

F.A.Q.'s on being a Google Certified Teacher

How many people applied to the Google Teacher Academy at the Googleplex?

We had about 250 applications for 50 seats.

Why does Google limit the number of people in an Academy?

We limit the number of attendees for two primary reasons: to ensure a high quality experience and to help build community. Limited space and the cost of producing the event are also considerations.

How are GTA participants selected?

We look for these critical components:

- Demonstrated experience leading professional development
- Ability to reach large numbers of educators
- Demonstrated experience in using technology in the classroom
- A desire to collaborate with like-minded educators
- A passion for teaching and students
- The ability to overcome obstacles and solve problems; “Do-ers”
- A personal spark and a passion for innovation

In addition, we try to select participants from a wide geographical area, from different schools/districts, and different roles/specialties.

How do I access the Google Certified Teachers Online Community?

- Visit <http://groups.google.com/>
- Click the “Sign-In” link in the upper right corner
- Enter your email/username and password associated with your personal Google Account
- Click on the “Google Certified Teachers” group to enter.

How long am I considered a GCT?

One school year. from June 2008 to July 2008. If you have reached your Action Plan goals and you are a GCT in good-standing, you may be invited to participate on a year-by-year basis. You do not need to attend the Academy each year.

When is the next Academy or event for GCTs?

We do not have any official follow-up events planned for GCTs at this time. Informal meet-ups are highly encouraged, and GCT’s often gather informally at regional and national conferences. Look for information via the GCT Online Community.

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What is an NDA? And why do I need to sign one?

A "Non-Disclosure Agreement" states that you cannot share "inside information" on Google with the outside world. Basically - what happens at Google, stays at Google. All visitors to Google offices are required to sign an NDA upon entry.

Most of the information shared at the GTA is public information. But if a Google employee shares specific product information or other sensitive information, please do not share that with anyone else. We'll be sure to point out when this applies, but just use your best judgment.

How do I get copies of Google Earth Pro and SketchUp Pro?

Remember that the basic version of both software tools is FREE to download with no restrictions. Schools can get also get FREE copies of Google Earth Pro and SketchUp Pro by filling out online forms.

Google Earth Pro for Schools: <http://services.google.com/enterprise/ge>

The Google Earth Education Program offers schools and districts a free subscription to Google Earth Pro (\$400 annually). Many schools around the world are expanding their horizons with this program. Prospective schools and districts are encouraged to fill out [the application](#). In the application, make sure you choose "Google Earth Pro" for the Product category. Contact Allison Bishop at GEEC@google.com for more details.

Google SketchUp Pro for Schools: <http://www.sketchup.com/index.php?id=1886>

Educator Licenses are available for free to educators who would like to use Google SketchUp Pro as a part of their curriculum. In order to qualify for a free Google SketchUp Pro Educator License, you must: be an educator at an accredited educational institution, and provide Google with a course syllabus or other similar document. Get more details and access the online application form at: <http://www.sketchup.com/index.php?id=1886>

Does Google give grants/money to schools?

No. While Google supports K-12 education through training, online communities, software tools, and a dedicated website for educators – Google does not provide any direct grants or funding to schools. This also applies to Google.org – the non-profit arm of Google that focuses on Global Development, Global Public Health, and Climate Change.

How can I leverage my status as a GCT in my school/district?

Google Certified Teachers are a select group of educators hand-picked by Google to provided training to other educators in a region. As a GCT, you should be recognized as an expert on how to use Google tools in schools AND as a local innovator. You should use your certificate and title in creative ways to convince administrators and teachers to start innovative new programs to improve instruction.

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Can I use the Google logo or the Google Teacher Academy logo in my documents and presentations?

No. You cannot present yourself as a Google employee or a leader of the Google Teacher Academy. But, we have created a special “Google Certified Teacher” logo that you can use on your personal emails, websites, documents, and presentations. Remember, the GCT designation applies to you personally, not your school, district, or some other organization. The GCT logo cannot be used to imply Google’s involvement with a school or district’s activities or a partnership with specific organizations.

Can I hold my own Google Teacher Academy and certify other educators as GCTs?

No. Only Google can offer an Academy and certify teachers.

Can I get paid to provide professional development services as a GCT in my region?

Yes, but only for activities that are not part of your Personal Action Plan or your normal job. In other words, you should not plan to make money off the professional development activities you perform as a GCT. If you are asked to lead an additional workshop or give a presentation that goes above and beyond the activities listed in your Action Plan, then you can be compensated however you see fit.

As a Google Certified Teacher, will Google pay for me to present at conferences?

In some cases, Google may invite specific GCT’s to present at conferences on behalf of Google, and this may include a small stipend. In most cases, however, Google will not pay GCT’s who choose to present their choice of material at events and conferences on their own as part of their GCT Action Plan.

How can I convince my school or district to unblock Blogger and other Google tools?

Unfortunately there is no easy answer to this question. Google is in no position to tell a school or district what should be blocked or unblocked. While Google wholeheartedly supports open access to the Internet, we understand the safety concerns of parents and educators as well as the legal requirements of the Children’s Online Protection Privacy Act.

While Google may not currently meet these privacy needs, we are actively working with partners to assist schools with these issues. In addition, there are some basic “safe search” features that can be set on a per-computer basis by clicking on “Preferences” next to the Google search bar.

In the meantime, we encourage you to collaborate with the GCT community to share strategies on how to work with administrators and parents in your school community to gain access to Google tools.

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How is privacy and personal data handled at Google?

Google takes security and privacy issues very seriously. When you create a Google Account and use Google's free services, you are voluntarily agreeing to let Google store and track your personal data. This can include personal data tied to your account, your search history, information you publish, and much more. Google compiles and analyzes this data to customize content to you and improve the user experience. Google does not share your personal data with outside parties unless required to comply with legal requests, but Google may share aggregated non-personal data with third parties.

Complete details on Google's privacy policy can be found at <http://www.google.com/privacy.html>

What is Google's responsibility to students and teachers that use their free tools?

When individual students and educators use Google's FREE, consumer tools, both parties agree to Google's general Terms of Service. In short, these terms grant individual users the right to use Google's tools "as is", but Google has no responsibility to continue or support those services in the future. As a worldwide company, it's obviously in Google's best interest to keep these services active and in good working order, but there are no guarantees. Students need to be over 13 years of age or have parental permission to get a Google Account, which is needed to use many Google products. Complete details on Google's general Terms of Service can be found at:

<https://www.google.com/accounts/TOS>

What does this mean for schools?

- When individuals access Google's free, consumer services, Google has no contractual relationship with the organizations that the individuals are associated with. I.e. If 30 teachers in a school have a free Gmail account, the school entity does not have a formal relationship with Google. Google has a relationship with 30 individual users who just happen to work in a school. This may not meet security and privacy requirements placed on schools.
- Data stored with Google can be removed or lost at anytime. Students and teachers should always back-up important information.
- Google provides no direct tech support on free, consumer products.
- Schools & districts that want additional support and a formal "service level agreement" with Google, should sign-up for Google Apps for Education.

<http://www.google.com/a/edu/>