



Educational IT Tools We Recommend

Free or Low-Cost Resources to Strengthen Teaching, Security & Management



Introduction

Technology is most effective when it's easy to manage, secure, and aligned with your mission to educate.

Below is a curated list of **vetted, cost-effective tools** used by schools across Florida to enhance learning, streamline operations, and build safer digital environments.

Classroom & Instructional Tools

Google Workspace for Education (Free & Paid Tiers)

- Classroom management, collaboration, and secure email.
- FERPA compliant and widely used by Catholic and public schools.

Microsoft 365 for Education (Free for Schools)

- Includes Teams, OneNote, and secure cloud storage.
- Integrates easily with Windows devices and existing infrastructure.

Khan Academy (Free)

- Trusted platform for student self-paced learning and remediation.
- Offers dashboards for teachers to monitor progress.

Nearpod (Free & Paid Plans)

- Interactive lessons and assessments for classrooms or remote learning.
- Works with Google Classroom and LMS systems.

Quizizz / Kahoot! (Free & Paid)

- Engaging tools for quizzes, games, and formative assessments.
- Ideal for promoting digital engagement across grade levels.

Administrative & Management Tools

Google Admin Console / Microsoft Intune (Free Tiers)

- Centralized device and user management across staff and student devices.

- Simplifies updates, app deployments, and access control.

ClassLink / Clever (Free & Paid)

- Single sign-on platforms that simplify login and rostering for students.
- Enhance security by reducing password fatigue.

OpenDNS / Cisco Umbrella (Free & Paid)

- Content filtering and web access control to block inappropriate or malicious sites.

Trello / Asana (Free Tiers)

- Simple project management tools for administrators or IT staff.
- Great for tracking technology projects, device rollouts, or support requests.

Cybersecurity & Awareness Tools

Google's Be Internet Awesome (Free)

- Kid-friendly digital citizenship and online safety program.
- Includes classroom ready activities and educator guides.

KnowBe4 (Education Pricing Available)

- Comprehensive phishing simulation and staff cybersecurity training platform.
- Helps reinforce safe email and password habits.

Bitwarden / LastPass (Free & Paid)

- Password managers to store credentials securely.
- Encourage teachers and admins to replace spreadsheets or sticky notes.

CISA K-12 Cybersecurity Toolkit (Free)

- U.S. Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency resource for schools.
- Includes checklists, policy templates, and incident response guidance.

Communication & Collaboration Tools

Google Meet / Microsoft Teams (Free for Education)

- Secure, FERPA compliant video conferencing for staff and classes.

Remind (Free & Paid)

- School-to-home messaging app for parent and student communication.
- Supports multiple languages and protects personal phone numbers.

Slack / Discord (Free)

- Internal team collaboration for IT departments or student clubs.

- Use only for staff channels or supervised environments.

Zoom for Education (Discounted Pricing)

- Easy integration for hybrid classrooms or parent teacher conferences.
- Enable waiting rooms and authentication to enhance privacy.

Tips for Selecting Tools

- Always review **data privacy agreements** before implementation.
- Check for **FERPA and COPPA compliance** on all education facing apps.
- Train staff and students on how to use tools safely and effectively.
- Centralize logins and access through your school's existing identity system.

