

# Netbooks for 10,000 students

Almost 10,000 school children will receive netbook computers through the Victorian Government Netbook Project, one of the nation's most exciting educational programs.

Portable computers called "netbooks" weigh just over 1kg and fit easily into a school bag. Loaded with the software students need, and backed up with in-school technical support, the netbooks will give participating students the tools to learn in a digital age.

Wireless internet access will be available at school, and netbooks will also be used at home – with or without internet access.

Families participating in the Netbook Project will lease a wireless-enabled computer for their child for \$52 a year, the equivalent of \$1 a week.

## Netbook news

Participating schools will keep parents up to date about the Netbook Project through the school website, newsletters, email or parent information evenings.

Schools can also provide advice on:

- Best academic uses of the netbook
- Safe internet use
- Copyright, plagiarism and software licensing
- Appropriate screen time limits
- Ergonomics.

For more information visit  
<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/netbooks>

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<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/netbooks>

## The Netbook Project

Anywhere, anytime  
access to learning



## A new way of learning

Your child has been selected to take part in an exciting new educational program – the Netbook Project. As part of this project, almost 10,000 Victorian government school students will receive a netbook.



The netbook is the most recent development in mini notebook technology and will be equipped with more than 28 educational software programs. The Government is contributing to the purchase of these netbooks and software so that they are available to families at a fraction of the cost of their commercial retail price.

The Netbook Project is part of a global movement towards a 1:1 ratio of students to wireless-enabled computers. Research shows students are more motivated and engaged in learning when they have their own computer. Computer use has also been linked to better organisational skills, improved literacy and numeracy, better collaboration and analytical thinking.

Netbooks promote better learning in and out of school by encouraging:

- Anywhere, anytime access to learning
- Independent, self-initiated learning
- More family involvement in education
- Collaboration between students in different schools, states and even countries.

The Netbook Project is a trial program involving more than 340 schools.

## What can students do with a netbook?

The netbook will change how and when your child learns. At least 28 educational software programs will be loaded on to each netbook at no cost to parents. The types of activities that will become possible for your child include:

- Using the internet and encyclopaedia software for research
- Creating animation, movies and 3D designs
- Recording and editing photographs, sound or video
- Creating media-rich presentations
- Collaborating online with students locally, interstate or overseas.

Giving students access to a personal computer configured to the school network for use at school and at home creates more opportunities to learn.

## School and parent participation

More than 340 schools from rural and regional Victoria and from Melbourne's northern suburbs have been invited to take part in the Netbook Project.

Joint funding from the Victorian Government and parents will make it possible to provide netbooks for every student in selected year levels at these schools.

Parents will contribute \$52 a year to lease a netbook for student use at school and home. Basic insurance, warranties and technical support are included in the cost.

Parents, students and schools will be required to sign a User Agreement setting out their rights and responsibilities in relation to the computers.

The Government is investing in additional Wireless Access Points (WAPs) at participating schools, ensuring adequate wireless coverage for each student using a netbook. Schools will also receive a grant to cover the cost of cabling these WAPs into existing school networks.

### Participating School Regions



More than 340 schools from four regions have been selected to join the Netbook Project.

## Ensuring safe and appropriate use



Netbooks allow students to learn anytime, anywhere. Schools will integrate cybersafe practices, a filtered environment and teacher supervision to provide a protected online environment for students.

Parents are advised to supervise any internet use at home and consider setting screen time limits to avoid overuse. Further tips on web safety are available from schools.

Netbooks will fit inside a standard schoolbag for transport to and from school. To increase security, students will be asked to keep their computers out of sight when travelling.

### Tips for parents

- 1) Parents don't need good computer skills to help children learn using their netbooks. Your interest and encouragement is more important than computer literacy.
- 2) Encourage your child to keep the netbook in its protective cover. Don't put heavy books on top of the netbook in the schoolbag or on a desk.
- 3) If your child loads extra software on to the computer, make sure copyright and licensing laws are followed and that there is enough memory left for schoolwork.
- 4) Remind your child to charge the netbook overnight to ensure it is ready for each school day.
- 5) Encourage students to use netbooks in family rooms rather than bedrooms.
- 6) Talk to your school if any issues arise.