

Education | United States

Leading learning into the future with AI

Hillsborough Township Public Schools

Bringing AI-enabled Lenovo Chromebook Plus devices and Gemini for Google Workspace into the classroom saves time for educators and shapes better learning experiences for students.



Lenovo

1

Customer background

Who is Hillsborough Township Public Schools?

Hillsborough Township Public Schools is a K-12 public school district located in the heart of New Jersey. More than 7,000 students are enrolled across its school system, which includes six elementary schools, one intermediate school, one middle school, and one high school.



2 The challenge

Technology is more central to education than ever, and it's evolving at an incredible pace, thanks in no small part to the acceleration of AI capabilities. For a public school district like Hillsborough, the challenge is to ensure learning keeps up with this rapid progress.

For nearly a decade, the district has embraced 1:1 computing, equipping all students and staff with laptops and tablets. Recently, it saw an opportunity to take this successful model a step further.

2 The challenge

Joel Handler, Director of Technology at the Hillsborough Board of Education, elaborates: “Our students have always used Chromebooks, and staff have always used other devices. We wondered, ‘What would it be like if we moved teachers to having Chromebooks, just like their students?’”

That simple question proved to be the spark for a pioneering project that is transforming education throughout the district.



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“Teaching is very hard these days. As educators and administrators, we are constantly being asked to do more with less. We are always looking for ways help our people to work better, which is why we place such a strong focus on driving innovation in teaching and learning.”

Kim Feltre

Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum
and Instruction, Hillsborough Township
Public Schools

Smart tech for smarter teaching

Hillsborough outfitted teaching staff with AI-enabled Lenovo Chromebook Plus devices powered with Intel Core i5 processors. As a strategic partner, Lenovo brought in Trafera to provide high-quality professional development.

Google also got on board, co-sponsoring a pilot program that provided a select group of teachers, tech coaches, and administrators with one year of free access to Gemini for Google Workspace for Education and Gemini app.

Hardware

Lenovo Chromebook Plus
powered with Intel Core i5
processors

Software

ChromeOS
Gemini app
Google Workspace for Education
with Gemini integration

Services

Professional development
workshops by Trafera

3 The solution

Setting staff up for success

During the summer break, Lenovo and Trafera ran a day-long workshop to familiarize users with the Lenovo Chromebook Plus and Gemini for Google Workspace's capabilities. This allowed teachers to enter the school year ready to make the most of the new technology. This session was followed up by others throughout the fall to ensure the pilot teachers had the support and coaching they needed.

Educators across the district are finding a wealth of practical uses for their Lenovo Chromebook Plus and Gemini's integration into Google Workspace. Teachers are using Gemini for Google Workspace for Education to support all kinds of daily tasks and maximize their workflow, from creating lesson plans and grading homework to managing correspondence with parents.

"Using Gemini for Google Workspace saved me a ton of time as a teacher," explains Daynon Blevins, Literacy Teacher at Hillsborough Middle School. "Whether it's the grading process and getting feedback to students, or assisting me in conferencing with them, or creating activities for lesson plans."

Standardizing on Google Chrome

Shifting district educators to the Chrome operating system has streamlined teachers' technology engagement with students and the technology department's device fleet management. Now that everyone in the classroom works on Chromebooks, it's quicker and easier for teachers to offer students tech guidance and troubleshooting on the spot. "Having the same operating system for both students and staff has really simplified the IT support experience," says Handler.

Sheila Cooper, Literacy Supervisor at Hillsborough Township Public Schools, confirms: "Having Lenovo Chromebooks means the teachers and the students are speaking the same language when it comes to technology."



Teaching the teachers

While choosing the right device and empowering teachers with innovative AI tools is important for innovation, the critical piece of the puzzle is having a great professional development partner. Trafera, Lenovo, and Hillsborough were all committed to a sustained professional development effort, making sure that teachers' ed tech training was continuous and collaborative throughout the pilot. This goal aligned perfectly with the approach of the Trafera Professional Development Team, who take an educator-centered approach and tailor their professional development based on need and context.

Trafera led both in-person and virtual professional development workshops to help teachers, administrators, and instructional technology coaches become more confident in using their Chromebook Plus devices as well as Gemini for Google Workspace and Gemini app. With a strong and well-supported professional development experience, Hillsborough administrators were pleased with the journey the pilot team went on.

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“Lenovo and Trafera have been real assets to our school district. Not only did they help us choose **the right technology for our needs**, they provided **professional development and support** to make sure we utilized that technology effectively. Thanks to this, our teachers have been able to understand how these new tools work and **put them to best use for learning.**”

Joel Handler

Director of Technology, Hillsborough Board of Education

4 The results

Having staff and students united on the same hardware platform has given 1:1 computing at Hillsborough a big boost. Device management and support is now simpler and more cost-effective. The Lenovo Chromebook Plus also offers a significant step up in performance, giving teachers all the power they need to get work done.

“Having the Intel Core i5 processor in our devices has allowed teachers to be able to do a lot on their Chromebook Plus simultaneously,” says Handler. “Having that kind of a powerful processor allows teachers to open multiple windows at the same time so they can be running their grades or other programs all while projecting their screen for the class.”



Simplifies device management and troubleshooting



Helps teachers save time and shape better learning experiences



Empowers students with essential tech skills

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The results

Gemini for Google Workspace is proving to be a powerful aide for teachers and students alike. Teachers involved in the pilot report that AI is helping them to create more engaging lessons, provide more detailed and targeted feedback to students, and shape more personalized learning plans and assignments for learners.

Likewise, by assisting with labor-intensive tasks like grading, AI is giving teachers back precious time that they can dedicate to building relationships and fostering motivation with their students.



100% of pilot participants reported feeling confident using Google Workspace for Education to increase student engagement



95% post-pilot increase in teachers' comfort level using AI to personalize learning experiences



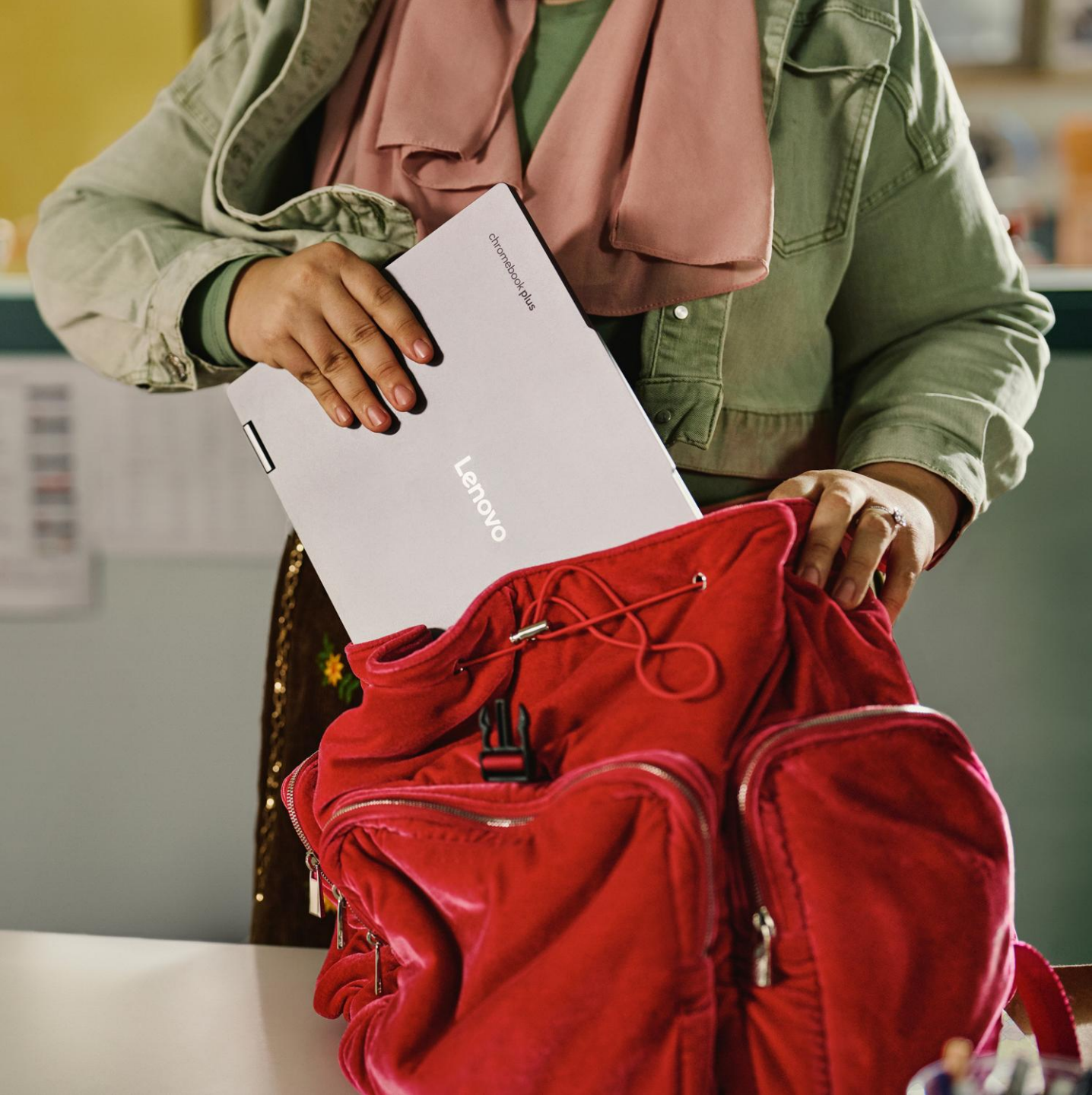
75% of pilot participants reported an increase in their innovation and creativity and now understand the positive impact of AI



90% of teachers who said Gemini in Google Workspace increased their personal productivity with instructional planning and personalization



80% of teachers who said Gemini in Google Workspace increased their personal productivity with email and communication



“Using Lenovo Chromebooks and Gemini for Google Workspace has totally revolutionized how I work. I don’t think I could teach without AI anymore. It’s saving me about a third of the time grading papers. I’m also giving students more detailed feedback and creating better learning resources.”

Daynon Blevins

Literacy Teacher, Hillsborough Middle School

4 The results

Ultimately, the educators at Hillsborough see embracing new technologies as part of their greater goal of creating the best teaching environment possible.

“We want to make sure that our most precious resource, our children, are prepared to be valuable, productive citizens,” says Kim Feltre, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction at Hillsborough. “Educators need to have the best tools so that they can provide the best learning experiences for our students, so that we can best prepare our students to be critical thinkers and problem solvers.”

Why Lenovo?

Chromebooks are well-known for being flexible—but Hillsborough also needed devices tough enough to stand up to the daily demands of teaching. The Lenovo Chromebook Plus powered with Intel Core i5 processors proved to be the ideal match, combining responsive performance with sturdy design.

In Lenovo, Hillsborough also gained a partner with tried-and-tested experience in education. Beyond delivering proven technology, Lenovo helped ensure that the district got the best value from its investment. “Lenovo has been a great partner,” confirms Handler. “They worked hard to understand our needs and deliver a solid device at a very good price point.”

How can education keep up with technological change?

Hillsborough Township Public Schools prepares educators for an AI-first future with Lenovo Chromebook Plus devices and Gemini for Google Workspace.

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