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 teaching and learning.

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).

The Apple Teacher Learning Center has everything teachers need to build a strong foundation for using iPad, Mac, and Apple apps like Pages, Keynote, Numbers, GarageBand, and iMovie in the classroom. Discover more than 75 skill-building lessons that include guided tutorials, ideas on how to apply them, and inspiration on how to go further with each new skill.

After completing a set of lessons, 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 iPad or Mac 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 lessons and quizzes 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 lessons 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 Productivity and Creativity lessons 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 learn new skills and earn 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 learn new skills, earn badges, and receive 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 iPad or Mac learning path
- Review lesson choices and identify a sequence
- Work on a skill individually or find a study buddy or group

90-minute
- Opening session presentation
- Register for ATLC and sign in; choose iPad or Mac learning path
- Review lesson choices and identify a sequence
- Find a study buddy or identify a small group that wants to focus on learning the same skills
- Start the lessons together, and have each group add a new “Apply It” idea relevant to their subject area for each skill
- 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 iPad or Mac learning path
- Review lesson choices and identify a sequence
- Identify mentors and rooms or tables for each of the eight badge topics
- Schedule 75-minute rotations with a maximum of four rotations
- Leaders introduce key features of an app to use in the classroom
- Choose some specific lessons 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 school-wide 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 and certificates 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. Encourage teachers to print and display their personalized Apple Teacher Certificate of Recognition outside their classroom doors.

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 complete the tutorials in the Apple Teacher lessons 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 new skills 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 learned in two or more of the Apple Teacher lessons

• Design and implement a learning experience based on one of the lessons in Creativity or Productivity for iPad or Mac

• 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 complete the set of lessons 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.
More Opportunities to Learn

Apple is committed to helping educators get the most from Apple technology at every point in their professional learning journey. Apple Professional Learning offerings provide teachers with many ways to build foundational skills with Apple products, integrate them into class activities, and create innovative instruction that deeply engages your students.

Apple Distinguished Educators
Learn from mentor educators who share their expertise in integrating Apple products into teaching and learning. They regularly write and publish digital books created with Pages and iBooks Author, and speak at educational events. You can find ADEs on Twitter chats every Tuesday evening throughout the school year, where they answer questions and share ideas, tips, and experience teaching with Apple products. Join the conversation at #AppleEDUchat.

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, you can take your teachers on a Field Trip to focus on a specific app or to Today at Apple Labs for Teachers, regularly scheduled hands-on sessions that help 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.