What is Google Apps for Education?

NSSD Google Apps for Education (GAE) is an integrated communication and collaboration solution, hosted by Google and managed by NSSD. GAE will provide the ability for NSSD students, faculty and staff to communicate, store files and collaborate on documents, spreadsheets, and presentations in real time from school, work, or home, all within a secure "closed campus" online environment.

How will it be used?

Google Apps will provide the ability for students and teachers to store files and collaborate on documents, spreadsheets, and presentations in real time from school or home within a "closed campus" online environment. The use of these tools is optional, and intended to provide an approved and supportable alternative to "consumer" Google accounts.

What can my student/child do with Google Apps?

Students will have easy access to their documents, spreadsheets, and presentations within Google Docs. In addition, students will have additional storage for other files they may need to use between home and school.

As the use of NSSD Google Apps continues, there may be other features that are added within Google Apps for Education. You will be informed about any significant changes to the tools your student is using in the secure NSSD environment.

Costs and Fees

How much is NSSD paying for this?

Google Apps for Education is free to NSSD.

Computer Access

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

The use of NSSD Google Apps for Education is part of the instructional program and students have many opportunities to work in their NSSD Google Apps account during the school day. Because NSSD Google Apps for Education is a safe and web based it can be accessed from the public library or other places where computers are available.

Should I get my child their own computer?

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

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

NSSD Google Apps is a "walled garden"(restricted delivery settings) . It will not allow students to send or receive email outside of the NSSD Google Apps domain. You will not be able to email your student at his or her, nor will they be able to email you.

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

 Google Apps for EDU will allow him or her to send or receive email outside of our "walled garden" NSSD Google Apps Mail is one of the applications offered. Please be assured your student's account will work only within our secured environment. In other words, your student will only be able to use this account for messaging within NSSD Google Apps. It will not

Do these apps work on an iPad or other tablet?

Google Apps documents may be edited using a mobile browser.

Parent Access

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 children by logging in together. You will be able to have your student log in to his or her NSSD Google account at home and show you what they are currently working on in class, as well as items that have been "turned in" and commented on by the teacher.

Privacy and Security

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

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

Who has access to my child's account?

The Google Apps Terms of Service agreement with NSSD 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 NSSD 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 NSSD 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 and how can I expect my child's teacher to use them?

NSSD 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.

Teachers can use Google Drive to facilitate group projects and use the history tool to see the level of participation of each student in a group. Teachers will be able to give feedback to students directly in documents shared with a teacher. Turning in assignments will be as easy as sharing the file in Google Drive with the teacher, or by emailing it to the teacher through the student's NSSD Google Apps Mail account.

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 NSSD 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 communication in a real world environment.

Why Use Google Apps for Education?

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 school? Isn't there another way to communicate?

Currently NSSD is piloting Google Apps for Education. Providing students with a closed email address 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, supports popular formats such as .doc, .xls, .ppt, and .pdf. Files stored on Google Docs are always accessible and backed-up online. Smarter commenting, better feedback Google Docs' intuitive commenting feature is ideal for instructor and collaborator feedback. Revision history allows users to review document edits over time.

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

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.