

# 21st Century High School Teacher Professional Development

## Technical information about the mobile computers...

**Frequently asked questions**

**Maine Department of Education - 21st Century High School Teacher Professional Development**

**Will the MacBook run Windows?**

Yes. Optionally, schools may load and utilize either the Windows XP operating system or Vista as well as other Windows-based applications. To do so, schools will need to load a commercial software helper application like Parallels or VMWare. *The Department strongly recommends that schools that require Windows-based applications use Windows XP rather than Windows Vista.*

The MacBook uses the same "Intel inside" technologies that are used by companies like Dell, HP, Lenovo, and Gateway. The only real difference between a MacBook and a Dell Inspiron is the software that comes pre-loaded on the device.

The Maine MacBook will come pre-loaded with the Macintosh operating software and supporting educational software similar to the what has been utilized in the Middle School program.

**Will my teachers be able to use our Student Information System (SIS)?**

If your SIS software requires Windows, then it can be used in conjunction with the Parallels software helper (noted above). Based on schools self-reporting to the MEDMS team, these are the most prevalent SIS packages used in Maine Schools and their compatibility needs:

<u>SIS Software</u>	<u>Runs on a Mac?</u>
PowerSchool.....	Yes
Web2School.....	Yes
Rediker / Odyssey.....	Yes
SchoolMaster.....	Yes
MMS.....	Yes
WinSchool.....	Yes, requires Parallels or VMWare



Screenshot of Windows XP running on a Macintosh computer using Parallels

**Will this computer be able to open my Microsoft Word/Excel/Powerpoint files?**

Yes. The MacBook will come pre-loaded with a version of Open Office called NeoOffice, an open source Microsoft Office clone. Many Maine schools already embrace open source technologies including Open Office. Additionally, Microsoft writes Microsoft Office for both the Macintosh and Windows platforms. Schools may install licensed copies of Microsoft Office for Macintosh. Both the NeoOffice and all versions of Microsoft Office read, edit, and write files using the same file format.

**Can schools install more software?**

Yes. Schools can install licensed software on the MacBook.

**Will this computer be compatible with my school servers?**

Yes. The MacBook computer can connect to all common file and print servers including Novell, Windows, Linux and Mac OS X servers.

**Will the Department install a wireless network in my high school?**

No. At this time, users will be expected to use existing networks. The MacBook can connect to both a wireless or wired ethernet network.

**Who owns the computer?**

The computers will be owned by the Department of Education and supported by a custom Applecare Support agreement with Apple similar to the Middle School devices.

**What happens if it breaks? Does my school have to buy insurance?**

In the event of a warranty repair, all costs are covered by the Applecare Support agreement. Schools will be able to dispatch the device to an in-state repair center via express shipping (paid by Applecare). All schools will have at least one loaner device. If a device is stolen or accidentally damaged beyond repair, the Department of Education will replace the device from the finite reserve of devices. The Department anticipates that it will have approximately 70 devices held in reserve in the Buffer Pool for these types of incidents.

Commercial insurance is not a requirement. Based on experience in the Maine Learning Technology Initiative, staff devices are very rarely stolen or accidentally damaged. The Department is confident that the 70 devices in the Buffer Pool will adequately protect the schools from unexpected costs related to theft or severe accidental damage.

**If you have additional questions about the technical specifications or capabilities of the MacBook, please contact Jeff Mao, Coordinator of Educational Technology, (207) 624-6634, [jeff.mao@maine.gov](mailto:jeff.mao@maine.gov)**