How to bring collaboration back to the classroom

These technology solutions can make it happen fast

When lockdowns ended, critical school personnel's growing list of responsibilities didn't.

Why?

"Possibly [as] a result of budget cuts, staff layoffs, or the need to try to catch up on missed learning time and missed assessments," according to Education International's "Global Report on the Status of Teachers."[1]

The continued increased workload comes at a cost. Teachers and administrators risk losing the collaborative relationships that drive positive learning outcomes.

Strong relationships between the adults in the room model a valuable interpersonal example for K-12 students. These relationships also offer a balm to the isolation and frustration many teachers and school leaders have felt in the past few years. Improved collaboration is an opportunity to reforge those strong bonds.

Technology designed to evolve collaboration can bridge the gap, like Lenovo ThinkPad® X1 laptops running Windows 11 and powered by Intel vPro,® An Intel® Evo™ Design, which allocate workloads based on how teachers use their ThinkPad.

90% of educators say they're experiencing burnout.[2]

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Collaboration with administration

Teachers need administrators who understand what they're up against.

According to an EdWeek Research Center survey of teachers and school leaders, 43% of teachers said reducing paperwork, meetings, and hall duty was something schools could do to retain teachers. Only 26% of administrators said the same.[3]

Reduce teachers' time spent on paperwork and in meetings
Start by making paperwork-related tasks less of a drain on time. Lenovo devices with Windows 11 and Intel vPro,® An Intel Evo Design, maximize your team's productivity and eliminate micro-frustrations that deter focus.

Intel® Thread Director provides fast performance with less interruptions from complex educational and collaborative apps while multitasking. And with the Windows 11 custom desktop feature, educators can create a separate desktop for certain tasks and track or organize their materials more easily.

As for meetings, some are inevitable — and many are important. Administrators and IT leaders can support teachers by ensuring all meetings are as efficient as possible by auditing the equipment groups use to gather.

Lenovo ThinkSmart Hub is an all-in-one Microsoft Teams Rooms system that enables seamless sharing and collaboration. Combine the hub with the new ThinkSmart Cam, the first AI smart camera from Lenovo, and ThinkSmart Bar premium audio bar for distraction-free communication.

Collaboration with other teachers

Teachers need each other right now, as professional peers but also as friends. They likely don't want another social meeting or event crowding their school day calendars. Instead, give them the opportunity to build those relationships on their own.

Create digital space for mentorship and connection
Implement high-powered digital communication tools, such as Microsoft Teams, so teachers can meet and chat effortlessly. A strong and reliable wireless connection is also a must to keep the conversation moving forward.

Lift every voice

The ThinkPad® X1 Carbon, with Intel vPro,® An Intel® Evo™ Design with 12th Gen Intel® Core™ i7 processors, makes it easy for teachers to collaborate and stay productive with a strong, reliable connection. The Windows 11 deep integration with Microsoft Teams streamlines the UX, and Dolby Voice® far-field mics ensure everyone can be heard loud and clear during calls.
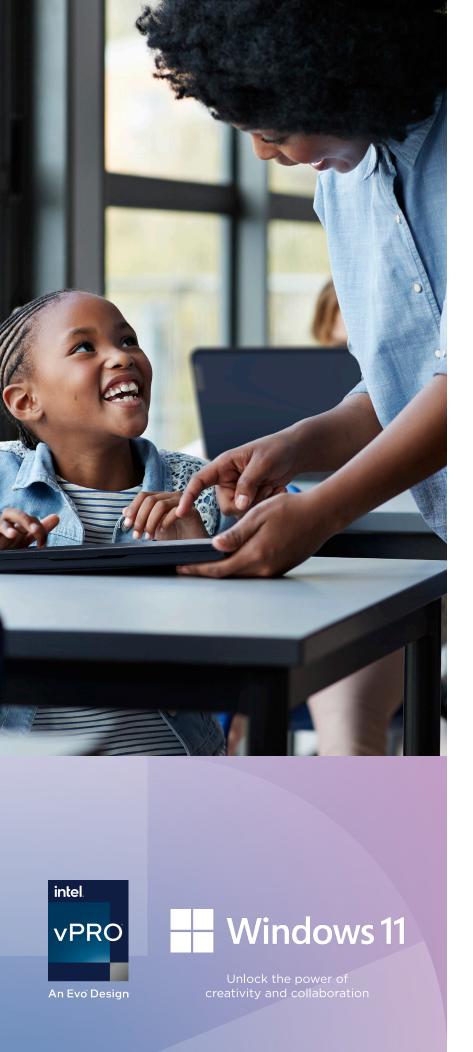
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Collaboration with students

Teachers need streamlined and secure interactions with their students so one-on-one attention remains unencumbered by malignant outside forces.

Leverage apps to gather meaningful student insights

Are there untapped opportunities in your current stack? Chat tool apps, for example, can promote deeper understanding between teacher and student.

The Insights app on Microsoft Teams captures an at-a-glance view of student activity and highlights important trends, and the Reflect app allows teachers to create a confidential Teams poll to check in with students and see how everyone's feeling.

Enable secure experiences for both remote and in-person learning

Cloud-based software like Lenovo NetFilter works with school devices wherever students are, helping ensure their devices don't bring destructive (and distracting) malware back to the school network. NetFilter categorizes dangerous websites and blocks them proactively — before the intrusion, malware, or phishing attack can even happen.

Classroom management software can offer teachers additional peace of mind during class. With LanSchool Air's Web Limiting feature, they can block troublesome or distracting websites or limit students only to pertinent websites to keep everyone on task.

A ThinkPad X1 laptop powered by Intel vPro® with exclusive Intel® Hardware Shield includes hardware-based, multilayer security that helps reduce the attack surface of the PC.

K-12 education is a primary target for ransomware attacks.[4] It's a cost schools simply cannot afford.

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Collaboration tools school leaders need to succeed

Lenovo's portfolio of modern PCs is designed for collaborative experiences. Equip educators with the ThinkPad X1 Series running Windows 11 and powered by Intel vPro,® An Intel® Evo™ Design, for an unrivaled education PC solution.

Let's inspire and empower the future of K-12 learning together. Explore all our solutions for teachers and administrators at **www.lenovo.com/K-12-Education.**

Sources

1   Education International, "Global Report on the Status of Teachers," 2021

2   National Education Association, "NEA Member Survey," 2022

3   EdWeek, "Why teachers leave or don't," 2021

4   CBS News, "Schools have become the leading targets of ransomware attacks," 2021

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