Who will receive a device?

ALL 6th and 7th grade students as well as ALL core 6th and 7th grade teachers, Special Education and World Language teachers will receive a device.

6. Will my 8th grade students receive a device?

8th grade students will not receive a device during SY 2018-19.

7. What is the process for students to receive a device?

Students will receive a device after attending a school sponsored training/distribution day. Parents are strongly encouraged to attend the training/distribution fair and sign the “Parent Permission and Release Form” before a student is issued a device.

8. Can students take their device home?

Yes, ALL students are expected to take their device home, charge them overnight and bring them back to school the next day. The primary purpose of this program is to provide a device for all students as well as internet connectivity for students who need internet access at home.

9. Can students take the device home during the summer?

No, students cannot take their device home during the summer. All devices will be turned in at the end of the school year for updates.

10. Who will provide technical support for schools and students?

The Tech Liaison at the school as well as APS IT Support will provide technical support.

11. Will students/teachers have access to Office 365 or G-Suite for Education on this device?

Yes, students and teachers will both have access to Office 365 and G-Suite for Education on this device. These web-based platforms allow students to save documents to the cloud (One Drive or Google Drive) and easily share them with their teacher or collaborate with other students.

12. What if parents do not want their child to have a device?

Students are being issued devices as a learning tool, the same way we provide other curriculum resources or materials. If a parent opts out of the Digital Bridge Program, the student will not receive a device. Parents with concerns should discuss their questions with their school's principal to come up with a solution with which the parent is comfortable and the student has access to the necessary learning materials.

13. Will students receive a case to protect the device?

Yes, the devices which are touchscreen enabled will come with a protective cover. Students must protect the device by carrying it in the protective cover at all times.

14. Will the device come with a keyboard, pen (stylus) or headphones?

Every device will come with a keyboard and battery-operated pen for digital inking. They will not come with headphones. We strongly recommend that students bring their own headphones to school for use.

15. Does the device have a camera?

Yes, this laptop has a camera.

16. What happens to devices when students move to another school within the district?

Students must return the device and any accessories to the school when they leave their school even if they are transferring to another school within the district. The new school will make a request for the student's laptop be delivered to the school.

17. What if a device is damaged?

All district-issued devices are the property of Atlanta Public Schools. Students should try and take the best care possible of the device. All damaged devices should be submitted for repair with a Nimbus Ticket.

18. What happens to a device that is not returned?

Any device that is not returned will be reported a stolen and a Police Report filed by APS.

19. What if my device is lost or stolen?

ALL lost/stolen laptops MUST have a police report and a payment of \$135. **NO EXCEPTIONS.** A replacement device will be provided when payment is made.

20. What if a student loses more than one laptop?

If two occurrences of a lost/stolen laptop occur, then the student will not be issued a third device.

21. What if I lose my Active Pen?

If you lose your Active Pen see the Digital Bridge Point of Contact at your school for a replacement Active Pen if one is available. Note: The Active Pen is not required to use your touchscreen Digital Bridge Device. You can use your finger or Stylus for the same function as the Active Pen.

22. What if a student fails to return the device?

As outlined in APS Procedure JS– Student Fees, Fines, and Charges: Sanctions may be taken against a student who fails or refuses to pay for a lost or damaged textbook, library book district-issued **electronic device, accessories for these devices, or media material up to the replacement cost** of the item.

23. What if students do not have internet access at home?

Any student who needs internet access at home will be provided with a hotspot with monthly data. However, there are many activities that students can do on the device without Internet access. For instances, students can use the preloaded Office Suite apps which include Word, PowerPoint, and Excel, as well as Paint 3D to write papers, create projects, and 3D images.

24. If a student has a hotspot, can they check their data usage?

Yes, students can check their hotspot data usage by contacting T-Mobile and providing the phone number or sim card number for the hotspot:

- 1-844-361-1310
- governmentaccount@t-mobilesupport.com

25. Do students need to bring their hotspot to school?

No, students **should not bring their hotspot to school**. Internet access is available at all schools and in every classroom. If you bring your hotspot to school, **it must be turned off at all times**.

26. Can I use my hotspot to power other devices?

No, your hotspot can only be used to power your Digital Bridge Device.

27. What is included in the 4GB Unlimited Data Plan available on the hotspots?

- 4G LTE CAT.4 Download speeds up to 150 Mbps
- Lasts up to 7 hours of continuous use

28. What steps are being taken to teach students about responsible technology use?

Before they receive a device, students will participate in “digital citizenship” lessons to teach them about safe and responsible use of technology. Parents can support this at home by visiting our APS Instructional Technology website or Common-Sense Media for some great tools for families. We strongly recommend that families use these materials to talk to their students about online safety and responsible technology use.

29. Will students/teachers have access to Office 365 on this device?

Yes, students and teachers will have access to Office 365 with their username@students.apsk12.org. Office 365 will allow students to create documents in programs like Word, Excel, Power Point, Sway, OneNote, and Microsoft Teams and store them in the cloud (One Drive), and easily share them with their teacher or collaborate with other students.

30. Will students/teachers have access to G-Suite for Education on this device?

Yes, students and teachers will have access to G-Suite for Education with their username@aspk12.org. G-Suite for Education will allow students to create documents in programs like Docs, Sheets, and Slides, and Google Classroom and store them in the cloud (Google Drive), and easily share them with their teacher or collaborate with other students.