

Apple Teacher at Your School



About Apple Teacher

Apple Teacher is a free, professional learning program designed to support and celebrate teachers. It empowers all educators—new to the profession or experienced faculty—to feel more confident using Apple products for learning and teaching.

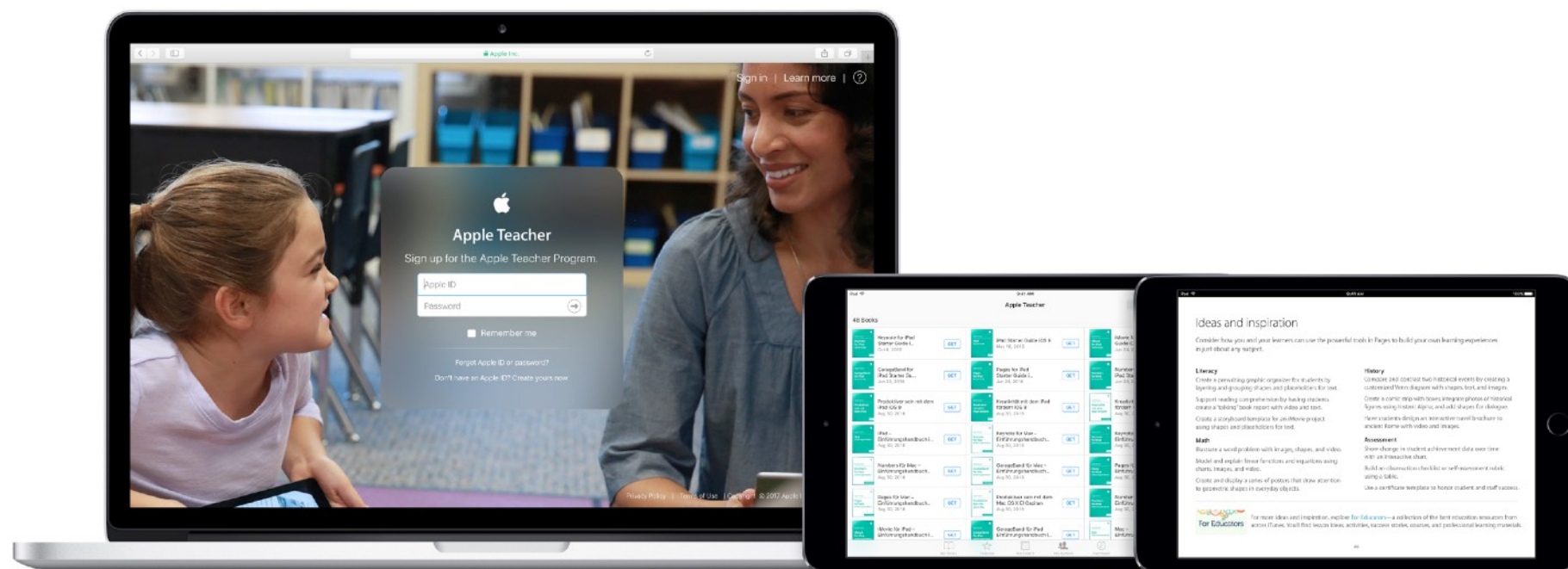
Thousands of school leaders and professional learning experts have embraced Apple Teacher as a great way to inspire a community of lifelong learners who create innovative learning experiences on iPad and Mac. And it gets educators engaged with the technology you've invested in. We've even mapped the Apple Teacher program to the [ISTE Standards](#) so you can see how the program helps bring the standards to life in your school—something we know is important to you.

You can encourage your teachers to begin their Apple Teacher journey by signing up and exploring the [Apple Teacher Learning Center \(ATLC\)](#). Here they'll engage with a learning platform that provides a connection to Apple where teachers can get news, tips, and inspiration.

The [Apple Teacher Starter Guides](#) are learning materials that inspire new ideas for lessons while training teachers on the fundamentals of using iPad, Mac, and built-in apps. Projects within the guides help educators build new skills using Apple products. At the end of each guide, teachers will find ideas that they can use in the classroom right away.

After completing a starter guide project, teachers can take an interactive quiz. The quizzes are designed for self-paced learning, so they can take them as many times as they need to. Once they've passed all eight quizzes for either Mac or iPad, they earn recognition as an Apple Teacher.

[Learn more](#) about Apple Teacher.



Launching Apple Teacher with a Kickoff Event

Schools across the country are holding fun kickoff events to introduce Apple Teacher in a group setting so that everyone can begin the learning journey together. The goal is to set aside dedicated time, free from distraction, where teachers can get excited about the program and support each other while building momentum for earning recognition. Here are some best practices to consider as you plan your event:



Participants

Think about who should attend the event. It could be a specific department or the entire faculty. Maybe a smaller group setting is better for your staff. Some schools have invited neighboring schools to join them. You might even want to ask your leadership to hold a districtwide event. Learning with teachers from other schools can be exciting and expand the potential of what's possible.



Location

A large room like a cafeteria or gym works well to accommodate all those attending. It provides plenty of space for opening remarks, the event, and a closing celebration. You can use this generous space to set up stations for each badge. Individual classrooms work well too. Either way, teachers can focus on learning one app before moving on to another. Earning the badge becomes a plus!



Time

Deciding the length of your Apple Teacher event depends on your professional learning goals. Some schools use just one hour of a professional development day or staff meeting to introduce the program; some spend a full in-service day learning together for a more immersive experience. You can implement Apple Teacher as a year-long, single-semester, month-long, or one-day program.



Format

Choose a format that works best for your teachers. You can have them work independently, with a buddy, or in small groups. They can complete the activities at their own pace or during a friendly, timed challenge.

It's helpful to provide guidance on a preferred learning sequence that aligns with the experience levels of each teacher or group. Educators who are new to iPad or Mac could begin with the iPad and Mac starter guides to learn the basic features and built-in capabilities. They could then move on to the five core apps in any order, then close with the Fostering Productivity and Enhancing Creativity starter guides to help integrate their new skills and build a strong foundation.

No matter which format you choose, you want your sessions to focus on the benefit of teachers learning and practicing together, then sharing skills they can use with their students.



Event flow

Establish an agenda for the day. Plan for an opening session, a portion of the day where teachers work on learning and earning badges together, and then a closing celebration to acknowledge their achievements—whether they earned one badge or all 20. See the sample agendas at right for idea starters.



Opening session

We've created a [presentation](#) to guide you in developing an opening session for your event. It's designed to help you establish goals for the day, explain why the Apple Teacher program is important to your school's goals for teaching and learning, and set an enthusiastic tone for the day. Or use it as a starting point for preparing your own presentation.



Mentors

Teachers who are already Apple Teachers or have mastered a few apps can provide encouragement and support to others during the event. [Read](#) how Nikole Blanchard, Apple Distinguished Educator and technology director at The Dunham School in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, mobilized and energized her teachers to earn badges at her kickoff event.



Invitation

We've created the following text you can use to introduce the Apple Teacher program when inviting teachers to your event:

Apple Teacher is a new professional learning program designed to support and celebrate teachers. You'll earn badges and an official Apple Teacher logo so you can share your achievement with the world. Join us for our Apple Teacher Program Kickoff, where you'll learn more about the program, explore the learning resources, and have the chance to earn badges and Apple Teacher recognition.

Sample agendas

45-minute

- Opening session presentation
- Register for ATLC and sign in; choose Mac or iPad learning path
- Review starter guide choices and identify a sequence
- Download the first guide
- Work on an activity individually, or find a study buddy or group

90-minute

- Opening session presentation
- Register for ATLC and sign in; choose Mac or iPad learning path
- Review starter guide choices and identify a sequence
- Download the first guide, and lead an exploration of its features
- Find a study buddy or identify a small group for learning the content
- Start the content activities together
- Individuals or small groups share an idea with the whole group to close the event

Full day

- Opening session presentation
- Register for ATLC and sign in; choose Mac or iPad learning path
- Review starter guide choices and identify a sequence
- Download the first guide, and lead an exploration of its features
- Identify mentors and rooms or tables for each of the eight guides
- Schedule 75-minute rotations with a maximum of four rotations
- Leaders introduce key features of app to use in the classroom
- Choose some activities from starter guides to work through with teachers
- Ask individuals or small groups to share an idea with the group at the end of the day
- Wrap up with these questions:
 - What new thing did you learn that you want to try?
 - How can you use [app name] in your classroom to increase student engagement?



Maintaining Momentum

Once your event is over, it's a good idea to establish a plan for teachers to continue earning badges on their own. To keep the momentum going, consider setting a deadline for when they should earn their next set of badges. Here are a few other ways to keep faculty interested and engaged:

Mentor program

Once a core set of teachers have earned their recognition, launch a mentoring program. This group would provide encouragement and support to others. Conducting frequent check-ins, sending schoolwide communications, or sharing visible displays of accomplishment like posters and flyers are great ways to encourage others.

Badge Challenge

Roll out an Apple Teacher Badge Challenge so faculty can focus on earning one badge per week. Whether you choose an 8-week challenge that focuses on earning badges for iPad or Mac, or a 16-week challenge that focuses on both, a Badge Challenge is a great way to get your teachers engaged and build momentum. At your next professional learning day, a few teachers could share what they've learned—from something simple like a new feature they've discovered, to a new way of using an app in a lesson.

Study Buddy program

Create an Apple Teacher Study Buddy program in which two or three teachers team up to study for their badges. Bringing together teachers within the same grade level or department can inspire them to discover fresh ways to teach a particular subject. Or encourage diversity of thought and identification of best practices across subject areas by inviting teachers from different departments to buddy up.

Apple Teacher Hour

Plan an event in which you set aside a specific amount of time for teachers to log in and work on earning badges. Finding time for professional learning can be challenging, so giving them the freedom to explore the program materials and strengthen their skills relieves them from the pressure of finding time to fit it in.



Celebrating Your Teachers

We know that teachers are motivated by their accomplishments. Once you've determined how you'll deliver the program in your school, consider a few of these ideas for acknowledging educators who've started earning a few badges or have finished earning their recognition as an Apple Teacher. Then make your own list. Be creative!

- Share your faculty achievements on your district website or intranet, at board meetings, or through the district's newsletter.
- Share photos of your teachers earning their badges on your school website, newsletter, learning management system, or social media channels. Be inspired by the [Saint Viator High School Educational Computer Technology Department](#) in Arlington Heights, Illinois, who used their school's Twitter account as a key motivational tool. Or see how [Piedmont High School](#) in Piedmont, Alabama, also used Twitter to honor their teachers.
- Announce your school's Apple Teacher milestones. A life-size temperature chart is a great way to show the percentage of teachers who've earned their recognition. Update it weekly or monthly, and place it in the front office for everyone to see. Share this good news with your staff, parents, district, and community.
- Plan a celebration for your new Apple Teachers at the next staff event, back-to-school night, PTA meeting, or special school ceremony.
- Have plenty of prizes and rewards to motivate and inspire your teachers—serve the lunch of their choice, offer the principal's parking space, or award gift cards. Or consider making door stickers like those created by Jon Smith, an Apple Distinguished Educator and the technology integration specialist for Alliance City Schools in Alliance, Ohio.

However you celebrate, we encourage you to follow us on Twitter @AppleEDU and use #AppleTeacher to connect with us and share your accomplishments with thousands of teachers around the world.





Awarding Professional Learning Credit

Depending on your district and state policies, many teachers may be able to get credit to meet professional learning hour requirements and potential pay scale advancement. Consider qualifying the Apple Teacher program for 16 hours of professional development as the baseline for earning recognition. This conservative estimate includes the time an educator needs to read and complete the activities in the Apple Teacher Starter Guide books and take each quiz to earn a badge. We calculated this estimate using this formula: 2 hours per badge earned x 8 badges possible for either iPad or Mac path = 16 hours. However, you can value the credit for your faculty based on their skill levels and your program setup.

You can offer additional professional development hours with activities that strengthen skills learned in the program:

- One additional hour for contributing to a professional learning community where educators meet and share their experiences applying the content in their teaching.
- Two additional hours for acting as a peer mentor and helping another teacher with questions and developing ideas.
- Four additional hours for developing, documenting, and sharing a project from the teacher's own curriculum that demonstrates the core skills taught in two or more of the Apple Teacher Starter Guide books.
- Design and implement a learning experience based on one of the workflows in *Fostering Creativity* or *Enhancing Productivity*.
- Modify a lesson based on the needs of specific learners using a variety of Apple apps and built-in accessibility features.
- Reflect on the implementation of a new learning experience by collecting and analyzing student work samples.
- Model a lesson at a staff meeting or share new skills and gather feedback from colleagues during a team meeting.

If you're in a school or state where professional learning hours are determined locally, or if you're in a private school, you can determine how many hours each badge is worth based on your expectations and how you execute the program. Choose an appropriate format for teachers to demonstrate further learning after they create the project required to earn each badge. See how teachers in [Barrington 220 School District](#) in Barrington, Illinois, were able to earn up to 10 professional hours with the Apple Teacher program.

If you're in a school where the state determines how professional learning hours can be earned, consider submitting a request for the Apple Teacher program to become an approved professional learning opportunity. Be inspired by educators at [Berwyn South School District](#) in Berwyn, Illinois, who successfully implemented this idea, and start a movement in your own state.



Going Further

Apple is committed to helping schools get the most from their technology and create innovative learning experiences for students. We believe that authentic technology integration is a journey from skill acquisition to instructional innovation. Apple Professional Learning (APL) meets the needs of educators through a comprehensive set of learning services and resources beyond the Apple Teacher program, including Apple Professional Learning Specialists, Apple Store offerings, and Apple Professional Learning Providers.

Apple Professional Learning Specialists

Educators tell us that the most effective professional learning includes coaching and mentoring experiences from trusted professionals they work with. Once your teachers have acquired the core skills offered in the Apple Teacher program, they're ready to focus on instructional practice innovation with the help of Apple Professional Learning Specialists. These experts work shoulder-to-shoulder with teachers to build the confidence they need to make innovations in their instructional pedagogy. This approach reflects Apple's belief that instructional transformation depends on a relationship that's built over time. To learn more, email apls@apple.com.

Apple Store

With "Today at Apple" in-store programs just for educators, you can take your teachers on a Field Trip to focus on a specific Apple app, such as Keynote or Pages. Teacher Tuesdays, regularly scheduled hands-on sessions for teachers, help educators unlock the magic of iPad and Apple apps—enhancing productivity and boosting creativity with students. Teachers can then go further in the Apple Teacher program and earn badges. Schedule a Field Trip or sign up for a session [online](#).

Apple Professional Learning Provider

[EdTechTeam](#) offers online courses, workshops, and conferences that are built around the Apple Teacher program.* Sessions are led and supported by [Apple Distinguished Educators](#) or exemplary Apple Teachers who teach and lead using their own experiences. They also host an Apple Teacher online community where members can connect and get support as they build skills, earn badges, and work toward receiving their Apple Teacher recognition.

*EdTechTeam events and services are fee-based. See www.edtechteam.com/apple for more information.

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