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In the event of contradictions, deviations or ambiguities, the German version alone shall prevail. The translated version is for information purposes only.

The 'Digital Learning' Device Initiative

Brochure for Parents and Guardians

School Year 2024/25

Prof. Dr Martin Polaschek; Federal Minister of Education, Science and Research:

"The 'Digital Learning' Device Initiative is entering its fourth year. One thing can be said with certainty: digital media and devices have become an integral part of everyday school life. The initiative was launched in 2020 as part of the 8-point plan for digitalising schools. Around 330,000 pupils from approximately 1,540 participating schools have been equipped with tablets or laptops over the past three academic years. There are now schools where each academic year has been equipped with digital devices which pupils use during lessons to support learning and to complete projects. Pupils learn essential skills with the help of digital devices, such as critically reviewing information from different sources or collaborating remotely. As a result, this approach prepares students for the future challenges and for embracing the diverse opportunities presented by today's digitalized world.

Jakob Calice, PhD; Managing Director OeAD - Agency for Education and Internationalisation:

"Digitalisation has become an integral part of the everyday lives of young people. This underlines the importance of equipping students with laptops and tablets as essential tools for learning. In doing so, we ensure equal opportunities for each student from the start. Recent experiences have shown how tablets and laptops enrich school life and positively impact learning.

As Austria's national agency for education, the Federal Ministry for Education, Science and Research (BMBWF) has commissioned us to support the 'Digital Learning' Device Initiative. We have taken on numerous communication responsibilities, acting as the first point of contact for questions related to the initiative through our website, digitaleslernen.oead.at, and our support team. We remain committed to maintaining these efforts with unwavering dedication. With this in mind, we look forward to welcoming you to the Device Initiative and wish you all the best with your digital device!"

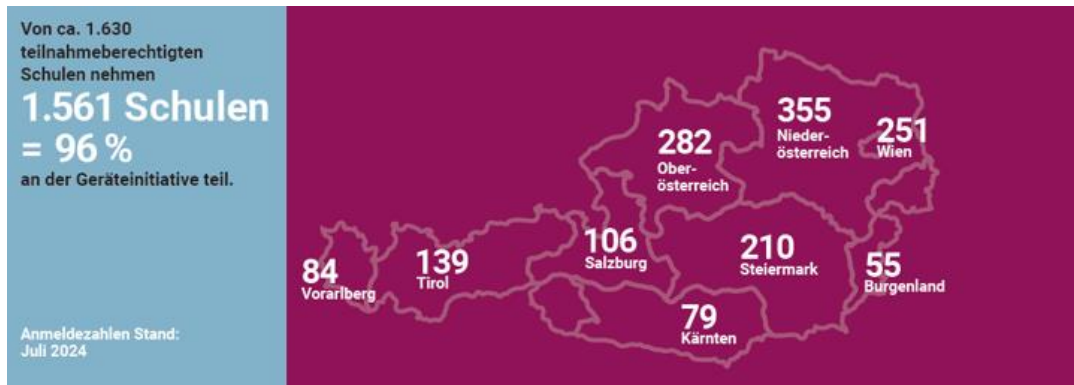
The 'Digital Learning' Device Initiative

The 'Digital Learning' Device Initiative is part of the 8-point plan for digital schools by the Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research (BMBWF). Pupils in the 5th Grade — i.e., Year 1 at secondary schools (Mittelschule), grammar schools (Gymnasium), and schools for students with special educational needs (Sonderschule) — will be equipped with laptops

or tablets¹. As a result, students are given equal access to digital education. The federal government supports parents and guardians by covering 75% of the cost of the digital device.

More than 1,560 schools are participating in the Device Initiative. That is 96% of all eligible schools. Your school has made the decision to become a digital school in the school community committee/forum and has chosen the type of device that fits its pedagogical concept.

Participating schools in the 2024/25 school year



Who Receives a Device?

Pupils receive a digital device from the initiative if they are attending a grade 5 class for the first time, or if they are reassigned to an existing grade 6-8 digital class and have not yet received a device. Students can only be given a digital device once from the initiative!

Good to know: If a digital device is not purchased, the entitlement expires at the end of the school year. Therefore, parents and guardians must provide their own suitable device required for participation in digital classes.

Why Digital Devices

Digital skills are becoming increasingly important both in everyday life and at work. It is essential for schools to ensure that children are well-prepared for these demands. Notebooks, tablets and digital media enable diverse learning through innovative teaching, while also supporting students on their individual learning paths.

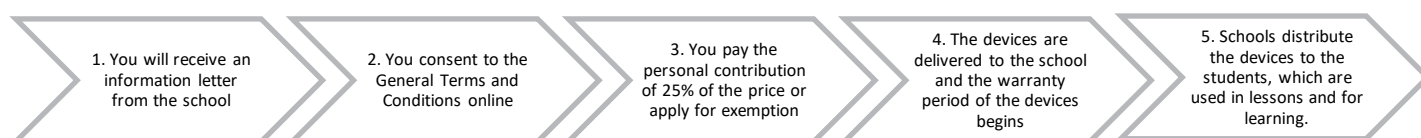
Laptops & Tablets as Learning and Working Tools

By enrolling in the initiative, schools commit to using the devices in a pedagogically meaningful way during lessons and to establish the necessary level playing field. At school,

¹ The [Federal Act on the Financing of the Digitisation of School Teaching \(SchulDigiG\)](#) provides the legal framework for implementation.

clear rules will be set for the responsible use of devices. Your child will also use the device at home. Ask your child what they need to be aware of at school and what the rules are for using the devices at school. Assist them in following these rules and learning to use the device safely. Additionally, establish guidelines with your child for using the device at home.

Tips for parents and guardians from Saferinternet.at: digitaleslernen.oead.at/tipps



An Overview of the Next Steps for You as a Parent or Guardian

1. You will receive an information letter from the school.
2. You consent to the General Terms and Conditions online.
3. You pay the personal contribution of 25% of the price or apply for exemption.
4. The devices are delivered to the school and the warranty period of the devices begins.
5. Schools distribute the devices to the students, which are used in lessons and for learning.

Receipt of the Information Letter and Consent to the General Terms and Conditions of Contract

You will receive a document from your child's school containing information on the [General Terms and Conditions of Contract](#) (AVB) and payment of the personal contribution. The letter will inform you about all the important steps to ensure that your child receives a tablet or laptop. You will also find your payment reference in this letter. The AVB establish the legal framework governing the distribution and use of the digital devices. Before accepting the device, the AVB must be confirmed. This is a prerequisite for obtaining the device. This [explanatory video](#) provides you with step-by-step instructions on how to confirm the AVB using this [online form](#).

Read the AVB. This is available in 12 languages: digitaleslernen.oead.at/mediathek

Cost of the Devices

The BMBWF covers a large part of the acquisition costs. According to the Federal Act on the Financing of the Digitisation of School Instruction ([SchulDigiG](#)), parents or guardians have to pay a one-time contribution of 25 per cent of the price of the device. This corresponds to

about 100 to 130 euros and varies slightly on the type of device. Once paid, the device will belong to your child.

Costs per type of device: digitaleslernen.oead.at/geraete

Payment of the Personal Contribution

Please use the [online form](#) to pay your personal contribution. You can pay by credit card (VISA, Mastercard) or via EPS bank transfer immediately after confirming the General Terms and Conditions of Contract (AVB). Alternatively, you can transfer the personal contribution to the account details provided in the payment information. In this case, please be sure to enter the correct payment reference, as it is essential for the automated processing of the transaction.

Payment of the personal contribution: digitaleslernen.oead.at/bezahlung

Applying for Exemption from the Personal Contribution

Under certain conditions, an application for exemption from the personal contribution can be submitted. The [SchulDigiG](#) serves as the legal basis and outlines all the reasons for exemption. If any of these reasons apply to you, use the [online form](#) to upload an official document (a notification) confirming that you receive a benefit specified in the law. Applications for exemption can be submitted until the end of the respective academic year.

Deadlines for applying for exemption in the academic year of 2024/25:

Burgenland, Lower Austria, Vienna: **27 June 2025**

Carinthia, Upper Austria, Salzburg, Styria, Tyrol, Vorarlberg: **4 July 2025**

Exemption from the personal contribution and all reasons for exemption:

digitaleslernen.oead.at/befreiungsgruende

The Reasons for Exemption are² :

An application for exemption can be submitted if a sibling living in the same household received a pupil grant (Schulbeihilfe), home grant (Heimbeihilfe), extraordinary support under the Pupil Support Act (außerordentliche Unterstützung nach dem Schülerbeihilfengesetz) or student grant (Studienbeihilfe) in the previous school year, or if the student lives in a household that receives minimum income support (Mindestsicherung), social assistance (Sozialhilfe), a compensatory allowance (Ausgleichszulage - according to ASVG, GSVG, or BSVG), or emergency assistance (Notstandshilfe).

² The information on the reasons for exemption is for guidance only and does not constitute a claim for exemption. The legal basis for exemption from the personal contribution is § 5 Para. 3 of the SchulDigiG.

If there is an exemption from contribution obligations (Befreiung von der Beitragspflicht) under the 'ORF-Beitrags-Gesetz', an EAG cost cap (EAG-Kosten-Deckelung), or a telephone license fee subsidy (Fernsprechentgelt-Zuschuss), as well as complete childcare under child and youth welfare laws of the federal states.

The reasons for exemption: digitaleslernen.oead.at/befreiungsgruende

Receipt and Use of the Device

Once the personal contribution is paid (or an exemption is granted) and the device handover is accepted, ownership of the device is transferred to your child. Consequently, it becomes your responsibility to ensure that the device is functional and ready for use in lessons. For more information, please refer to the sections on Warranty and Insurance.

Assistance with AVB Confirmation, Payment and Exemption

Approval of the AVB, payment of the personal contribution or submission of an application for exemption is done via the online form: prs.digitaleslernen.gv.at. The explainer video and a written guide provide you with helpful step-by-step instructions:

[Video explaining the online form](#)

[Assistance document for AVB \(GTCC\) consent, payment and exemption](#)

The assistance document is translated into numerous languages in the "Digitales Lernen Mediathek": digitaleslernen.oead.at/uebersetzungen

Warranty and insurance

The devices have a two- to four-year warranty. The warranty period depends on the type of device. For legal reasons, the warranty period begins when the devices are delivered to the school. The devices are not insured as standard. We therefore recommend that you get insurance against common damage and loss. The device may be covered by household insurance (Haushaltsversicherung).

Warranty and insurance: digitaleslernen.oead.at/garantie_versicherung

Supplier's service pages for handling warranty and damage claims

An information sheet on handling warranty claims is also provided with the device. If your child's device or accessory is damaged, it is your responsibility to arrange for its repair. Please submit the warranty claim or repair request on the supplier's service page.

The supplier will review the guarantee or warranty claim. You can find the respective suppliers on the Digital Learning website under Warranty, Insurance & Repairs (Garantie, Versicherung & Reparaturen).

Service pages of the suppliers: digitaleslernen.oead.at/servicesseiten

Change of School and Device Exchange

In the event that your child changes to a new school that uses a different type of device, there is a Device Exchange. The Device Exchange is an optional, fee-based and sustainable offer for parents and guardians. Please note that students can only be given a digital device once from the initiative. If your child has already received such a device, please inform the new school.

My child is changing schools, what do I do now?	
Contact your child's new school to confirm which device will be used for lessons.	
Same type of device at the new school:	Different type of device at the new school:
Your child can continue to use their device in school lessons.	Your child will need a suitable device that can be used at the new school.
	<p>Option 1: Use the Device Exchange You can use the Device Exchange to sell your existing device and typically purchase a used, refurbished one. However, based on past experiences, the costs are likely to be slightly higher than what you originally paid for the device through the initiative!</p>
	<p>Option 2: Acquire Own Device A privately purchased device must meet the technical requirements of the new school. You can use the 'Own Device Online Check' to verify compatibility.</p>
In every instance of a child changing school:	
It is essential for the previous school to reset your child's device and remove it from their device management system. This step is necessary to ensure the device can be used at the new school. The new school will need to integrate the device into its own device management system. Please assist both schools with this process!	

The Device Exchange:

digitaleslernen.talentify.at/geraeteboerse & digitaleslernen.oead.at/geraeteboerse

How to Help Your Child Use the Device at Home

[Saferinternet.at](https://saferinternet.at) supports children and parents with the responsible use and consumption of digital media. The Device Initiative provides your child with a digital device that they will use both at school and for learning at home. Work with your child to establish clear rules for using the device appropriately at home and maintain an ongoing dialogue about their digital experiences. Ensure the device is always charged and equipped with all necessary accessories (headphones, charging cable, etc.) and regularly perform backups and software updates. Here are a few helpful tips from Saferinternet.at to help you keep your child safe:

Limit Screen-time and Content. Discuss with your child what content they are allowed to access and for how long. Regularly review and adjust these rules as needed:

saferinternet.at/handy-internet

Promote Positive Online Behaviour. Teach your child how to communicate and behave respectfully online. Encourage considerate actions and behaviour:

saferinternet.at/cybermobbing

Practice Evaluating the Credibility of Information. Help your child to distinguish between trustworthy and credible information from misinformation online and advertisement.

Practice questioning information and comparing several sources:

saferinternet.at/informationskompetenz

Take your Child's Worries Seriously. Children may encounter questionable content online. Beyond technical safeguards, maintaining a strong foundation of trust and open dialogue is important: fragbarbara.at

Provide Alternatives and Exercise. Encourage other activities, such as exercise in the fresh air and creative projects, to balance digital learning. Time with friends and varied activities are important.

Avoid Unwanted Costs. Many apps and games allow in-app purchases with real money. Prevent this from happening by blocking them on the device and through your phone provider.

Ensure Adequate Sleep. Digital devices should not be kept in the bedroom at bedtime, but in another room. Contact with friends should also be avoided before sleep.

Be a Role Model. Your own use of digital devices, the rules you set, and how you handle problems influence your child's behaviour. Stay engaged and show an interest in their digital lives: saferinternet.at/parents

The [video guide for parents](#): 'Frag Barbara' from Saferinternet.at offers advice on parenting in the digital age. Explore additional resources here: digitaleslernen.oead.at/tipps

Basic Digital Education

The subject 'Basic Digital Education' introduces students (in grades 5 through 8) to the safe and responsible use of digital devices and media. These digital skills are taught in schools for at least one hour per week.

Voices from the Field

The opportunities and challenges presented by artificial intelligence (AI) are becoming an increasing focus in schools. To broaden our understanding, we have gathered insights from both scientific research and real-world experience.

"I have been researching the topic of AI and developing teaching practices for almost 10 years. AI offers personalised, adaptive learning paths, accompanies the learning behaviour of students and helps teachers to adapt their teaching methods accordingly. This results in more individualised educational experiences, moving away from 'one-size-fits-all' approaches."

University Professor Dr **Thomas Strasser**
University Professor for Foreign Language
Didactics and Technology-Assisted Teaching &
Learning, University College of Teacher Education
Vienna

"With the targeted use of AI tools on the iPad, we want to utilise the advantages of AI for learning and teaching. Learners discover AI through both analogue and digital games as well as web-based animations. Interactive exercises with SmartResponse systems in German and English enable customised, independent learning, which reduces teachers' workloads for marking schoolwork."

Sabine Mader, teacher at secondary school 11 and
at the Private University College of Teacher
Education of the Diocese of Linz

"Our pupils have been working with their own Windows tablets for ten years now. While these were previously financed by the parents, the Device Initiative's low personal contribution is a great help for the parents. At our school, tablets are used as a work tool - as an additional resource to textbooks and exercise books – to also acquire all the necessary digital skills."

Alexandra Jäger, Headmistress of Ottenschlag
secondary school

OeAD support services

The OeAD supports you and your child in getting started with the device.

Digital Learning Website

For answers to frequently asked questions about the 'Digital Learning' Device Initiative, please visit our website's [FAQ section for parents and guardians](#). The website's separate [section for parents and guardians](#) contains all the essential information. Additionally, our [media centre](#) offers a range of resources about the Device Initiative in one place, including [documents for parents and guardians](#), [explainer videos](#) and [webinar recordings](#). Many of these materials are available in multiple languages to assist parents and guardians: [Resources for parents and guardians in various languages](#).

Digital Learning Support

[Digital Learning Support](#) is available to answer any questions you may have about the Device Initiative: digitaleslernen.oead.at/kontakt

Who is the OeAD?

The OeAD is Austria's agency for education and internationalisation. Through various funding programs, it supports schools in enabling children and young people to engage in independent research, pursue artistic activities, and effectively use new digital tools. Additionally, the OeAD serves as the national agency for the Erasmus+ programme. Since the 2021/22 school year, the OeAD has been supporting the 'Digital Learning' Device Initiative on behalf of the BMBWF.

The OeAD is a non-profit limited liability company (GmbH) of the Austrian Federal Government.

www.digitaleslernen.oead.at

digitaleslernen.oead.at/kontakt

[Instagram/oead.worldwide](https://www.instagram.com/oead.worldwide)

[YouTube/TheOeADBildung](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCV3p6U0yY5Tjz3U0yY5Tjz3U)

Don't want to miss any information? Sign up for the newsletter!

digitaleslernen.oead.at/newsletter

IMPRESSUM | Medieninhaber und Herausgeber: OeAD-GmbH — Agentur für Bildung und Internationalisierung (Austria's Agency for Education and Internationalisation), Ebendorferstraße 7, 1010 Wien/Vienna, Sitz: Wien | FN 320219 k | Handelsgericht Wien | ATU64808925 | Geschäftsführer: Jakob Calice, PhD | Redaktion: BMBWF: Andrea Bock, Ramona Jancik, Patricia Mathes, OeAD: Nicole Baró-Wolf, Selina Claydon, Jana Fälbl, Hasstie Khakpour, Saferinternet.at: Frederica Summereder, Barbara Buchegger

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